

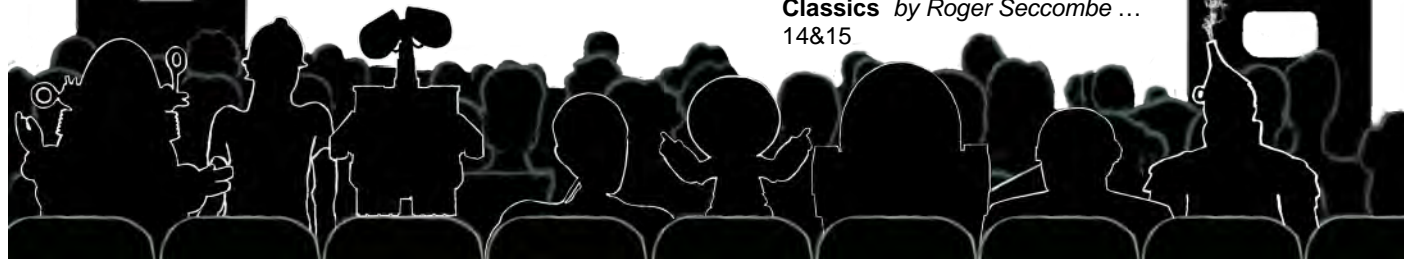
# ReelNews

The official newsletter of the  
Federation of Victorian  
Film Societies

#104  
February 2015

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## Editor's Desk



Prodos begins every "Screen & Study" session he runs exclaiming with a flourish: "Prepare! For another intellectual and cultural adventure!"

The members always find it funny, but the poor dear is deadly serious. What a freakin' fanatic! But I think he's right, you know. It's not just about the specific films, it's about how we approach film art itself. The Film Society Movement is a particular way of coming at things. For some of us there is a sense of mission about it.

So when we, on the FVFS committee are asked to approve a newly formed film society applying to join the Federation it really is a beautiful moment. Then there are those heart-wrenching times when we learn that a film society is closing its doors. It seems so awful and wrong. But in truth, that the film society was started in the first place, that the attempt was made, that it

accomplished what it did during its time - maybe *that's* success. Maybe. I hope so.

Then there are those film societies that keep on keeping on. Sure and steady. Year after year – all thanks to the good men and women who make things happen. Just like our *ReelNews* contributors!

Hope you enjoy this issue. See you at the AGM!

Ready? Lights off! Imaginations ON!

**Barboo A H Marinakis**  
[ReelNews@FVFS.org.au](mailto:ReelNews@FVFS.org.au)

*PS: Please share this newsletter with friends and colleagues! Print it out, email it, leave it lying around. You'll be glad you did.*

*PPS: All illustrations hand-drawn by yours truly.*



*The FVFS is proud to have David Stratton as our patron.*

## The FVFS AGM

Is coming!

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2015

9:30 AM to 4:15 PM

Richmond Library Meeting Room

**See inside for more information.**



[fvfs.org.au](http://fvfs.org.au)

# What's Being Seen

## Across the Film Society Circuit

Let ReelNews readers know what is being screened. Email Susan Davidson: [secretary@fvfs.org.au](mailto:secretary@fvfs.org.au)

### Alpine Film Society

### Arapiles Motion Picture Society

### Artist Film Screening Society

### Arts Group of Flinders Film Society

### Ballarat Film Society & Buninyong Film Festival

Ascenseur Pour L'Echafaud, France, 1958.  
My Sweet Pepper Land, Iraq/Kurdistan, 2013.  
Ida, Poland, 2014.

### Bannockburn Movies Film Society & Film Festival

### Barwon Heads Film Society & Film Festival

Calvary, Ireland, 2014.  
Belle, UK, 2013.  
The Lunchbox, India, 2013.

### Beechworth Film Society

### Big Picture Film Society

### Bright Film Society

The Rocket, Australia/Laos, 2013.  
The Master, USA, 2012.  
In A Better World, Denmark/Sweden, 2010.  
Bobby, USA, 2006.

### British History Film Study Festival

### Camberwell Film Society

The Lunchbox, India, 2013.  
The Awful Truth, USA, 1937.  
Beneath Hill 60, Australia, 2010.

### Celebrate Israel Film Study Festival

### Cinerarium, The

### Corangamite Film Society

The Lunchbox, India, 2013.  
A Most Wanted Man, USA, 2014.  
Tracks, Australia, 2013.

### Court Film Society

Wadjda, Saudi Arabia+, 2012.  
Sunshine on Leith, UK, 2013.  
The Dark Horse, New Zealand, 2014.

### Croydon Film Society

Gravity, USA/UK, 2013.  
Wadjda, Saudi Arabia+, 2012.  
Calvary, Ireland/UK, 2014.  
The Past, France+, 2013.  
Her, USA, 2013.

### DADo Film Society

### F Project Cinema

### Far East Film Society

### Ferntree Gully Film Society

Barbara, Germany, 2013.  
The Rocket, Australia, 2013.  
Le Week-End, UK, 2013.  
Gloria, Chile/Spain, 2012.  
Wadjda, Saudi Arabia+, 2012.

### Flexible Respite Film Society

### Flickside Film Society (Arts Yackandandah)

### Geelong Classic Cinema Inc

The Philadelphia Story, USA, 1940.  
Letter from an Unknown Woman, USA, 1948.  
Dingo, Australia, 1991.

### God Loves Atheists Film Study Festival

### Goulburn Valley Film Club

Wadjda, Saudi Arabia +, 2012.  
All Is Lost, USA, 2012.  
Like Father Like Son, Japan, 2013.

### Grampians Film Society

### Horsham Film Society

The Lunchbox, India, 2013.

### Intermittent Cinema Club

### International Film Group

Wadjda, Saudi Arabia+, 2013.  
Fruitvale Station, USA, 2013.

### Liberate Education! Film Study Festival

### Lounge Lizards Film Society

### LV Film Society

Begin Again, USA, 2014.  
The Hedgehog, France, 2009.  
High Society, USA, 1956.

### Macartan Club (Inc)

### Film Society

The Man from Snowy River Part 2, Australia, 1988.  
The King and I, USA, 1956.  
Breaker Morant, Australia, 1980.  
Les Misérables (version not stated).

