



NEWSLETTER NO. 40 AUGUST 2017

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RAY EDMONDSON

The Minister for Communication and the Arts, Mitch Fifield, has announced the appointment of Jan Mueller as the next CEO of the NFSA - see the press release in this issue. Jan takes up his position in October and the Friends looks forward to working with him. More on Jan as his arrival draws closer.

SOME EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS! This year the Friends will collaborate with the organisers of the **Canberra International Film Festival**, which will be held from 26 October to 5 November. All screenings will be at the Arc Cinema. When the program and ticketing details have been finalised they will be circulated to all Friends, but I can tell you that we anticipate a diverse and fascinating international program with some associated events. It's worth putting in your diary now.

In this issue you will read about the **Friends' new venture with CMAG**, the Canberra Museum and Art Gallery. For some time the Committee has been mulling over the idea of organising some daytime events, but because of the parking situation it was clear that such events would not be possible at the NFSA itself. At CMAG the daytime parking and public transport options are more practical, and in the CMAG theatrette it is possible to screen 16mm film (which we cannot do in the NFSA theatrette). So we are beginning in September with "Friday with Friends" in a different guise: at 2.30 pm on the second Friday of each month. The presentations are free to Friends. Here's my personal suggestion: have a light lunch or coffee in the CMAG café, spend a little time viewing the current exhibitions, then come to the presentation, which will run for about one hour. And then let us have your feedback!

Ray Edmondson

***We're back!* FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS AT CMAG!**

SCREENING: Pulp Classics

Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive present pulp classics (in association with the CMAG "Pulp Classics" exhibition).

NSFA friends and CMAG members free, or by gold coin donation.

Fri 8 September: The Spider's Web 2.30 -3.30

The pulp fiction character The Spider, played by Warren Hull, features in this classic 1938 matinee serial from Columbia Pictures. Ray Edmondson will screen the first and last episodes (so you can see the villainous Octopus unmasked) with a contextual introduction.

Fri 13 October: The Adventures of Captain Marvel 2.30 -3.30

The original comic strip character Captain Marvel inspired this famous matinee serial, starring Tom Tyler. Among the best serials ever produced by Republic Pictures, the first and last episodes will be screened with a contextual introduction by Ray Edmondson.



CANBERRA TREASURE: The Cover Story, Part 2

Radio personality and record collector David Kilby takes us on a quirky show-and-tell journey through the vinyl album covers of yesteryear, with gems drawn from his own collection.

In partnership with the Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive.

NSFA Friends and ACT M&G Members free, or by gold coin donation

Friday 10 November: 2.30–3.30pm

There is plenty of parking adjacent to the Canberra Museum and Gallery in Civic Square, or in the Canberra Centre. The bus interchange is close, too.

It was 'All Aboard' the coach to Moncrieff when the Friends had another Suburban Safari!

David Kilby took us on another fascinating journey into Canberra's suburbs and our musical history. The streets of Moncrieff are named after Australia's musical heritage – singers, musicians, pop stars – and we cruised through those streets, listening to and watching the stars perform.



On board the bus, meeting some of the musical stars (and David!) and then enjoying a wintry, but delicious afternoon tea – all in the shiny new surrounds of the suburb of Moncrieff, in Gungahlin. This was the second of our Friends' Mystery Coach tours – a sell out!

CALLING for

VOLUNTEERS!



Are you interested in film culture? Do you like working with databases?

If so you may like to join our little band of volunteers who are indexing film journals, like Metro and Senses of Cinema, for the NFSA's contribution to an international database. Training will be provided! We work on Wednesdays, in the NFSA's gorgeous library from 2.30 to 4.30pm. You can offer weekly, fortnightly, monthly, ad hoc, as suits your schedule).

If this is not your thing, but you would like to help the committee in some way - perhaps with our events or publicity, for example - we are also interested to hear from you. You may wish to man the desk on NFSA Film Nights, or give introductions to the films shown on these occasions.

