



WHAT'S THE NEWS? 11

DECEMBER 2004

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE INC
**Founding Patrons: Gil Brealy, Bryan Brown, Anthony Buckley, Scott Hicks,
Patricia Lovell, Chris Noonan, Michael Pate, Fred Schepisi, Albie Thoms**

**'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.' Margaret Mead**

HELLO FRIENDS

Welcome to the eleventh issue of the Friends NFSA newsletter and the last issue for 2004.

This short issue wraps up the year with the Friend's response to the new Director's vision statement, the committee members elected at the Annual General Meeting and seasonal good wishes for the Archive and all its Friends.

Dear Minister,

The Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive welcomes the announcement last week by the new Director of ScreenSound Australia, Dr Paolo Cherchi Usai, of his vision for the future of the institution.

We applaud the endorsement of this vision by the Board of the Australian Film Commission.

In particular, we are pleased to note the following as integral elements in Dr Cherchi Usai's vision:

- that Canberra will remain the 'strategic centre' of the Archive alongside the other major cultural institutions of the nation;
- that the Archive's three core activities of acquisition, preservation and access should have equal importance within the institution, and that a strong access programme is integral to the Archive's identity and fundamental role in the nation;
- that the Archive will develop an international collection to provide a context for Australian holdings in the collection—on the basis that our cultural heritage extends beyond geographical boundaries; and
- that the Archive will create an Indigenous unit to be based in Canberra – to be embedded 'in the fabric of the organisation' and to ensure that special curatorial concerns are implemented.

We are also pleased to learn that the Australian Film Commission will be seeking your endorsement for the name of the institution to be changed back to the National Film and Sound Archive. We see this as a major step of both symbolic and practical importance.

While the Friends remains committed to the principle of independent statutory authority status for the Archive, we will be pleased to support Dr Cherchi Usai, in whatever way we can, in the implementation of his vision for the future. We believe that under his guidance the Archive has the opportunity to develop into an institution of key importance in the cultural life of this country.

To read an interview with the Archive's new Director, Dr Paolo Cherchi Usai, visit the AFC's website. This link will take you to the right page. <http://www.afc.gov.au/screensound/highlights/director.aspx>

ABOUT THE FRIENDS

The Friends is a group of advocates, working to further the aims of the Archive and to encourage links between the Archive, the film and sound communities and the general community. In essence, the Friends want to promote excellence in film and sound culture, including: best practice in preservation, public programs and access; promoting high level appreciation of film and sound heritage and contemporary culture; creativity in the use of our Archive; a broad, outward looking focus that locates Australia in the South East Asia-Pacific region and globally; and restoration of the correct name for the Archive.

To achieve our ends, we rely on Friends to contribute energy and enthusiasm, and to participate in events that will provide the resources. You can never have too many friends. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join us. And if you feel you would like to contribute by joining our committee, don't hesitate to contact us.

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and would love to hear from you on any Friends topic. You can contact us at friendsofarchive@hotmail.com or ring Lucy on 6248 0851.

MANY GOOD WISHES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE,

Lucy Battersby, Shelley Clarke, Travis Cragg, Adrian Cunningham, Ray Edmondson, Chris Harrison, Charles Higgins, Peter Hislop, Richard Keys, Andrew Pike, Cheryl Stevenson and Roger Westcombe.

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