### Macedon Ranges Film Society

### Maldon Movies Film Society

### Melbourne Horror Film Society

The Changeling, Canada, 1980.  
Session 9, USA, 2001.

### Melbourne Zombie Film Society

Undead, Australia, 2003.

### Moir Film Group

### Mount Eliza Fifty-Five Plus Film Group

### Moviehouse

The Circus, USA, 1928.  
White Heat, USA, 1949.  
Western Union, USA, 1941.  
A Date with Judy, USA, 1948.  
Life & Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, UK, 1947.  
The Horse's Mouth, UK, 1958.  
The Big Heat, USA, 1953.

### Moving Clickers Inc & Lorne Film Festival

### Murrindindi Film Society

### Myrtleford Film Society

Mr Hulot's Holiday, France, 1953.  
I am Eleven, Australia, 2011.

### Network Film Club

### Old Scotch Film Society

Sunshine on Leith, Scotland, 2014.  
The Optimists, UK, 1973.  
Beau Geste, USA, 1939.  
Travels with My Aunt, USA, 1972.  
Bad Day at Black Rock, USA, 1955.

### Phillip Island Movie Club

### Plaza Cinema Group

### Port Albert Movie Club

# What's Being Seen

## Across the Film Society Circuit

Let ReelNews readers know what is being screened. Email Susan Davidson: [secretary@fvfs.org.au](mailto:secretary@fvfs.org.au)

### Port Fairy Film Society

Winters Sleep, Turkey+, 2014.  
Mr. Turner, UK+, 2014.  
Still Life, UK, 2013.

### Portarlington Film Society

### Portland Film Society

### PRODOS Film Study Group

### Prom Coast Film Society

The Grand Budapest Hotel, UK/Germany+, 2014.  
The Guard, Ireland, 2011.  
Calvary, Ireland, 2014.  
Wadjda, Saudi Arabia, 2012.

### Red Rock Film Society

Wadjda, Saudi Arabia, 2012.  
The French Minister, France, 2013.  
Hannah Arendt, Germany, 2012.

### Red Rum Film Society

Cave of Forgotten Dreams, USA/France, 2010.  
Plan 9 from Outer Space, USA, 1959.  
The Darjeeling Limited, USA, 2007.

### Science and Technology Film Study Festival

### Smart Girls Film Club

Films featuring amazing women in history fiction

### St Andrews Film Society

### St Dunstan's Hall Film Society

Philomena, UK, 2013.  
Goodbye Mr Chips, UK, 2002.  
Driving Miss Daisy, USA, 1989.

### Sun Country Movie Club

The Butler, USA, 2013.  
The Grand Budapest Hotel, UK/Germ/USA, 2014.

### Teddy Bobo Film Club

Short films + lateral thinking exercises. Most Tuesday nights.

### The Impossible Film Club

Studying fantasy, science fiction, heroic adventure.

### Trentham Film Society

Le Week-End, UK/France, 2013.  
Good Night and Good Luck, USA, 2005.  
All Is Lost, USA, 2014.

### Vantastic Watchers Film Society

### WEAG Film Society

### Whitehorse Film Society

The Railway Man, Australia, 2013.  
Jersey Boys, USA, 2014.  
The Lunchbox, India, 2014.  
Four of a Kind, Australia, 2008.  
Chinese Take-Away, Argentina, 2011.

### Williamstown Film Society

The Fisher King, USA, 1991.  
A Streetcar Named Desire, USA, 1951.  
All Quiet on the Western Front, USA, 1930.

### Yarra Ranges Film Society

The Past, France/Italy, 2013.  
Ashes and Diamonds, Poland, 1958.  
Healesville Mini Film Festival:  
Three Colours Blue, France, 1993.  
Three Colours White, France, 1994.  
Three Colours Red, France, 1994.

### Halls Gap Film Festival (NPV Film Festival)

The Year of Living Dangerously, Australia, 1982.  
The Dawn Patrol, USA, 1938.  
The Philadelphia Experiment, USA, 1984.  
X, Australia, 2011.  
Risky Business, USA, 1983.

### Port Campbell Community Film Festival (NPV Film Festival)

### New South Wales

### Deniliquin Film Society and Film Festival

### South Australia

### Adelaide Cinematheque

### South Australia

### Adelaide Film Study Group

### South Australia

### Adelaide University Film Society

### South Australia

### Barossa Film Club

The History Boys, UK, 2006.  
Back of Beyond, Australia, 1954.  
The Rocket, Australia/Laos, 2013.

### South Australia

### Flinders FACT Society

### South Australia

### Port Lincoln Film Society

### South Australia

### Reels @ Wehl Film Society

Amour, France, 2012.  
The Lunchbox, India, 2014.  
Tracks, Australia, 2013.

### South Australia

### RiAus Film Society

### South Australia

### Southern Fleurieu Film Society

The Angel's Share, UK, 2012.  
Living is Easy with Eyes Closed, Spain, 2013.  
Rashomon, Japan, 1950.

### South Australia

### Yankalilla & District Over 50s Film Club



# StarBox Ratings



StarBox results received *since* ReelNews Issue 103 - Nov 2014

Send your StarBox results to [starbox@fvfs.org.au](mailto:starbox@fvfs.org.au) - See what others are screening at [www.fvfs.org.au/ideas](http://www.fvfs.org.au/ideas)

