



## Newsletter 27: May 2013

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY NFSA!

On Friday April 5, the Friends of the NFSA hosted a morning tea in the NFSA's gorgeous courtyard to celebrate the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the announcement of the NFSA's establishment as a separate institution from the National Library of Australia. We also celebrated the 70th birthday of our President Ray Edmondson (pictured, right). It's one of those mysterious strokes of fate that Ray's birthday coincides with the date of the announcement! Around 50 people attended, including Friends' members, past and present staff, and some special guests such as Barry Cohen (left) who was the Minister responsible for the Arts at the time. He was a key player in the separation negotiations, and spoke entertainingly of the period. He told of his part in finding the Archive its current home, which turned out, to his surprise, not to be the one he thought he was giving! This proves, he said, that all the good things Governments do are done by accident!



*Members of the Friends of the NFSA enjoying the party atmosphere and the lovely courtyard in our building.*



**THAT  
CAKE!!**





## FRIENDS SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH NFSA

The Friends and NFSA management have signed a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) which establishes the future basis for a shared working relationship. It takes effect on 1 July 2013.

**The up-front benefit for Friends members is a 15% discount on tickets to the Arc Cinema, and on purchases in the NFSA shop. A Friends membership card must be produced to claim the benefit.**

The MOU provides a working basis for the development of member events and activities. The Friends Committee is currently moving from the “ideas” stage (and there are plenty of those) to the practicalities, which will be announced in the next and subsequent newsletters. But to provide a taste, here are some of the ideas listed in the MOU:

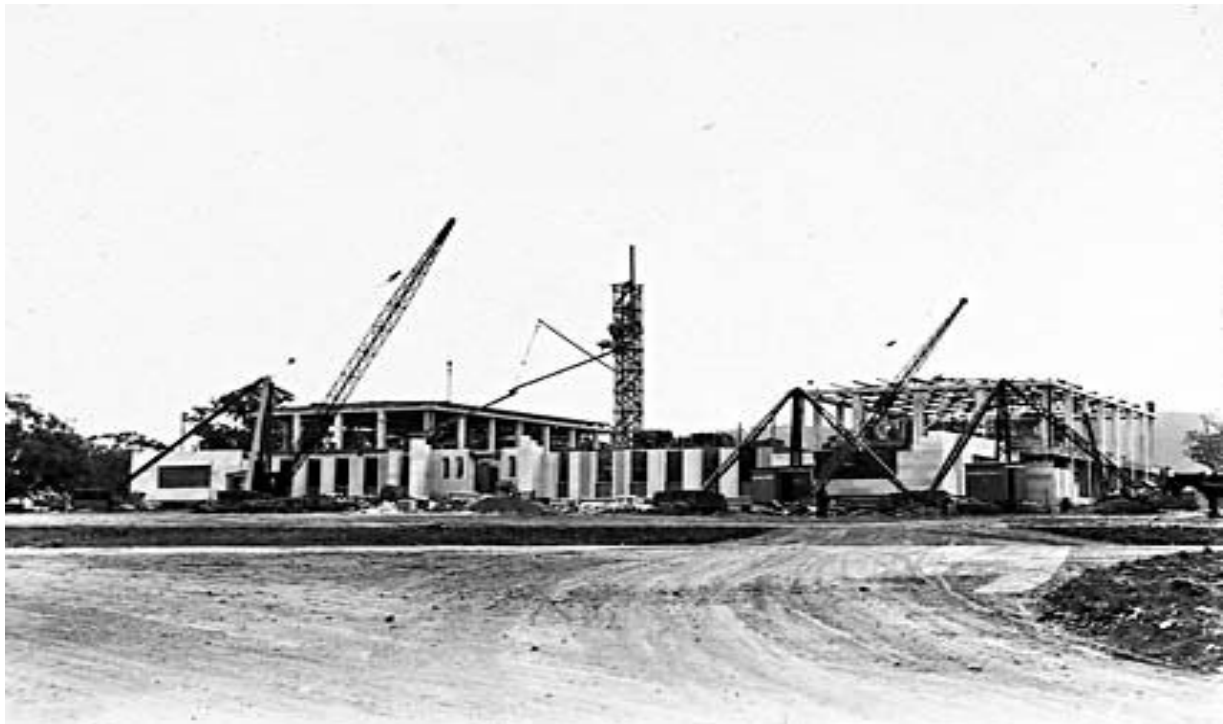
- ***Designated Friends screenings in Arc or the NFSA theatrette, researched and presented by Friends’ members (examples: reconstructions and lost/found films; recreating a traditional “Saturday arvo at the flicks” childrens’ matinee)***
- ***Exclusive limited-numbers special events for members offering curated access experiences to the collection***
- ***Behind the scenes tours of the NFSA and its repositories: again, limited numbers of participants***
- ***Meeting the technology: hands-on experience with film projectors, wind-up gramophones, tape recorders etc.***
- ***“Friends’ Day” – a full day smorgasbord of events***

The NFSA will support the development of Friends’ “collateral”, such as brochures and the further evolution of the Friends’ website.

There are two things to remember. First, it won’t all happen overnight: there is plenty of preparation work ahead. Second, we are not limited to those ideas dreamed up by the Committee. Suggestions for activities are welcome: don’t be shy in putting your idea forward!

**Ray Edmondson—President**

**ANOTHER GLANCE BACK IN TIME—AS OUR  
BEAUTIFUL BUILDING GREW!**



***100 Years Ago-Canberra's Birthday!  
And . . . what was happening in the Australian  
cinema in 1913?***

Raymond Longford directed '**Australia Calls**', a silent film about the fictitious invasion of Australia by an unnamed Asian country. Longford later claimed the movie was the first Australian film to have mass extras and feature model



photography, as well as being the first film in the world to show wireless. Its stars were Lottie Lyell and Frank Phillips and the cast included the aviator William Hart, who made the first cross country flight in NSW and the tenor William O'Shea.



Check out the great films showing at the ARC Cinema—use your Friend of the NFSA membership to get a 15% discount!

### The 2013 Friends of the NFSA Committee:

**President:** Ray Edmondson

**Vice President:** Chris Harrison

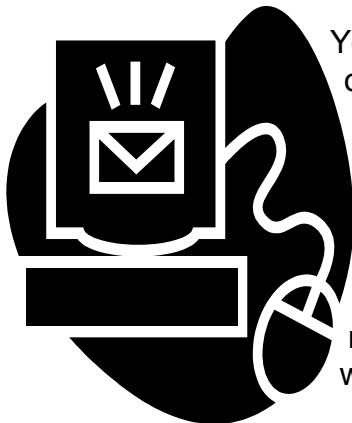
**Secretary:** Sue Terry

**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](http://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](http://www.archivefriends.org.au/index.php/view-all-but-published-blog-posts)



Don't forget your \$25 Friends membership entitles you to a 15% discount at the NFSA's shop and the ARC cinema. Sign up to the NFSA's online newsletter to receive advance notification of NFSA events!