To offer your services or to find out more about any of these, please email Sue Terry at archivefriends@gmail.com

Booking as a Friend for NFSA events??

Current financial members of the Friends are eligible for discounts for many events at the NFSA:

* NFSA events presented in conjunction with the Friends - such as the current Wednesday evening series: Friends receive a significant discount. Either show your membership card at Reception, or if booking online, find the event, click on Concessions, and enter NFSAFRIENDS in the Gift/Promotion Code box.

* Other events in Arc: Friends receive the standard Concession rate

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CEO FOR THE NFSA

We are delighted to announce we have appointed Jan Müller, presently CEO of the Netherlands Institute of Sound and Vision.

Jan is a globally-recognised leader in digital culture and public engagement. He visited the NFSA to deliver the keynote speech at our Digital Directions symposium last year. Some of the Friends may have heard his address.

In Jan, we have secured a CEO with an international reputation whose experience reflects the need for cultural institutions to focus on reaching our communities in both the physical and virtual realms to maximise the value of our collections.

His knowledge of digitisation and the audiovisual industries is world class. He also understands the importance of great programming and collaborations so people come to know and love the work of archives and museums. It is hard to imagine anyone else better placed to lead the NFSA to deliver on our Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and beyond.

He will take up his position, based in Canberra, in October, and you will have an opportunity to meet him before long.

I know you and the Friends of the NFSA will join us in welcoming Jan to this important role and thank you, as always, for your support and interest in our wonderful asset, the NFSA.

Regards,

GABRIELLE TRAINOR

NFSA BOARD



***The Friends would like to acknowledge the support of the IT firm,
Blue Packets, in hosting our website.***

VALE JOHN GUNN –‘ICARUS’ FROM THE ARGONAUTS CLUB

John Gunn, writer, aviator and sailor died earlier this year aged 92. He was Icarus who each week presented a segment on literature and writing for the ABC's Children's Hour which included the popular Argonauts Club. He was one of four presenters each week from Monday to Thursday who covered a wide range of subjects. They included Tom the Naturalist (Alan Colefax) who spoke on nature and wildlife, Phidias (the artist Jeffrey Smart), art and painting and Mr Melody Man (Lindley Evans), music performance and composition. John Gunn was preceded by A.D. Hope (Antony Inkwell) and Leslie Luscombe (Argus). Each contributor was both entertaining and educational without being didactic.

Gunn was born in England and migrated to Australia as a child. At the age of 14 he was accepted into the Royal Australian Naval College as a cadet-midshipman. In 1946 he trained as a Fleet air Arm pilot and later served in England and the Mediterranean. Returning to Australia, he enrolled in medicine at Sydney University but left to start a family.

He was a prolific author and wrote 11 children's novels as well non-fiction books and plays. In 1959 he was the joint winner of the Children's Book of the Year for *Sea Menace*.

Gunn approached the Friends initially seeking information about the television version of the Argonauts. He wondered if the NFSA held copies. When he was told that the Friends had decided to include a dedicated link for those who were formerly Argonauts, he was extremely interested in our organisation. Unfortunately he could not come to Canberra to give a talk to the Friends.

John Gunn is believed to be the last living member of The Children's Hour. We should like to know if any member of Friends knows of presenters or anyone connected with the Children's Hour is still alive.

A link to the Argonauts Club can be found on the Friends' Home page.

<http://www.archivefriends.org.au/index.php/argonauts-registration-form> Members of the Friends can add reminisces of their time as Argonauts. Many have already done so.

CHRIS HARRISON





Like to keep in touch a new way?



Find the Friends on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/NFSAFriends

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

It's worth regularly checking the Friends' website and Facebook page to keep up with what's happening.

The 2017 Friends of the NFSA Committee:

President: Ray Edmondson, Vice President: Chris Harrison, Secretary: Sue Terry, Treasurer: Chris Emery, Committee: David Kilby, Lindy Ross, Lynne Grehg Public Officer: Sue Terry, Newsletter Editor: Lindy Ross

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