DVD Title	Society	Stars
Intouchables	Camberwell FS	4.6
Cinema Paradiso	Yarra Ranges FS – Warburton	4.5
Saving Mr Banks	Portland FS	4.5
Railway Man, The	Whitehorse FS	4.4
In Bob we Trust	St Andrews FS	4.4
Blindsight	Portland FS	4.4
Performance	International FG	4.3
Four of a Kind	Myrtleford FS	4.3
42nd Street	International FG	4.2
Chinese Takeaway	Arapiles Motion Picture Soc	4.2
Captain Phillips	Camberwell FS	4.2
Rising From the Ashes	Portland FS	4.2
Lemon Tree	Reels @ Wehl FS	4.1
Best Offer, The	LV FS	4.1
Rocket, The	Croydon FS	4.1
Cinema Paradiso	Yarra Ranges FS - Healesville	4.1
There's No Business Like Show Business	Camberwell FS	4.1
Wadjda	Portland FS	4.1
Winters Sleep	Port Fairy FS	4.1
Lunchbox, The	Corangamite FS	4.1
Diving Bell and the Butterfly, The	Corangamite FS	4
Amour	Croydon FS	3.9
Wadjda	Goulburn Valley FC	3.9
Sister	International FG	3.8
Separation, A	Barossa Film Club	3.8
I Am Eleven	Myrtleford FS	3.7
Backyard Ashes	Portland	3.6
Amour	Reels @ Wehl FS	3.6
Mr Hulot's Holiday	Myrtleford FS	3.5
Gardening with Soul	Portland FS	3.5
Match Point	Yarra Ranges FS – Warburton	3.2
Match Point	Yarra Ranges FS - Healesville	3.2
I Wish	Goulburn Valley FC	3.1
Gun in Each Hand, A	Horsham FS	3.1
Stories We Tell	Croydon FS	3
Grande Belleza, Le	Reels @ Wehl FS	3
Inside Llewyn Davis	St Andrews FS	2.9
Therese	Horsham FS	2.8
Firemen's Ball, The	St Andrew's FS	1.8

# Programming Survey

By Ian Davidson

I recently conducted a survey of all film societies, asking when and how often they do the programming for their film society.

Here is a summary of the results:

I received 33 responses - a very good response - so thank you all societies that did respond.

Of those 33, 52% of them program once per year, saying that they prefer to put the effort in only the once per year and do it properly. In most cases this coincided with a desire to prepare an annual program poster for publicity purposes convincing people to join up for the full year.

Almost 20% of members program twice per year, leading to a membership drive every 6 months to coincide with the new 1/2 year program.

The remaining film societies that responded do their programming more often - even continuously. In their words, "to take advantage of the latest offers from distributors"!

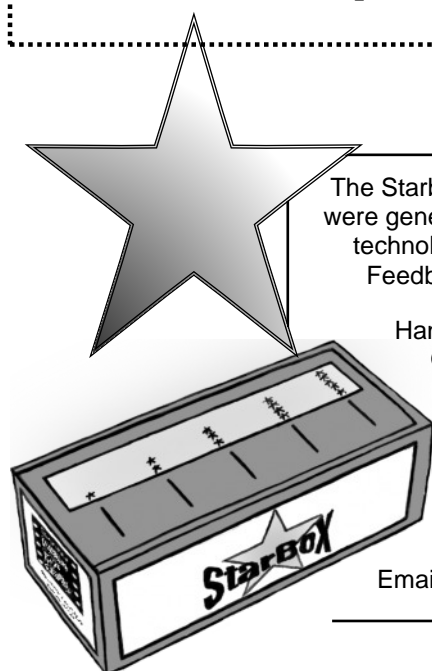
So what is your preference? Or is it different outcomes for different reasons?

Correspondence welcome!

## Website up to Date?

One advantage of keeping your website up to date: Susan gets some of our "What's Being Seen" information from Film Society websites.

**Don't be left out! Update, Baby! Update!**



The Starbox scores on page 4 were generated using the latest technology in Film Society Feedback mechanisms!

Hand-crafted in Australia. Order a **StarBox** for your film society now!

**Cost?** Free of charge for FVFS members! Order yours now!

Email: [starbox@fvfs.org.au](mailto:starbox@fvfs.org.au)

# Booking Your Rights

By Ian Davidson

There have been some concerns from distributors that DVD screenings have been programmed and "booked" but have not eventuated, so please be certain that your friendly distributors have the latest relevant screening dates for your DVDs.

It has also happened that some societies have been invoiced by more than one distributor for a specific screening. This can happen because some distributors operate as "agents" on behalf of some others, and if both have been approached in a "round robin" request for rights, both could end up approving the screening and thus invoicing for the rights.

So when seeking approval for screenings, please do your homework and only approach the distributors that you feel are likely to distribute the title you are after, and be careful not to "book" your screening with multiple distributors.

If you are unsure how to find a distributor check out ACOFS fact Sheet 3B on [www.acofs.org.au/resources](http://www.acofs.org.au/resources).

## Can't find it?

Ian Davidson is collecting names of all DVDs for which people cannot find Australian distributors (and hence the rights owners). If you know of any such DVDs, just let us know.

[admin@fvfs.org.au](mailto:admin@fvfs.org.au)

How about...

## Some Questions ?

We'd like to hear from film societies on the following topics and include your replies in upcoming issues of ReelNews. Just choose one (or more) of the following questions and send them in to [ReelNews@fvfs.org.au](mailto:ReelNews@fvfs.org.au)

- 1) What's so great/special about film?
- 2) What's so great/special about film societies?
- 3) What criteria do you use to determine what makes a worthwhile film?



# COME TO THE AGM!

You are invited to the

## Annual FVFS AGM and Information Day!

It's not all FVFS AGM business - it's mostly an opportunity to learn more about the wonderful world of film and film societies, share what you know, compare notes, and be entertained!

There'll be a panel discussion featuring film and DVD distributors and a Q and A where you can grill them on any topic you wish, an exciting feature documentary film "The Man from Coxs River", and a

chance to hear what other societies have to say about how they do things and what issues they're dealing with.

"The Man from Coxs River" is an independent film, the most recent in the FVFS collection. You can find a TYSPOM review by Barboo of this film elsewhere in this issue of ReelNews. You can find a review by Ian Davidson at [www.fvfs.org.au/indie-films](http://www.fvfs.org.au/indie-films) under "Man From Coxs River".

We look forward to seeing all the official delegates as well as observers (that's any film society member who wants to come along) for a day of information, socialising,

entertainment and ... well, yeah, FVFS business, too.

**WHERE:** Richmond Library (meeting room), 415 Church Street, Richmond, 3121 (Melway: 2H A10)

**WHEN:** Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 9:30 AM to 4:15 PM

**RSVP:** Please RSVP for both the **AGM** and for the **luncheon** by March 10<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

### Notes for Attendees:

1. **RSVP** your **attendance** by 10th March 2015 at the latest to [secretary@fvfs.org.au](mailto:secretary@fvfs.org.au) or 03 9873 1369.

