

Federation of Victorian Film Societies

Annual General Meeting

Minutes



Saturday 30th March, 2019 commencing at 12:21pm
Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre, 379 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham. 3132.

1. PRESENT

Executive: Ian Davidson (Whitehorse FS), Susan Davidson (Whitehorse FS), Andrew Oldroyd (Prom Coast FS), John Turner (International FG), Gail Arkins (Little FS).

Delegates: Brendan Fitzgerald (Ferntree Gully FS), Adrian Sumner (Goulburn Valley FC), John Shortridge (Whitehorse FS), Sally Ahern (Yarra Ranges FS), Richard Bell (Croydon FS), Margaret Byrne (Phillip Island MC), Elizabeth Mulhern (Phillip Island MC), Dorothy Davies (Ferntree Gully FS), David Purvis (Old Scotch FS), Leona Sterling (Goulburn Valley FC), Gwen Adams (Old Scotch FS), Michael Slee (Williamstown FS), Bea Wicks-Kaandorp (Yarra Ranges FS), Anna Roberts (Court FS), Lyn Patullo (Tatura FS), Vaughan Patullo (Tatura FS), Suzanne Nunn (Ballarat FS), Joan Goldsmith (Buninyong FF), Rodney Browne (Ballan FS), Rhonda Irving (Baringo MC), Beverley Durham (Baringo MC), Helen Carlson (Bright FS), Beverley Bloxham (Chewton FS), Tim Evans (Flickside), Janet Witham (Grampians FS), Lorraine Rutherford (Macedon Ranges FS), Henry Screen (Macedon Ranges FS), Simon Butcher (Shit MG), Lavinia McEwan (Yarra Ranges FS)

Observers: Marguerite Bell (Croydon FS), Bridget Desmond (Ballan FS), Sandra Meredith (Court FS), Kate Murphy (Court FS), Marilyn Martyn (Little FS), David Phair (Murrindindi FS), Jenny Hearn (Old Scotch FS), Angela Luke (Phillip Island MC), Ee-lin Yap (Shit MG),

Apologies: Jean Middleton (Croydon FS), Alex Kuebler (Barwon Head FS), Louise McDade-Cartey (Goulburn Valley FC), Ross Sellenger (Camberwell FS), Elaine Price (Sun Country MC), Peter Bennett (Sun Country MC), Ian Pinge (Portarlington FS), Madge Pinge (Portarlington FS), Di Feldtmann (Dookie FG), Gerard Callinan (Sale FS), Elaine Uebergang (Arapiles Motion Picture Society), Wayne Gilmour (LV FS), Pearl Wilson (North Bellarine FF), Fiona Orwin (Flexible Respite FS), Jon McLeod (Port Campbell FS), Mike Tye (Southern Fleurieu FS), Des Bunyon (F Project Cinema), Lisa Cressey (Buninyong FF), Denise Barbulescu (Horsham FS), Christine Paech (Croydon FS), Graham Pitts (Maldon Movies FS).

2. MINUTES of the 2018 AGM

Moved D. Purvis/R. Bell: *that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th March 2018 be accepted. Carried.*

3. MATTERS ARISING from the MINUTES – Nil

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Outward Correspondence: Nil

Inward Correspondence: Nil

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I must start this report with a tribute to John Arkins, President since 2012 until his retirement in November last year. After a long, courageous and always positive battle with cancer John died in Epworth Hospital on February 10th.

John Arkins came onto the FVFS committee when the Federation was under threat of extinction and has been a leader ever since. He was very committed to making use of technological advances, the Regional Information Days and was planning closer relations with Arts Victoria and a Scholarship Fund at the time of his death. Succession Planning was always his watchword and we shall miss him greatly for his drive and his guidance.

