



WHAT'S THE NEWS? 7

DECEMBER 2003

*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

## HELLO FRIENDS

Welcome to the seventh issue of the Friends NFSA newsletter and the last for 2003.  
We hope you enjoy reading about your Friends and what they have been up to since the last issue.

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## NEWS FROM OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive Inc. was held at the Archive's Theatre, McCoy Circuit, Acton, in Canberra at 6.30 pm on Friday 24 October 2003.

Those Friends in attendance confirmed the minutes of the last AGM, received from the committee statements of the association's activities and finances and elected our new committee, both office bearers—president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary—and ordinary committee members.

In his president's report, outgoing President, Andrew Pike, ran through the Friends achievements of the last twelve months. Highlights included production of the newsletters, Brisbane and Sydney Friends meetings, involvements in the AFC and Archive merger including meetings with the AFC's Kim Dalton, the Minister's office and Greens MHR Michael Organ, our series of The Archive Talks events presented by Archive staff, our input into the Archive Program Reviews, sponsorship of Center Cinema closing night event and a session of the Canberra International Film Festival, the Committee establishing an effectively working executive committee, meetings with Sydney Archive staff and Archive Sound staff and the development of our Strategic Plan.

Our new committee consists of president, Richard Keys, vice-president, Roger Westcombe, secretary, Charles Higgins, and treasurer, Cheryl Stevenson. These office bearers are joined by committee members Ina Bertrand,

Shelley Clarke, Travis Cragg, Mary Domitrovic, Ray Edmonson, Chris Harrison, Oliver Jones, Andrew Kaminski, Tina Kaufman, Jordie Kilby and Andrew Pike.

Bravo to those who have returned to continue their contribution and welcome to those new committee members who have joined to help the Friends support the Archive at this critical time. The new full committee has already met once, in late November, to discuss future Friends business and the executive committee of Richard Keys, Roger Westcombe, Shelley Clarke and Lucy Battersby will continue to meet regularly to jointly manage policy direction, decisions and related Friends activities.

Thanks must go to Andrew Pike and Shelley Clarke for their time as president and vice-president and congratulations to Richard Keys and Roger Westcombe who have taken over those hot seats.

Once the official AGM business was over, it was time for the most enjoyable part of the evening when one of our founding patrons, Patricia Lovell MBE, AM, addressed the meeting. With more than twenty-five years experience as a producer, producing among many other works Peter Weir's *Picnic at Hanging Rock* and *Gallipoli*, Ken Cameron's *Monkey Grip*, Patricia entertained and enlightened us with tales from her filmmaking career and her observations on the future of Australian film from the vantage point of her job as Head of Producing at the Australian Film Television and Radio School. It was wonderful to listen to her passionate stories and we thank her most gratefully for her time and generosity.

As an aside, Patricia let us in on her future plans. She is leaving AFTRS so she can get back into the production side of the industry. We wish her well in all her future endeavours.

### **THE ARCHIVE TALKS**

Over the past few months, the Friends in association with the Archive have presented three talks in the Archive's beautiful Art Deco theatre.

The first talk was by Jan Thurling, the Archive's database manager, who spoke about the Collection and Preservation of Offensive Audiovisual material. Jan canvassed the ethical and legal issues surrounding material which may be offensive, racist, or sexually explicit, including material which may at some time be banned. *Petersen 1974* (Tim Burstall) was screened to illustrate some of her points.

The second talk was by Richard Keys, an Archive Curator Emeritus. He spoke on the 'renaissance' of the Australian film industry in the late 1960s, which was kick-started by the Gorton Government's sudden decision to set up a government-funded Film Development Corporation. *The Adventures of Barry McKenzie 1972* (Bruce Beresford) was screened as an example.

The third talk was by Sue Hardisty, from the Archive's Collection Development area focusing on documentaries and short films. She spoke about the Archive's documentary film and video collection and used a montage of film clips, from the early years to the present, to illustrate the scope and variety of the documentary form. *Memories and Dreams 1993* (Lyn-Maree Milburn) was screened as an example of how the documentary can take many forms.

Two more talks are now scheduled for early 2004. Please come along and bring your family and friends for a night of informative entertainment.

### **TUESDAY MARCH 16 2004**

#### **Talk 7PM**

**Fiona Hooton**

#### **Drawing with Light in the Dark: UBU Sydney Underground Filmmaking 1965-70**

UBU explored the limits of theatre, music, literature, static arts and film in the tradition of the 1920s avant-garde.