2. **Lunch** will be provided. Booking for lunch is essential for everyone. **RSVP** by **10th March** to [secretary@fvfs.org.au](mailto:secretary@fvfs.org.au) or 03 9873 1369.

3. **The deadline for returning FVFS Executive nominations** is noon on 28th February 2015. A signed nomination must be delivered to the Secretary by the specified date. Nominee, Mover and Seconder must be delegates of organisations currently affiliated with the FVFS.

4. The **deadline for submitting proxies by mail or electronically** for the AGM is noon on 13th March 2015.

5. Car parking is timed at 2 hours in Church Street and surrounds. It is suggested that members park in an unrestricted area and catch the tram along Swan Street.

6. Catch trams 70, 78, 79 to the corner of Swan Street and Church Street.

7. Travel subsidies are available to country delegates (Up to \$25 per affiliated society). Prior application is necessary, with your RSVP.

8. Bring your society's promotional materials for display or in sufficient quantity to hand out.

## PROGRAMME

9.30 am Registration with Tea & Coffee available.

10.00 am Introduction and Official Opening of Information Day by the President of the FVFS.

10.05 am Society snapshots – Learn what other societies are doing differently. Paint a picture of your own society and/or any issues you have. (Up to 2 minutes per society).

10.50 am Stretch Break

11.10 am **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the FVFS.

**A copy of the agenda and last year's minutes can be found at [www.fvfs.org.au](http://www.fvfs.org.au) in the "Members' Only" section. Please email us for the password: [admin@FVFS.org.au](mailto:admin@FVFS.org.au)**

12.10 pm LUNCH (for those who have RSVP'd).

1.10 pm Meet the Distributors – A panel discussion and Q & A.

2.20 pm Stretch break

2.30 pm Film "The Man from Coxs River"

3.55 pm Afternoon Tea and Clean up

4.15 pm Finish

# Mini Movie Reviews

## THE RAILWAY MAN; Australia, 2013

116 mins, (M), Biography/Drama

Dir: Jonathan Teplitzky. Stars: Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman.



A former British Army officer, who was tormented as a prisoner of war at a Japanese labour camp during World War II, discovers that the man responsible for much of his ill-treatment is still alive and sets out to confront him.

I found this a very sensitive and moving portrayal of a man who is tormented by his memories and the calming woman he meets and marries later in life, who does everything she can to help him.

Set in Northern England and Thailand, it comes as a surprise to see it as an Australian film put together with Australian talent and finance, with the interiors shot in Australia and all the post-production done here.

Jeremy Irvine does an excellent job portraying Eric as an energetic and somewhat naïve young man taken prisoner by the Japanese, and Colin Firth portrays the middle-aged Eric at home fighting his war memories. All he has is his passion for Railways – until he meets Patti by chance on one of his beloved trains. Patti is excellently played by Nicole Kidman in what must be one of her more restrained roles for quite a while. Highly recommended.

The Whitehorse Film Society scored it **4.4 stars**.

*Ian Davidson*

## Make Like Stratton!

Are there films you'd like to recommend? Type up a short film review and send it in! Help other film societies find those gems.

You don't have to look up the distributor or other details. We can do that for you. Just tell us what makes your special films special. We'll do the rest.

[ReelNews@fvfs.org.au](mailto:ReelNews@fvfs.org.au)

## BELLE and SEBASTIAN, France, 2013, 95 mins, Family, PG, Dir: Nicolas Vanier.

This is the story of 6-year-old Sebastian and his adventures in the French Alps near Mt Blanc. He is an orphan and being raised by his grandfather in the harsh mountainous region of France near the Swiss border in 1943.

Sebastian befriends a feral dog (which he names Belle) which locals believe to be "The Beast" and responsible for savaging their sheep by night, setting up one area of conflict for the story. Then there are the German troops who are on the lookout for people being smuggled over the border to Switzerland.



While the story is simplistic (it is a kid's story after all), it is a joy to see this 6-year old frolicking through the wilderness – his own backyard! Some of the plotlines are over-the-top but the scenery in this border region near Mt Blanc is breathtaking – both in summer and winter.

A very enjoyable movie for all the family and anyone wanting to see more of Switzerland.

The original language is French with English subtitles, but an English language dubbed track is available on the DVD.

**3.8 stars**

*Ian and Susan Davidson*

# Film Review: The Man from Coxs River

By Barboo Marinakis

**Film Type:** Documentary

**Distributor:** Umbrella Entertainment

**Director:** Russell Kilbey

**Country:** Australia

**Running Time:** 84 minutes

**Starbox score** (from TYSPOM Film Library previewers): 4.5

This is an independent film, made with no government funding.

Luke Carlon's family has lived in the remote and beautiful Coxs River valley in NSW since the 1820s, riding their own horses and living a free and independent life where wild horses – brumbies – roam. But then the river was declared a wilderness area, forcing Luke and his family to close their trail-riding company, “Packsaddlers”.

Years later, Ranger Chris Banffy has a problem to solve. The 80 brumbies living around Coxs River have been deemed a health hazard, as the horses live around the Lake Burragorang dam, the location of Sydney's main water reservoir. Ranger Chris claims that some evidence suggests that the horses may carry cryptosporidium, which can cause human health issues.

Also, horses are not native to the area. As a declared “wilderness” area, it's meant to be maintained as a natural system, with as little influence from mankind as possible. Species introduced by man are not considered part of the natural system. They're “introduced pests”.

The trouble was that when, previously, the National Parks and Wildlife Service had culled wild horses in Guy Fawkes National Park, the public was so incensed about it, that NSW banned aerial shooting of brumbies. Now, the only way to remove the horses was to

lead them out – an extremely difficult and dangerous task to do safely and humanely in a remote wilderness with no roads and a lot of legal restrictions.

But Chris knows about Luke Carlon and his knowledge of the area, the brumbies, and his exceptional skill with horses. If anyone can find a way to get these horses out of the wilderness zone safely, it would be Luke.

