



WHAT'S THE NEWS? 2

November 2001

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

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW FRIENDS AND HELLO TO ALL OUR EXISTING FRIENDS

We are now 347 strong with 134 Friends in the ACT, 147 in Sydney and New South Wales, 24 in Victoria and a further 42 located everywhere from Western Australia to New Zealand.

Thanks to Ronin Cinemas for promoting the Friends through their email newsletter. We welcomed over 100 new Friends from among regular Ronin fans. (You can join the Ronin email list by visiting the Ronin website: www.ronincinemas.com.au) And many thanks to the Australian Association of Archivists who also helped us to spread the word.

Another recruitment opportunity was at the Archive's inaugural Longford Lyell Lecture in Canberra. We set up a small table in the foyer to promote the Friends, with Andrew Pike and Shelley Clarke answering a number of queries from interested future Friends. Many signed up on the spot.

You can never have too many friends. We are always looking for new Friends—you can sign up one or two of your friends now! Just send us their details.

CHARTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE

Thank you for your feedback on the draft charter that we circulated in February as part of our first newsletter. It was good to see so much support for the draft, which we have now adopted, with minor amendments, as our official charter. You can find it at the end of this newsletter.

The Friends are 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 practice; 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.

ANTHONY BUCKLEY AM, a Founding Patron of the Friends

The Archive's inaugural Longford Lyell Lecture in May was given by one of our patrons, Mr Anthony Buckley AM. His long career includes producing *Bliss*, *Caddie* and *beDevil*, winning the 2000 AFI Raymond Longford Award for Services to the Film Industry and being awarded the 2000 Ken G Hall Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the preservation of Australia's film heritage. His lecture, *The Man Who Met Raymond Longford*, saw film fans enjoying his personal recollections in the Archive's wonderful theatre. The Longford Lyell Lecture will be an annual Archive event celebrating Australia's film heritage. Raymond Longford (1878-1959) and Lottie Lyell (1890-1925) were the foremost creative partnership in the pioneering years of Australian cinema and the Archive holds five of the original 25 or more silent films they produced together.

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Come to the **Center Cinema, Bunda Street, Canberra** on **Sunday, 2 December 2000 at 5 pm**. This is your chance to see **Tracey Moffatt's first feature film, *beDevil***. You will also **meet the Producer, Tony Buckley**, gather with some of your **fellow Friends** and **support Friends projects** at the same time. Tony will introduce the film and has agreed to take part in a Q&A afterwards.

beDevil is an innovative rendering of three ghost stories from the imagination of filmmaker, visual artist and photographer Tracey Moffatt, who both wrote and directed the film. Moffatt's breathtaking style—drawing on influences as diverse as Vincente Minnelli and Masaki Kobayashi—makes *beDevil* one of the most dazzling feature debuts in Australian cinema.

All Friends and their friends are invited. So please get busy with your email lists and spread the word. Friends membership is still free and this is your first chance to help raise funds to support the work of the Archive. Single tickets will cost \$13.50 but groups of 10 or more can get their tickets at the bargain price of \$8.50. Tickets are available in advance from Center Cinema. Normal concessions apply. **We would love to have a full house**. Please help us to achieve our aim. As extra incentive, we are offering special door prizes, including videotapes of *Up in the Sky*, a documentary about Tracey Moffatt in New York, where she took the art scene by storm in 1997-98.

FRIENDS PROJECTS—HOW WILL WE SPEND THE MONEY?

Our plan is to dedicate available funds raised by the Friends to projects that will support the Archive's expansion into areas suggested in our first Discussion Paper—for example, to promote the development of a reference collection of essential international film classics unavailable from other sources; to support the establishment of fellowships for the academic study of film and sound; and to support specific restoration projects such as essential short films or documentary classics not currently targeted by the Archive. Our aim in general will be to support the role of the Archive as one of Australia's key organisations engaged in film and sound cultural activities. Specific details will be negotiated progressively with the Archive and reported in future newsletters.

GETTING ORGANISED

A small group has been meeting regularly to keep the Friends moving. Whilst several Friends have put up their hands to assist with particular tasks, we need more help! PLEASE consider joining our working group. You would be VERY welcome. To volunteer, contact us on info@archivefriends.org.au or mercury3@ozemail.com.au

LETTER TO SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE ARTS—Bob McMullan

We have introduced ourselves as a group advocating for the work of the Archive, providing a link between the community, industry and the Archive. As the name change was the main impetus to form the Friends, we explained the ramifications and sought support to restore the Archive's original name—the National Film and Sound Archive.

