



## Newsletter 28: November 2013

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—FROM RAY EDMONDSON**

We're glad to be announcing in this issue our "Evening with Anthony Buckley" as the first public event under our MOU with the NFSA, and as a pointer to a series of public events in the new year.

We're looking forward to an entertaining and informative encounter with a major figure in the Australian film industry. And we cordially invite all members to come to the AGM. It will be a simple and efficient occasion, immediately preceding our evening event, but an important point to review the past year and the direction of the Friends in the future.

### **COMING UP - Monday 9th December 6.30**

#### **AGM and a very special event**

**A Conversation with Tony Buckley** Film and television producer and founding patron of the Friends, Anthony (Tony) Buckley AM will reminisce and screen excerpts from a personal filmography that covers more than 50 years, almost as long as his diverse connections, formal and informal, with the NFSA itself. The Beatles, the building of the Opera House and one of Peter Weir's first short films about composer Richard Meale. **Join us for the AGM at 6.30, or come at 7.00**, for a wonderful introduction to the treasures of the NFSA and your chance to be one of the first Canberrans to use the stunning new Theatrette at the Film and Sound Archive. Beautifully restored to accommodate the very latest technology and audience comfort yet retaining the unique Art Deco features for which this building is renowned!



***Your invitation is attached!***



### **NEW PATRONS FOR THE FRIENDS**

Two prominent members of the film community, and long-time supporters of the NFSA, have accepted an invitation to become Patrons of the Friends. We welcome, and look forward to an exciting partnership with, Andrew and Alan.

**ANDREW PIKE** OAM was a founding member (in 2000) and former president of the Friends.

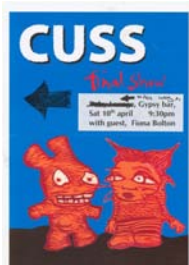
He is an independent filmmaker, distributor and historian. His Canberra-based company, Ronin Films, was established in 1974. He co-authored with Ross Cooper the authoritative reference book on Australian cinema, *Australian Films 1900-1977*, published in 1980. Throughout a



busy career he has received numerous honours and awards, including an honorary PhD from the University of Canberra (2007) and the Australian Film Institute's Byron Kennedy Award (1986). Andrew has been associated with the NFSA in various capacities since the 1970s. He was a member of its Advisory Council (2000-2003) and later a member of its first governing Board (2008-2012).

**ALAN G. RYDGE** is Chairman of Amalgamated Holdings Ltd and its associated companies, which includes the Event and Greater Union cinema chains, the Rydges Hotel and Resort group and Cinesound Movietone Productions. Beginning as Union Theatres in 1913, the company has a century-long record as a film producer, distributor and exhibitor.

Alan's involvements in the film community are multifarious. He is a past president of the Society of Australian Cinema Pioneers, and a patron of the Motion Picture Industry Benevolent Society. A long time supporter of the NFSA, Alan was the joint recipient in 1995 of the NFSA's inaugural Ken G Hall Film Preservation Award, recognising his company's sponsorship of Operation Newsreel, a five year program to safeguard the vast Cinesound and Movietone newsreel collection. UNESCO has since formally recognised the world significance of the collection in its *Memory of the World* program.



**Remember the Canberra live music scene over the past 20 years? *Sound Check*, the new foyer exhibition at the National Film and Sound Archive in Acton, looks at posters from the period.**

**The iconic bands, the popular venues and the music festivals ... they're all there. Every poster telling a story ...**

***Sound Check* is free and runs until 5 January 2014.**

## ***When Harry met Smiley!***

**Harry Rayeroux (left)** had looked forward to this meeting for more than 50 years. At last he could say hello to his hero, **Colin Petersen**, the child star of the 1956 movie, *Smiley*, and a fellow Maleny resident.

“I saw it at least eight times – every Saturday,” says Harry who was born and raised in Mauritius. “It was dubbed in French and took some time to get to Mauritius. But I was about 12 or 13, and there was something about *Smiley* that made me really think about Australia. I wasn’t interested in the koalas and the kangaroos. For me it was the lifestyle, the people and the Australian way of life that really attracted me.”

Harry finally emigrated to Perth in 1966 at age 18 and always harboured a wish to meet the boy who had inspired his desire to become an Australian. Now a father and grandfather, and with a successful engineering career behind him, “It’s like a dream come true,” he adds. “I have been talking to my children about *Smiley* for years and they would say to me, who knows dad, one day you might get to meet him. “Now it’s happened I am flabbergasted,” says Harry overcome and with a tear in his eye. “You created a little paradise for me as a child”.

“I was nine years old when I made that film,” says Colin, “and as I look back I think *Smiley* captured an ethos at the time, an ethos that has, by and large, disappeared ... Certain values and attitudes and an Australian sense of a fair go.

“Culturally it was a different country then,” continues Colin, “but *Smiley* didn’t whitewash society. The film was true to life. In the movie my father was a drunk and we were a poor family. So I can understand how the overall picture was so enticing.”

“I am very much a fanatic for Australia because this country has offered me everything,” says Harry. “Australians have always been so helpful to me and I have raised my children to be Australian.

“I didn’t know where you were in Australia,” says Harry beaming at Colin with a wide smile. “Then I saw the article in the *Hinterland Times* (2010). It’s been a long wait to meet you. You have made me the Australian I am...”

“No...” Colin responds. “I inspired you to become the man you are.”

Both men parted with big smiles on their face, and one could only marvel at the power of the silver screen.

(right) **Colin Petersen** in the role of “*Smiley*”



**We are grateful to Editor Michael Berry of *The Hinterland Times* for his assistance in publishing this story.**



Earlier this year, the Friends lost one of its founding patrons. Patricia (Pat) Lovell AM MBE carved out a seminal career as a film producer, with films like *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *Gallipoli* and *Monkey Grip* to her credit. She was also a beloved television personality: generations of children in the 1960's and 1970's knew her as "Miss Pat" in the long-lived series *Mr Squiggle and Friends*.



Pat's link to the Friends was proudly proclaimed in her *Who's Who* entry, and she was a strong public champion of the NFSA, both before and after its separation from the National Library in 1984. She served as a member of the National Library Council's original Advisory Committee on the National Film Archive (1981-1984). A lengthy obituary for Pat, by NFSA staff members Graham Shirley and Meg La-brum, can be found at

<http://nfsa.gov.au/blog/2013/01/30/vale-patricia-lovell>

## Interested in joining the Committee?

We would love to see as many of you as possible at the AGM. If you would like to nominate for the Committee, please let us know (email us at [archivefriends@gmail.com](mailto:archivefriends@gmail.com)). We welcome new blood! And we have a great year coming up.

### 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



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!