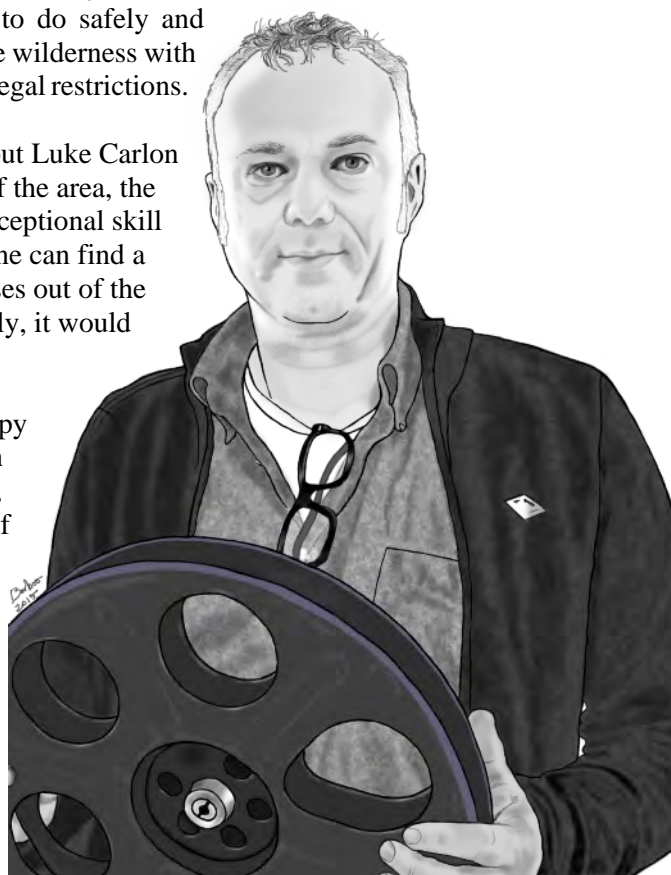
While Luke isn't happy with the organization that Chris represents, having run him out of business, he agrees to help remove the brumbies, even though he believes this is completely unnecessary – that there aren't enough horses to do the environment any harm, and there isn't enough area for them to “breed up in”. But Luke

doesn't want to see the brumbies shot.

So Luke, Chris, and several others, set out to do a mightily difficult and dangerous job in rugged wilderness with wild horses and a heavy restriction on the use of vehicles.

Although Luke and Chris cooperate on this long and frustrating project, there is an underlying tension throughout between the many bureaucracies involved and their aims and methods on one hand, and the free and independent Luke and the brumbies on the other.

But there is also a growing respect between Luke and Chris as they work so closely together aiming to bring the brumbies safely to new homes.



*Russell Kilbey, director and co-producer of “The Man From Coxs River”*

The music written for this film is unintrusive and always appropriate to the scene, the people are admirable and sympathetic, the landscape gorgeous and the brumbies magnificent, if small.

There are times when this documentary takes on an almost mythical, larger-than-life quality.

We think you'll love this film.

“The Man from Coxs River” will be the featured film at the FVFS AGM, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Hope to see you there!

**Available from the film maker at [www.themanfromcoxsriver.com](http://www.themanfromcoxsriver.com) for \$27.26**

**Or the FVFS DVD library as a free loan to members.**

**Screening rights payable by member film societies \$35.**

**FVFS score 3.8 stars (out of 5)**



# FVFS Resources Galore!

## Excerpt from InfoSheet # 13: DVD SCREENINGS and DVD FAQs

Q11. How do I know when the picture on the screen is at the right ratio? (July 2009)

A. It is not always easy to identify when an actor is too tall or too fat – the common complaint to an incorrect screen ratio.

To ensure you have the picture at the right ratio when setting up, pause the film when you see something round such as a clock or car wheel (but make sure it is square on to the camera or it will be distorted). Then measure the width and height to check the object is perfectly round (height = width). Make sure it is within the movie itself as sometimes the menu or intro to the movie is a different ratio!

Find out more. Lots more!

Resources, Downloads, Documents, Ideas:

<http://fvfs.org.au/ideas/>

DVD Screenings and DVD FAQs:

<http://fvfs.org.au/docs/info13v5.pdf>

## Need ideas for what to screen?

Have a look at six years of great ideas  
in

### “Film Lists You Can Download”

View hundreds of films and StarBox scores sent in by  
FVFS members over the years.

Browse through Information Sheets 17.1 to 17.11.

Designed and guaranteed to get you thinking.

# CHECK

Your film society's details at

[FVFS.org.au/members](http://fvfs.org.au/members)

Is everything in order?

For corrections, updates, changes, email

[info@fvfs.org.au](mailto:info@fvfs.org.au)

# HOW?

To obtain your DVDs  
and get screening rights...

ACOFS Fact Sheet 3A

Go to [ACOFS.org.au](http://ACOFS.org.au)  
Click “Resources”

How about trying the **FVFS Independent Film Library** for something different?

“Pearls of the Far East” “Sita Sings the Blues” “MeLean’s Money” “A Day in a Life” “It Gets Better” and more!

<http://fvfs.org.au/indie-films>

# SOCIETY VISITS

By Ian Davidson

## Goulburn Valley Film Club

On 23 November Ian and Susan Davidson from the FVFS met with some members of the Goulburn Valley Film Club committee for an informal lunch.

The club started in 1978, and now have 166 members. They screen DVDs only in the Harder Auditorium of the Goulburn Ovens TAFE, Shepparton. They charge \$45 per annum and are at capacity for that venue.

The club has just completed their 12-film program for 2015 – all of which are recent DVDs, with rights paid through the ACOFS rights arrangement. One screening will be a double bill with Pizza served between DVDs. All DVDs are provided by the society.

They run a short film festival every 2<sup>nd</sup> year which attracts many entries.

The GV Film Club is keen to work with the FVFS and hope to be able to provide several film reviews (long and short films) for ReelNews each year. They hope to attend the FVFS conference again in 2015.

There may be an opportunity here for the FVFS to promote the films of some of the winners of the short film festivals, and make them available on DVD to interested film societies. The FVFS could perhaps run a short film festival in its own right, offering a cash prize to the top 10 shorts presented.