**Screening 8PM*****Trouble in Molopolis*****AUSTRALIAN 1970****DIRECTOR: PHILLIPPE MORA****COLOUR 35MM 85MIN**

This musical feature film has a cartoonish feel. Two rival gangs struggle for power in the fictitious world of Molopolis run by eccentric Mayor, Umberto Hum. Cast includes: Germaine Greer, Jenny Kee, Richard Neville and Martin Sharp. Admission: \$9, \$7 concession (\$7 to Friends) Bookings recommended.

**TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2004****Talk 7PM****Malcolm Gillies and Dr David Pear**

Co-authors and editors of recent work on Percy Grainger

**Screening 8PM*****Passion: The Story of Percy Grainger*****AUSTRALIAN 1999****DIRECTOR: PETER DUNCAN****VIDEO COLOUR 99MINS M**

This is the story of Australian composer and pianist, Percy Grainger, and his intense personal relationships. It is a vivid portrait of the pivotal years, 1901-1914, in Grainger's private and professional life and is based on the play *Percy and Rose*. Admission: \$9, \$7 concession (\$7 to Friends) Bookings recommended

**AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION AND ARCHIVE INTEGRATION—THE LATEST**

As part of the integration process, the Australian Film Commission is reviewing those programs currently undertaken by the Archive. Working with the Archive's Kate McLoughlin, Sabina Wynn heads up this review and hopes to report to the Commission by the end of December. As part of the consultation process with stakeholders, Friends of the Archive have met with Sabina to discuss our views on the Archive's programs. Now the merger of the Archive into the Australian Film Commission (AFC) has taken a major step forward with the release by the AFC in late October of its Stage One Internal Discussion Paper on the integration of the two bodies. The Friends' submission in response welcomed the discussion paper's strong emphasis on scholarship and its recognition of the central importance of a strong curatorial base to Archive activities. Key issues identified by the Friends included: Australian objectives should determine priorities; the desirability of a curated international collection recognising the truly global nature of these media; a small task force should work towards a 'legal deposit' regime for Australia; the vital importance of a central filmography; the need for a dedicated Indigenous team on staff; the importance of service to the 'grass-roots' public (possibly modelled on the Australian War Memorial), promoting a national 'conversation'; the importance of the Archive maintaining its integrated institutional character and separate identity; enhancing the role of the Archive's Library; and creating a centre for scholarship and archive studies.

**INTERSTATE FRIENDS MEETINGS**

This year the Friends has been able to hold meetings outside Canberra by taking advantage of Friends Executive members being interstate for other functions. In August Andrew Pike and Richard Keys held a meeting in Brisbane at the Redcliffe Picture Palace, and in September Richard Keys held a meeting in Sydney in the AFC Theatre. The meetings have attracted a cross section of interested parties, with many aspects of the Archive's future in the merger with the AFC covered in discussion. A meeting is planned in Melbourne in March when Roger Westcombe and Richard Keys will be there for the Australian Council of Film Societies Conference. If you live in Melbourne, make sure you get along and have your say. Details will be announced in our next issue of *What's the News?* The Friends hopes to hold meetings in as many cities as possible in the future.

**MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Lucy Battersby has come to our rescue since the Friends sadly farewelled the wonderful Charlie Higgins. Charlie has moved on to full time employment with the Department of Finance and Administration in Canberra. We wish him every success and happiness. Fortunately, he has agreed to stay on with the Friends as committee Secretary.

Lucy will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Friends and for supporting the executive committee. Welcome Lucy!

### **ABOUT THE FRIENDS**

The Friends is 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 culture; 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. You can never have too many friends. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join us. And if you feel you would like to contribute by joining our committee, don't hesitate to contact Lucy.

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and would love to hear from you on any Friends topic. You can contact us at [friendsofarchive@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofarchive@hotmail.com) or ring Lucy on 6248 0851.

### **FRIENDS WEBSITE**

Our website includes How to Join, Newsletter Back Issues, Discussion Papers, our Mission Statement, Events and Contact information. The address is [www.archivefriends.org.au](http://www.archivefriends.org.au). Check it out!

### **MANY GOOD WISHES TO YOU FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND 2004 FROM YOUR COMMITTEE,**

Ina Bertrand, Shelley Clarke, Travis Cragg, Mary Domitrovic, Ray Edmondson, Chris Harrison, Charles Higgins, Oliver Jones, Andrew Kaminski, Tina Kaufman, Richard Keys, Jordie Kilby, Andrew Pike, Cheryl Stevenson and Roger Westcombe.

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