The Federation continues to expand and at December 2018 had a record membership of 87 (29 Suburban 54 Country and 4 Interstate), double the number of affiliates in 2006. The average size is 69 members and 75 screen DVDs, three use DCP and four 16mm. Victoria is certainly the centre of the Film Society Movement in Australia. Several important events marked 2018 such as the Regional Information Day held at Yarrowonga on July 29th. Organized in co-operation with the Sun Country Film Society, this was a very successful event with 20 attendees representing 7 societies. The contacts made provided a big boost for the area and is well worth repeating.

Another significant happening was the final publication of The History of Australian Film Societies. The Federation purchased 83 copies of this 500 page book; a free copy for each paid up affiliate.

Unfortunately, to date, only 40 societies have bothered to claim their copy. Ian Davidson travelled to Ballarat and addressed a meeting of the Mechanics Institute representatives on the subject of making Mechanics Institutes the venue for local Film Society screenings.

On more mundane matters we have held two Executive meetings by email, in order to ease the load on our diminishing committee. This could become more prevalent, especially if we can attract more committee members from the country. Four issues of ReelNews were produced, three edited by Gail Arkins and one by Ian Davidson

We need to recognize the fact that the day-to-day running of the Federation could not continue at its current level without Ian and Susan Davidson. They answer queries from societies both new and established and also from individuals, regarding a myriad of subjects. Ian keeps in touch with distributors and manages the discount rate enjoyed by all societies. He keeps in touch with Indie film makers, and makes Star Boxes in his spare time.

Which brings us to the future. It must be obvious from what I have said that we cannot continue providing the current level of service with a reduced executive. I have rung several societies in order to attract new committee members and the result has been just one nomination from Sue Nunn who is an ex-member of the Executive.

Make no mistake the position is dire and the future is very much in the hands of the affiliated societies.

Moved J. Turner/T.Evans: *that the President's report be accepted.* Carried

Matters arising from President's Report: - Nil

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Ian Davidson spoke to his financial report which had been distributed prior to the meeting and is available on the FVFS website.

Moved I. Davidson/G. Arkins: *that the Treasurer's report be accepted.* Carried.

Matters arising from Treasurer's Report:- Nil

Adoption of Membership Fees for 2020:

Moved I. Davidson/A. Sumner: *that the 2020 membership rates for Film Societies, Film Festivals and NPV Cinemas remain the same as for 2019.* Carried.

7. ELECTION of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Moved: J. Witham/D. Purvis: *that up to five (5) Ordinary Members of the Committee are to hold office for the next year.* **Carried.**

All positions were declared vacant. Nominations were received by the due date for the following positions and as they number less than the maximum they were therefore appointed:

President: Andrew Oldroyd
Vice President: John Turner
Secretary: Susan Davidson
Treasurer: Ian Davidson
Committee: Gail Arkins, Jean Middleton.

The Vice-President called for further nominations for the Committee from the floor and received the following nominations: Suzanne Nunn, Beverley Bloxham, Henry Screen. As these nominations did not exceed the maximum allowed they were appointed.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Treasurer reported that the online application form and EFT payments are generally working well. 72 societies (83%) used the online form, and 67 societies (77%) paid by EFT. Those that didn't use EFT often gave the excuse that they needed two signatures for payments. As many banks now support EFT payments with two signatures it was suggested these societies should speak to their bank. At the end of 2018 we had 87 member organisations which is an all-time record. The average size of societies is 72 people.

The Treasurer indicated that the Executive committee is open to suggestions for spending surplus funds. G. Arkins requested consideration of a Scholarship Fund in John Arkins memory. This is already under consideration by the committee and was supported by delegates attending the meeting. It was suggested that those societies who already provide a scholarship to local film/media students should send any templates on how they do so to the Secretary. The Scholarship could be offered to university film school students at the end of the 1st year, or to media studies students at high school.

A question was asked whether the FVFS Public Liability Insurance scheme is continuing. The Treasurer reported that there are no thoughts of ceasing it. Details are in an Information Sheet on the website, including how to apply for insurance.

MEETING CLOSED at 1. 03.pm