YOIKS!

**PLEASE NOTE: The FVFS renewal forms went out to all members on 14th November.**

**The Due date for affiliation renewals was 1 January. Any member not paid up by that date is regarded as "unfinancial"!**

## Myrtleford Film Society

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November Susan and Ian Davidson attended a screening of "I am Eleven" at the Myrtleford Film Society. They have been operating since 2011, but this is their first year as an independent society. They have 22 members (most of whom turned up to the screening) and are keen to expand.

Currently they run their DVD on a laptop into a data projector onto a 2 metre screen. The stereo sound is conveyed from the laptop to amplifier by a wireless connection.

A clear improvement would be to use a dedicated DVD player and larger screen – but funds are tight with such a small membership.

They currently program 3 months ahead but are considering extending this to 6 or 12 months to provide them with a better promotional tool in an annual program and brochure.

They select their DVDs to screen from a mixture of the NFSA, FVFS and private collections, so are likely to be partially impacted if the NFSA ceased to provide DVDs at the current \$22 per screening.

## Sun Country Movie Club

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November Ian and Susan Davidson met with several of the committee and members of the Sun Country Movie Club for an informal lunch meeting.

The Club started in 2014 and has had only one screening to date.

Originally they planned to meet at a council hall but at the last minute were offered the use of new "Gold Class" luxury cinema facilities at the Yarrowonga-Mulwala Golf Club. While these facilities are top quality, they would be limited to 60 seats, and would have to fit in with the Golf Club's screening programs.

As they already have 50 members and expecting 100, they will very soon have to decide whether they have a "full" membership, screen each title twice, or move to a larger venue!

Another interesting possibility is that of setting up a "Yarrowonga Surrounds Film Society" whereby portable equipment is taken around to nearby smaller areas such as Saverlake, Katunga, Katamatite and Tungamah for regular screening nights.

It is early days for this society so they have not yet decided on their programming style, but it will probably be recent English language "Art-house". They have yet to organise a full year's program for 2015.

Hopefully they will be able to give us an update at next year's FVFS Information Day.

# FVFS Independent Films Library

## Summaries of Currently Available Titles

(The price indicated is for loan of the DVD including rights for one non-theatrical screening. Many are also available for purchase.)

**BLUE LIES:** Australia, 2008, 80 min, M, Drama. Dir: Gerald Lawson. \$35.

The intriguing story of Stephanie McLean, a young police graduate and daughter of a respected doctor. When asked to investigate a seemingly minor incident, she finds herself on a fateful and dangerous path that leads unavoidably back to her own father and the secrets that threaten to unravel the family. Filmed around Newcastle, NSW. FVFS Score 3 stars.

**CRUSHED:** Australia, 2008, 90 mins. PG. Drama. Dir: Ian Dixon. \$20.

Love collides with duty when Nathalia, a 30-year-old schoolteacher, is forced to question her loyalties; she must choose between a vulnerable student and a fellow teacher, who also happens to be the object of her affections. Filmed in and around Melbourne, Vic. FVFS score 3.5 stars.

**DAY IN A LIFE, A:** Canada, 2000, 94 mins. Dir: Jean Mercier. \$35.

Tells the story of five seniors who decide to turn an ordinary day into something special. Covers love, aging, relationships, the choice of staying active, overcoming depression, the universal need for harmony, security and social contacts, family, healthcare and more. This film will stay with you for a long time. It was filmed in Victoria, BC, Canada. FVFS Score 3.0 stars.

**FLIGHT OF AN ANGEL:** Philippines, 2011, 94 mins. Drama. Dir: Clodualdo del Mundo Jr. \$10.

After doing some good deeds to neighbours, Gabriel finds he is developing Angel's wings. Although a fantasy, the message is one that will get you thinking. Is it better to be an obvious "Angel" together with the benefits and pitfalls, or are you better off just being yourself and be thoughtful towards other people around you? FVFS score 3.5 stars.

**FLOWER IN THE POCKET:** Malaysia, 2007, 97 min, Drama, Dir: Liew Seng Tat. \$10

A captivating but meandering film about two young boys who are growing up without a mother and without much attention from their father, who spends all his time at work fixing broken mannequins. FVFS score 2.8 stars

**FOUR OF A KIND:** Australia, 2008, 115 mins, Drama, M, Dir: Fiona Cochrane. \$35.

Four women, each with a well-hidden secret they are coaxed, tricked or forced into revealing. There is a lot happening here between the main protagonists and the outcome is a very satisfying film. Filmed in and around Melbourne. FVFS score 4.5 stars.

**IT GETS BETTER:** Thailand, 2012, 99 mins, Drama. Dir: Tanwarin Sukkhapisit. \$10.

At first sight this film comes across as four separate stories about four separate people, and unrelated stories about men questioning their gender or living a transgender life. Into this mix comes Tonmai, a young man returning from America to attend to his father's affairs on the occasion of his untimely death. The father owned and operated a successful nightclub (The Fountain) in the city. FVFS score 3.5 stars.

**LITTLE LIES:** Australia, 2004, 90 min, PG, Comedy/Crime. Dir: Gerald Lawson. \$35.

Little Lies is a crime-drama-comedy about six disparate characters who unexpectedly, overnight, find themselves in deep financial strife. They devise a foolproof plan to solve their problems once and for all! FVFS score 3 stars.

**MAN FROM COXS RIVER, THE:** Australia, 2014, 84 mins, PG, Doco, Dir: Russell Kilbey. \$35.

A wily mob of brumbies inhabit the Burratorang Valley, a water catchment area sealed off from the general public for over fifty years. Classed as feral pests, National Parks head office needs to have the animals removed from Sydney's water supply without any of the outcry that has marred some previous operations. Every good doco has an interesting story to tell and an interesting character at its centre. THE MAN FROM COXS RIVER is no exception as well as providing periods of excitement and even suspense. FVFS score 3.7 stars.

**McLEAN'S MONEY:** Australia, 2013, 97 mins, M, Comedy/Drama. Dir: Gerald Lawson. \$35.

Wealthy widower Edward McLean is heading towards a major health scare. Some of his relatives are more concerned about his will than his health, so he decides to "sort them out". Filmed in and around Newcastle, NSW. FVFS score 4.1 stars.

