

NEWSLETTER NO. 30 NOVEMBER 2014

Well, hello Oscar!



We were thrilled at the response to, and success of, our first 'Members Only White Glove Event' which gave our valued Friends a special opportunity to view (and touch!) Australia's first Oscar. (More pictures and report following.)

NFSA strategic review

The Friends submission to the NFSA's strategic plan is on the Friends website – if you haven't read it yet we commend it to you! The Friends participated in the round of stakeholder consultations in July. A further round of workshops begins this month; Canberra on 3 December and Sydney on 4 December. Check (www.nfsa.gov.au/calendar/type=where-we-are-heading-workshops)

They are open to everyone who is interested, though you are asked to rsvp in advance (rsvp@nfsa.gov.au) and state which workshop you will be attending.

COMING UP - AGM 28TH NOVEMBER

With a special presentation:

Spotlight on Sound: Promoting NFSA's Sound Collections with Matthew Davies, Senior Curator of Sound and Broadcast.

Join us for the AGM at 5.30, or come at 6.00 for Matthew's illustrated Introduction to the NFSA's sound collection, followed by drinks and nibbles in the foyer.

Email RSVP 26.11.14

What are Australia's most significant sounds? Come along and tell us what you think.

PRESIDENT RAY'S MESSAGE:

As everyone is aware, 2014 has been a tough year for the NFSA, with budget cuts leading to staff reductions and restructuring, a severe cut-back in public programs and the closure of the NFSA shop and restaurant, among other things. It was not the ideal way to celebrate the NFSA's 30th anniversary – but it is not the first occasion the NFSA has had to weather hard times, nor, undoubtedly, will it be the last! The Friends has a modestly sized membership but it has grown during the year, and as well as proposing an expanded range of Friends events to management and being otherwise active behind the scenes, we've managed four member events in Canberra - a lecture presentation as part of an ANU Conference on History and Cinema, a screening of the classic Australia film SMITHY (in conjunction with the Reel McCoy Film Group), the upcoming "Spotlight on Sound" this month, and the "Meet Oscar" white glove evening in August. These are all quite different events and are an indication of the potential range of Friends events in future.

Of course, we are not satisfied to be just arranging members' events, important as those are: we have much more in mind, as is evident from our submission to the Strategic Review.

Perhaps, as we approach the end of the NFSA's 30th year, it's timely to get things in perspective and be reminded of how far the institution has travelled. I particularly commend the TIMELINE on the NFSA's home page (www.nfsa.gov.au) – do check it out! – and for a whiff of real history, the original Cabinet Submission of February 1984 which resulted in the creation of the NFSA is now a public document. You can read it at <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=31424648>

Admittedly it takes some perseverance to click through all 34 pages. You can marvel at the modesty of the NFSA's original budget!

Ray Edmondson

Friends at the White Glove 'Oscar' event.



This was the scene at our first members-only 'White Glove Event', where film historian Andrew Pike, former Movietone employee Richard Keys and curator Meg Labrum provided a fascinating insight into the world of the newsreel. Damien Parer's Oscar winning newsreel 'Kokoda Front Line' was screened and our audience of Friends was treated to a display of artefacts from the NFSA's collection relating to Ken Hall and Australian film making in the 30s and 40s. It was a great social occasion, with many Friends meeting for the first time and enjoying such a 'special' occasion.



Friends enjoying the get-together, and Chris Harrison and Andrew Pike 'up close and personal' with Oscar!

Our next event: ‘Spotlight on Sound-Promoting the NFSA’s Sound Collection’

Sounds of Australia is the National Film and Sound Archive’s program to promote and celebrate the nation’s heritage.

Established in 2007, the Sounds of Australia (formerly known as the National Registry of Recorded Sound) is the NFSA’s selection of sound recordings with cultural, historical and aesthetic significance and relevance, which inform or reflect life in Australia.

Each year, the Australian public nominates new sounds to be added with final selections determined by a panel of industry experts.



Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly: From Little Things Big Things Grow. (1991)

Find out more at

<http://www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/sound/sounds-australia/>

Friends around the Lake workshop

Friends President Ray Edmondson, accompanied by his wife (and Friends member) Sue, participated in a one day workshop held at the National Gallery of Australia and organized by “Friends around the Lake”, the grouping of Friends associations of the major cultural institutions in Canberra. The workshop was led by Martin Barden, consultant to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney.

It was a participatory event, with the associations pooling ideas about their membership schemes, their successes and failures, the benefits offered, and such indicators as “retention rates”, membership “churn” and the collection and analysis of data about members and their preferences. Interestingly, it became clear that it is not just “benefits” - like discounts in institutional shops or entrance to events – that attracted members. It was often, equally, a desire to support the institution in question in its work and to serve as volunteers – an increasingly important issue as government subsidies shrink and institutions have to look to their support bases for alternative resources.

The Tate Gallery in London was presented as a case study: in 10 years its membership base grew from 30,000 to 100,000. While few Australian institutions can aspire to such numbers, it nevertheless emphasizes how far we all have room to grow.



**More photos from our ‘White Glove’ night.
Special thanks to photographer Sabine Friedrich.**

Regular Film/Sound Friends events: The Committee has been working hard to arrange, with the NFSA, a series of events that will allow Friends to access the treasures held by the Archive, to explore interesting aspects of the collections and to meet those with similar interest in our wonderful Film and Sound Archive.

Keep an eye out for the announcement of these 'specials'!



The stunning new NFSA Theatre where our Friends' events are held. Come along to our ***Spotlight on Sound*** presentation on November 28th.

Like to keep in touch?



The Australian Federation of Friends of Museums connects museum, gallery and library supporters throughout Australia.

Find them on Facebook.



<https://www.facebook.com/ausffm>

Sign up to the NFSA's online newsletter to receive advance notification of NFSA events!

<http://www.nfsa.gov.au/community/newsletters/>

The 2014 Friends of the NFSA Committee:

President: Ray Edmondson Vice President: Chris Harrison Secretary: Sue Terry Treasurer: Chris Emery Committee: David Kilby, Lindy Ross, Michael Pejovic, Public Officer: Sue Terry

Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive Inc*
PO Box 9618 Deakin ACT 2600.

E: archivefriends@gmail.com Website: www.archivefriends.org.au