SEAPAVAA—South East Asia-Pacific Audiovisual Archive Association

The Friends is an Associate Member of this group and Ray Edmondson informally represented the Friends at the 6th annual SEAPAVAA conference held in Bangkok in July. The website <http://www.geocities.com/seapavaa> will tell you more about the work of SEAPAVAA.

ANDREW DOES SINGAPORE

In September, while in Singapore, Andrew Pike visited the two SEAPAVAA members in that country: the National Archives of Singapore and the archive of the giant MediaCorp Studios. The first is a large institution responsible for preserving government records, but as part of its work has established a substantial film and audio archive. Most of the collection consists of government material but it is gradually expanding into other areas of Singaporean culture. The collection is well housed, well curated and plays a growing leadership role in the region. MediaCorp is Singapore's equivalent of the ABC. Its audio-visual Archive is designed primarily to service production, but is an invaluable resource for research and study as well. It is interesting that the key staff of the audio-visual collections of both the National Archives and MediaCorp have close association with the Archive here in Canberra. Several have visited Canberra for workshops and several are undertaking the internet course on audio-visual archiving offered by Charles Sturt University and conducted by Ray Edmondson and other staff from the National Screen and Sound Archive in Canberra.

There is no parallel organisation to the Friends in Singapore. Certainly, the potential for one was recognised by several archivists that I met—if only to assist with organising volunteers to help with archival work, and to lobby the government for more archival resources. There is room for fruitful collaboration between our association in Australia and people in the film and sound communities in Singapore to support the idea for the creation of a Friends association over there. SEAPAVAA has the potential to be a valuable vehicle for this purpose.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS INC (AFFM)

Over 80 member societies representing 160 000 individual supporters in Australia and New Zealand form the Federation, which is a national voice to promote museums for the benefit of all Australians. Shelley Clarke attended the AFFM Annual General Meeting in Melbourne last November and we subsequently decided to become a member organisation. For the annual fee of \$60, we gain access to advice, information, workshops, seminars, publications, events, newsletters, networking, representation at museum industry conferences and membership of the

World Federation of Friends of Museums. You will find more information on the AFFM website <http://amol.org.au/collection/hostedwebs/affm> Shelley plans to attend this year's AGM on 16 November in Sydney and would love to meet any NFSA Friends who are also attending (you can email her at mercury3@ozemail.com.au).

Buenos Aires, Argentina is the host city for the next World Federation Congress, which is planned for 7 to 11 October 2002. AFFM will organise a 21-day Australia-New Zealand tour group.

FRIENDS AS ADVOCATES CONFERENCE

This event was scheduled to be held in early October at the new National Museum of Australia. Unfortunately, due to a combination of factors, which occurred in September, a short informal program of discussions replaced the advertised conference. Shelley Clarke attended Nick Housego's excellent session on marketing and sponsorship and, with Cheryl Stevenson, made the most of meeting people from other Friends groups at the conference dinner.

Looking forward to meeting you at *beDevil* on 2 December,

Andrew Pike

Shelley Clarke

Cheryl Stevenson

www.archivefriends.org.au is the address of our still under-construction website. Visit us soon.

Our new email address is info@archivefriends.org.au

CHARTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE

The Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive is a non-profit organisation with a national membership base. Funds raised will be used to realise the following aims and objectives.

- Seek ongoing public assessment and affirmation of the core responsibilities and functions of the Archive and, to that end, ensure that the word 'archive' is always used in the formal name of the institution
- Promote the optimum flow of information and ideas between the National Film and Sound Archive, the film and sound communities and the community at large
- Promote principles of best practice in archival preservation and public access programs
- Promote principles of academic and professional excellence in work using or based on archival resources
- Encourage public awareness of the Archive's work and its resources
- Promote and assist the Archive in its proactive engagement with the current film and sound communities and the community at large
- Promote creative initiatives involving archival resources

- Promote and support the international work of the Archive
- Stimulate and assist in the creation of, and support the work of, a professional association of film and sound archivists in Australia and in the South East Asia and Pacific regions
- Build a broad base of Friends who will organise, support and participate in forums, conferences, screenings, lectures and special events to promote Friends objectives
- Raise, or assist in raising, funds to support specific Archive programs

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