**PEARLS OF THE FAR EAST:** Vietnam. 2011, 103 mins, Drama/Romance, Dir: Cuong Ngo, \$35

Seven stories about Vietnamese women spanning different generations, exploring their inner lives and forbidden

loves. Not strong on storyline, but visually stunning and beautifully presented. FVFS score 4.7 stars.

**PEPOT ARTISTA:** Philippines, 2005, 103 mins, Comedy/Music, Dir: Clodualdo del Mundo Jr. \$10.

Pepot Artista is a comedy-musical that focuses on a ten-year-old boy whose dream is to become a movie star. Pepot, the dreamer, is surrounded by people who are equally dazzled by the movie world - from his own mother to the principal in his school to the impersonators in the neighbourhood carnival. FVFS score 3.5 stars.

**SITA SINGS THE BLUES:** USA, 2008, 89min, Animated, Dir: Nina Paley. \$10

Based on "The Ramayana of Valmiki". The glamour of India, the glamour of the 1920s, the depth-sounding drumbeat of the ancient mythic world, and the woman who loves the wrong kind of man - Nina Paley gets them all together, along with a relevant chunk of autobiography about a disappointing husband of her own, in her dazzling first full-length animated feature. FVFS score 4.0.

**SONGS THEY SANG, THE:** Australia, 2011, 94 mins, Doco, Dir: Rohan Spong. \$10.

*The Songs They Sang* was filmed in five countries by director Rohan Spong including Israel, France, Lithuania and America. It is the true story of the performances, which took place inside the Vilna ghetto, Lithuania, during World War II. These performances brought hope to the Jewish people during the horror of the Holocaust. FVFS score 3.5 stars.

**WHAT I HAVE WRITTEN:** Australia, 1996, 96 mins, Drama/Mystery. R. Dir: John Hughes. \$10.

An erotic mystery involving a couple married 7 years but on the verge of breaking up. After Christopher suffers a debilitating stroke Sorel discovers a novella which describes Christopher's secret affair during their recent trip in Paris. But what is real and what is fiction? Discovering the truth takes Sorel on quite a journey. Different film styles representing the different points of view and the different locations make this an intriguing and enjoyable film. FVFS score 3.5 stars.

See the FVFS website for more information about each film or how to book.

If you need to preview any film before committing, please ask.

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Items for possible publication are welcome, including your StarBox results, info about your Film Society's activities & any ideas!

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# Free Speech Obituaries

## French Screenwriter Murdered by Jihad Terrorists

By Barboo Marinakis

**Georges David Wolinski**

June 28, 1934 – January 7, 2015

Most people are aware of the victims of the Charlie Hebdo terror attack as cartoonists and cartoon writers, but were you aware that Georges Wolinski was also involved in films?

Wolinski was born in French Tunisia to a Jewish family in 1934. His father was murdered when little George was only two.

Shortly after the end of WW II Wolinski moved to France, studied architecture, and began cartooning after graduation. In 1958 he cartooned for *Rustica* which, from what I can gather, is a French gardening and do-it-yourself magazine. But in 1960 he got into political cartooning and a year later he was drawing political and erotic cartoons and comic strips for the satirical monthly

*Hara-Kiri* (which had a weekly counterpart called *Hara-Kiri Hebdo*, which later became *Charlie Hebdo*).



But Wolinski was also an actor, director, and screenwriter. According to the *Barrie Pattison Blog*, [Sprocketed Sources](#), among Wolinski's scripts were *Elles ne pensent qu' à ça...* (co-written with Charlot Dubreuil, 1994), *Palace* (TV series, 1998), *Pizzaïolo et Mozzarel* (co-written with Christian Gion and with André Nader as gag-writer, 1985), *Le cowboy* (co-written, Georges Lautner 1985), *Aldo et Junior* (co-written, Patrick Schulmann 1984), *Le roi des cons* (co-written, Claude Confortè and Paul Claudon, 1981). He directed the 1972 short, *Le pays beau*.

Wolinski also received the Legion d'Honneur in January, 2005.

## Documentary Filmmaker Murdered by Lone Terrorist

By Barboo Marinakis

Danish documentary filmmaker, Finn Nørgaard, was murdered (Feb. 14, 2015) by assault rifle in a terrorist attack on a cafe in Copenhagen. It was his misfortune to be participating in a panel discussion on art, blasphemy and free speech. The main target of the attack is believed to have been Lars Vilks, an artist who had drawn Mohammed as a dog. Vilks was unharmed.

One of Nørgaard's films, *Boomerang-Drengen* (Boomerang-Boy), was made in Australia in 2004. The boomerang-boy is 13-year-old Trent Carter, a Melbourne teen who aimed to be the world champ of boomerang-throwing (which Trent achieved, going on to then become the junior world champ in table tennis as well).

Nørgaard also directed and produced a documentary for TV, *En anden vej: Historien om fire nydanskere*

*og en koncernchef* (Another way: The story of four Danes and a CEO). In this doco, Nørgaard put a Danish businessman and four criminals from immigrant backgrounds together to see if they could get past common stereotypes and assumptions.

Finn Nørgaard joins a heartbreaking list of writers, filmmakers, cartoonists, and speakers whose lives have been threatened or taken by those of a jihadist mentality who want to stifle criticism or ridicule of their religion. Another filmmaker, Theo van Gogh, was murdered in 2004 for his film *Submission*, which criticized the treatment of women in Islam.

The freedom of speech and other forms of free expression are of vital importance to any society that values a search for truth. Free and open debate and discussion is crucial in that search. We mourn the murders of these men, regardless of whether or not we agree with their religious views, their politics, or their way of expressing themselves.

# Reel Film Fights Back

## Part 1 by PRODOS

Paula Bernstein of *Indiewire* (Feb 04, 2015) writes that Kodak has finalised new film supply agreements with all 6 major Hollywood studios, at the behest of directors Quentin Tarantino, Christopher Nolan, Martin Scorsese, Judd Apatow, and J.J.Abrams, who urged Hollywood Studios to continue using film.

