



Newsletter 26: January 2013

AN EXCITING NEW YEAR AT THE NFSA

*At November's AGM of the Friends of the NFSA, members mixed with the newly elected committee and CEO of the Archive
Dr Michael Loebenstein*



WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT RAY EDMONDSON

At the Friends' AGM in November Ray Edmondson was elected President. He has been described as the 'moving spirit' behind the creation of the National Film and Sound Archive, serving as Deputy Director and later as its first honorary Curator Emeritus. Ray writes, speaks and teaches internationally within the audio-visual archiving field and currently holds office in two of its federations (SEAPAVAA and AMIA). Since 1996 he has been involved in UNESCO's Memory of the World Program. He has recently completed his PhD thesis on



'The National Film and Sound Archive: The Quest for Identity'.

Read Ray's first President's Report on the following page.

COMING UP—MEMBERS' EVENT EARLY IN THE YEAR!

From the Friends' President:

Greetings to all the NFSA's friends! Although I've been associated with the Friends of the NFSA in various capacities since its formation in 2000, I'm delighted to be taking up the role of president for the first time.

The Friends began as an advocacy or lobby group, initially focused on restoring the institution's original name, and later pressing on for statutory independence from the Australian Film commission, a goal which was finally achieved with the passage of the National Film and Sound Archive Act in 2008. It's an eventful story that is well documented in the Friends' newsletters from 2000 onwards, all of which can be accessed on the Friends' website. In fact, effective grass roots advocacy has always been a central factor in the evolution of the NFSA and its predecessors almost from its beginnings in 1935, when Australia became one of the first countries in the world to make official provision for the preservation of its audiovisual heritage. Once the NFSA's future was secured by its Act, the Friends faced the challenge of re-inventing itself as a more conventional friends body with a paid-up membership, assisting the Archive's ongoing work and developing services to its members, while the Archive itself has also gone through its own adjustments to accommodate its new independent status.

During the year there have been extensive discussions with the NFSA's new CEO, Michael Loebenstein, and his senior staff, towards coordinating a more active Friends agenda with the NFSA's public programs and internal work. There will be announcements about this in the new year.

Meanwhile, at this point of transition. I would like to thank Ann Baylis for her work as president of the Friends, leading it through the last three years of adjustment. As a long standing former senior staff member of the NFSA, few people know the institution and its constituency as well as Ann does, and I am glad that she will be remaining engaged as a member of the Friends committee.

It remains to wish all members a bright new year. - **Ray Edmondson**



**Stunning
footwear at
the AGM!**

CANBERRA'S CENTENARY YEAR 2013

EARLY DAYS IN CANBERRA - OUR BUILDING RISES



Our centenary year is with us and our lovely building is one of Canberra's most beautiful Art Deco buildings with a colourful past. Built as the Institute of Anatomy, the building was completed in 1930 and exemplifies both 1920s Art Deco and late 20th century Stripped Classical architecture, as well as a simplified and modern version of ancient Greek and Roman architecture.

The NFSA Canberra Centenary plans include a focus on 1913 silent films, and a celebration of the centenary of Film Australia.





Check out the NFSA website to see how you can create your version of our capital's own song '*Canberra's Calling to You*'.

Looks like fun!

The 2013 Friends of the NFSA Committee:

President: Ray Edmondson

Vice President: Chris Harrison

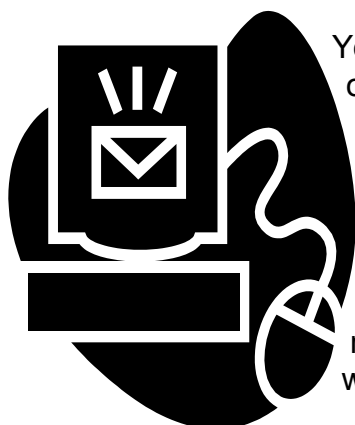
Secretary: Sue Terry

Treasurer: Chris Emery

Committee: David Kilby, Ann Baylis, Lindy Ross

Public Officer: Sue Terry

WE'RE ON THE WEB!



You can find out more about the **Friends of the NFSA Inc** 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. Sign up to the NFSA's online newsletter to receive advance notification of NFSA events!