



Newsletter 25: July 2012

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NFSA

At the last Committee meeting CEO Michael Loebenstein gave us an update of NFSA events. Current restructuring begins this month with policy reviews to start in August. Although base funding for the NFSA was increased in the budget, this was lost through the efficiency dividend resulting in some staff reductions and a renewed focus on core business and critical projects. New capital investment programs have been announced (see more in newsletter), and two Board Members (Andrew Pike and Chairman Chris Puplick) have completed their contracts. And the Friends? Discussions were held about what the Friends can do for the NFSA and vice versa. Michael is considering our suggestions for a range of volunteering activities, introducing members-only screenings, preparing background notes for screenings, behind the scenes tours. Friends' discounts at the shop and the café are part of this review.

Ann Baylis—President of the Friends of the NFSA

At last November's AGM of the Friends of the NFSA, members mixed with the newly elected committee and CEO of the Archive Dr Michael Loebenstein (2nd from right)



REVAMP FOR THE THEATRETTE

Work will begin soon as part of a renovation for the small theatre, which has been largely untouched since it was established to host medical lectures. The new multi-purpose theatre space will better accommodate the educational programs offered to the 30,000 students who visit the NFSA each year, and it will also provide a space to cater for musical performances, functions, video conferencing and webcast productions. The heritage value of the building, though, remains paramount said Building Services Manager Craig Rivett.



1942 FRONTLINE AUSTRALIA!



In February, as part of the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese Air Force in 1942, the NFSA took some of its rare footage of the bombing of Darwin to the NT capital for a series of special screenings. NFSA CEO Michael Loebenstein and Chairman Chris Puplick travelled to Darwin to be part of the celebrations, saying “we are excited to be able to show Darwin audiences rare footage of their home town, in their home town.” This rare, earliest colour footage of Darwin came from local amateur filmmaker Victor Tarhanoff and had not been screened for 40 years.

This event is a great example of the NFSA moving beyond its Canberra base (which also held screenings to commemorate the Darwin raids) and enabling far flung parts of the country to enjoy the treasures of our Archive.

One of Tarhanoff's films and the Film Australia documentary “Darwin– Doorway to Australia” are also available at [youtube.com/filmaustralia](https://www.youtube.com/filmaustralia)



STILL ROWING, ARGONAUTS?

New Friends' member, Maureen Secombe, fondly remembers her days in the Argonauts Club. "It was such a great part of my childhood and I would love to recapture that wonderful spirit by reading about it all over again." The **Registry of Members** on our Friends' website, or www2b.abc.net.au, or the **Argonauts' Club Facebook** page contains many more memories for old rowers!

WHO'S WHO AT THE NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE?



Meet Adam Blackshaw – Manager NFSA Visitor Experience .

I first met Adam when he came chasing after me in the foyer of the NFSA to 'refund' a 20c piece I had lost in a malfunctioning exhibit when I was showing some friends around. And this is what Adam enjoys most about his job as head of Visitor Experience – not refunding money (!) but the opportunity for positive interaction with visitors to the NFSA

What a busy man! Adam's team of 22 people manage corporate events, venue hire, public programs, education (did you know over 30,000 school children visit every year?!), front of house, exhibitions – in other words the public face of the NFSA.

Adam has been at the NFSA for 20 months but believes right now is a most exciting time to be a part of this institution. With a 'fantastic' new CEO, a new vision and new plans rolling out for the redevelopment of many areas in the building he believes this 're-energised' NFSA is emerging from a long struggle to establish its identity. Already the Archive has seen an increase of 11-12,000 in visitor numbers in the current financial year.

Of particular interest are the plans to redevelop the small theatrette, and to make it a focus for the 'Sound' part of the Archive – a new area to promote voice and music recitals.

Adam believes the potential of the Archive to draw visitors is huge – after all, people are far more connected with film and sound – it should be a more 'natural' interest than many exhibitions in other visual arts institutions in Canberra. Next year's Canberra Centenary celebrations will see some great events occurring here!

And Adam's favourite thing in the NFSA? Well, he loves artefacts because they are truly unique, and his favourite artefact is Miranda's dress from the film 'Picnic at Hanging Rock'. For him, it has a haunting, mysterious quality – rather like that landmark film from a golden age of Australian cinema.

Adam is very keen to become involved and supportive of the Friends of the NFSA – and we look forward to future contact with him! **Lindy Ross**

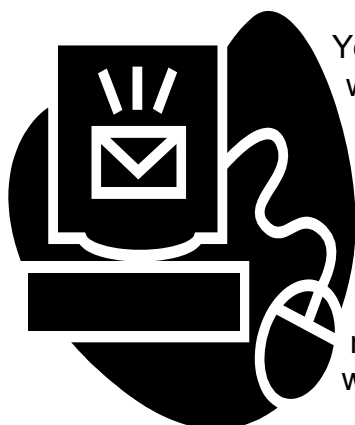
In August Morgyn Phillips, Exhibits Curator, is preparing an exhibition called **Great Adaptations, Words to Image** featuring film posters of Australian film adaptations. From the earliest years of cinema, novels, plays, musicals, biographies and even poems have been a primary source of stories adapted to film and later television screens.



The argument about which is better, the book or the film, continues to polarise and entertain bibliophiles and cinephiles and, Morgyn is certain, - the Friends! The exhibition highlights the NFSA's extensive collection relating to film, television and radio adaptations.

Friends are welcome to email morgyn.phillips@nfsa.gov.au with their favourite Australian screen adaptation or their *Top Ten Australian Screen Adaptations You Must See*. Novels, plays, children's stories etc. You can add an explanation of why you think they are the best - if you wish.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!



You can find out more about the **Friends of the NFSA** by going to our website www.archivefriends.org.au. Here you will find an online membership application, plus information about other projects with which we are involved, such as the Argonauts Register (see previous article).

There's even a blog to encourage more immediate sharing of information and ideas. We would love members to engage in discussion with us, and each other, by blogging. Here is the link:

www.archivefriends.org.au/index.php/view-all-but-published-blog-posts



Don't forget your \$25 Friends membership entitles you to a 10% discount at the NFSA's shop and Café. Sign up to the NFSA's online newsletter to receive advance notification of NFSA events!