Kodak is the last factory that manufactures film stock in this age of digital projection. Despite a 96% decline in 35mm film sales over the last decade (film will account for less than 10% of Kodak's \$2.2 billion revenue this year) Kodak's Andrew Evenski says "The creative community can continue to confidently choose (35mm) film for their projects."

Recent Oscar-nominated movies shot on Kodak film include: *Boyhood*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Interstellar*, *Foxcatcher*, and *Into the Woods*. And coming soon to a screen near you: *Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens*, *Batman vs Superman - Dawn of Justice*, *Ant-Man*, and more!

**Christopher Nolan:** "Film still represents the gold standard for film-making technology."

**Quentin Tarantino:** "As far as I'm concerned, digital projection is the death of cinema ... The fact that most films aren't presented in 35mm means that the world is lost. Digital projection is just television in cinema."

**Judd Apatow:** "There's a magic to the grain and the color quality that you get with film."

Closer to home, film society veteran and co-founder of *16mm Australia*, Roger Seccombe, also argues for the virtues of film over digital (and DVD), especially when it comes to movies that were originally made on film and are therefore best viewed on film.

Here are some great recommendations from Roger for every film society, all available and best seen with a 16mm projector -- which PRODOS Film Study Group is currently shopping for (perhaps more about that next issue?)

## Roger Seccombe's 16mm Movie Classics

### Part 2 by Roger Seccombe

Black, British comedy: What about the 1966 "**The Wrong Box**" with a great cast including John Mills, Ralph Richardson, Michael Caine, Peter Sellers and more. A fight over an inheritance, with a strong emphasis on death and disposal of 'bodies', it went over well with an audience who like British humour. You might say that it resembles an up-dated version of "Kind Hearts and Coronets"! And Peter Sellers is superb as a crooked doctor with a surgery full of cats! [Ed - *Maybe Roadshow?*]

If your tastes run to more *conventional* comedy: "**The Bachelor and the Bobby Soxer**" (1947). A grown-up Shirley Temple and entertaining Cary Grant. Rollicking fun about a teen-ager being chaperoned by an artist on the orders of Myrna Loy! Charming, slapstick fun with an Oscar-winning screenplay by

## Lavish Us with Praise!

We won't be embarrassed - we're delighted when we get feed back!



"Please pass-on our great enjoyment in reading the *ReelNews*. It is a fantastic effort, much appreciated."

~ Sally Abbott Smith, Murrindindi Film Society

"I was inspired by the latest *Reelnews* and spent quite a while yesterday looking at trailers. I also printed off "Film lists you can download" which will be very useful."

~ Elaine Uebergang, Arapiles Motion Picture Society

Sidney Sheldon. Delightful scenes where poor Cary has to take Shirley 'rah-rahing' at a dance and gets dragged into 'competitive sports for adults' at a sports day. Henry Davenport and Rudy Vallee provide talent in the supporting cast. From Chapel Distribution.

Mad-cap 'Goon' humour in **“The Mouse that Roared”** (1959) with Peter Sellers in his multiple roles. The tiny bankrupt duchy of Grand Fenwick declares war on America so it can pick up much needed aid and reparations when they lose. The trouble is they win the war! Quirky, offbeat Goon humour. Sellers is particularly good as the Duchess herself. From Amalgamated Movies.

Musicals: Stylish early Fred Astaire films: **“Shall We Dance?”** (1937) and **“A Damsel in Distress”** (1937) from Chapel Distribution. Delightful choreography and songs and dancing and very nice prints too.

Another musical: **“You Were Never Lovelier”** (1942). Like **“You'll Never Get Rich”**, great song and dance with Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth. From Amalgamated Movies.

What about high drama? **“The Hunchback of Notre Dame”** (1939). The greatest of all versions, William Dieterle's superb production stars Charles Laughton as the hunchback. Amazing miniature sets by Van Nest Polglase and powerful support from Sir Cedric Hardwicke and Thomas Mitchell. Great print too from Chapel Distribution.

**“A Double Life”** (1947). Famous Ronald Coleman's Oscar-winning performance as an actor who can't switch off his real life from his acting roles! And he's just about to star as the mad Othello. Poor Desdemona! George Cukor's strong direction and the film's superbly beautiful production values uniquely catch the flavour of the New York theatre world. From Chapel Distribution.

Two lovely romantic dramas: **“Rachel and the Stranger”** (1948) and **“Alice Adams”** (1935), both from Chapel Distribution. **“Rachel”** teams a singing Robert Mitchum, lovely Loretta Young and handsome William Holden in a romantic triangle story of backwoods life in colonial America. Lovely photography and well-staged action scenes remind us that here's a far superior version of Marilyn's later **“River of No Return”**. Biggest box office hit of 1948 for RKO. **“Alice Adams”** must rank amongst Katharine Hepburn's finest acting achievements even though from very early in her career. A poignant and

often heart-rending story of a poor girl in small town America who's on the receiving end of class bigotry. Fred MacMurray is a revelation as her reluctant boy friend (from the 'right side' of the tracks!) From Chapel Distribution.

Finally, two from the National Film and Sound Archive: **“Carrie”** (1951) and **“Splendor in the Grass”** (1961). William Wyler's **“Carrie”** has been hailed by famous critic Charles Higham as “the finest version of the Theodore Dreiser story ever put on screen” (and remember **“A Place in the Sun”** was from another Dreiser story!) Laurence Olivier and Jennifer Jones play out a tragic relationship between hotel head waiter and an aspiring actress. The shattering climax is reduced somewhat by the censors of the time who objected to Olivier as a down-and-out in a 'flop-house'. **“Splendor”** is a triumph for Natalie Wood as a young girl coming to sexual maturity against the collapsing world of the Great Depression. Set in Middle America, it's an incredibly poignant story of two young people (Natalie Wood and Warren Beatty) whose tortured relationship is counter-pointed by the ambition and greed of their families' expectations.

Kazan's theme is the lost moment of joy or elation that can't be recaptured. The director excels in his evocation of time and place and in his exploration of the world of young people (remember his marvelous **“A Tree Grows in Brooklyn”**?) Intensely sensual, it's a unique achievement by Kazan in capturing the exposed feelings of the young. Glorious film print, too!