



Your image is Our Focus

# ReelNews

Official Newsletter of the Federation of Victorian Film Societies

February 2017

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

# 112

## From the Editor's Desk

*Welcome to ReelNews, New Year 2017 edition.*

Three months have whizzed by again. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year.

Thanks to everyone who provided articles for the last ReelNews - No.111. It certainly was a bumper issue and I hope it was an interesting read.

For this edition I have not received many contributions so it'll be rather slim pickings I'm afraid, but a big thank you to those who did send articles.

I'm hoping, as per my request in November's ReelNews, that more people in your own film society are being able to read the newsletter and find out news from our other member societies.

Next month is all our AGM month and information on the day is on the following page. We hope that your society's delegates will be able to come and enjoy the day. An interesting morning's discussion is always informative plus there is, as usual, a delicious lunch with ample time to chat to other people and a good film to follow. We are also meeting for dinner.

Your President and I went on a wonderful trip to Launceston for the BOFA Film Festival and, as usual, it was most successful and getting more diverse each year. This time the Hawthorn Football Club sponsored a three-minute film about football in Tasmania.

Happy film watching,

Gail Arkins - Editor



**Remember!**  
**FVFS AGM - 2017**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**9:30 am - 5:30 pm**  
**Willis Room**  
**Whitehorse Civic Centre**  
**379 Whitehorse Road**  
**Nunawading**

More details will be sent out separately



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

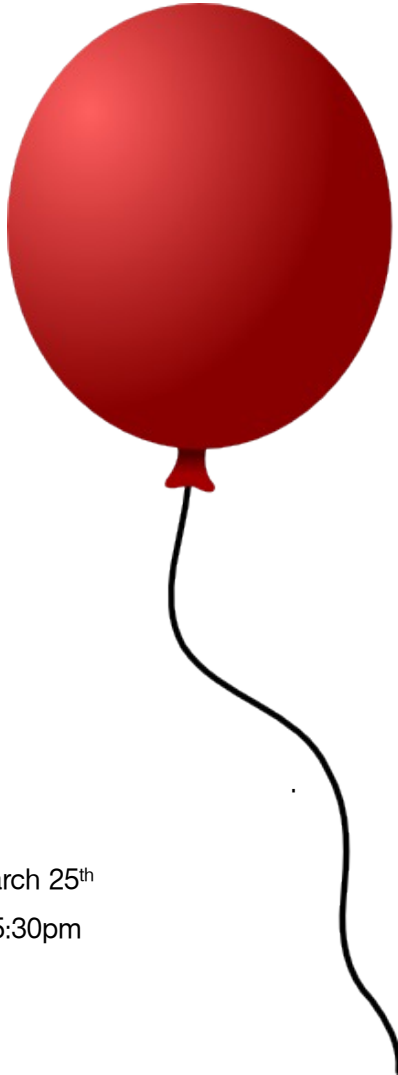
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# COME to the AGM

FVFS INFORMATION DAY MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

Network  
Socialise  
Gather information  
Be entertained



## OUR FILM

### WIDE OPEN SKY

Australia, 2015, 87 mins. Doco, G.  
Director: Lisa Nichol.

IMDB score 8.0 (From 29 voters)

FVFS panel voted 4.0 (out of 5)

In this remote corner of Australia (NSW), footy is king and music education is rare as rain.

Determined to see the children reach their potential, Moorambilla Voices' passionate and driven choir director, Michelle Leonard, strives to open up their world through music.

We look into the lives of Kyh, Mack, Opal and Taylah, four brave and hopeful primary school children, who travel far from home to music camp to prepare for the choir's big concert.

They have just three days to learn a demanding repertoire.

*(Winner, Audience Award Best Documentary, Sydney Film Festival 2015.)*

**WHEN:** Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>  
9:30am – 5:30pm

#### WHERE:

The Willis Room  
in the City of Whitehorse Civic Centre.  
379 Whitehorse Road,  
Nunawading.  
Melways Ref Map 48 G9



# John's Page

## Report from the President's Desk

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By John Arkins

At this time coming up to the AGM, we are now looking at the membership of FVFS and the composition of our committee. Member society numbers are reduced this year so far with the separation of the South Australian federation and the closure of a number of local societies. Why have they ceased to function? This is a good question and one that we must understand. The issue of Succession Planning is very high on our agenda and is a target session at the AGM.

On the other hand, we are encouraged to see the emergence of a number of new societies and from them we can hopefully see a pattern of where and how new societies can grow.

Committee membership needs to be balanced and all carrying an equal workload. This means that we may need to look at the allocation of tasks and ensure that no-one is overloaded.

We also need to understand how to handle the issue when a member of the committee ceases to be a delegate of their society for some reason. Does the delegate cease to be on the FVFS committee or does the delegate continue until the date of the AGM? This point is unclear and should be resolved by being formally discussed and advice taken from external parties.

The membership of the committee also does not reflect the breakdown of the member societies as there are a large number of country organisations and they are not significantly represented on the committee. This is more a practical problem than a deliberate exclusion and we need to devise a solution to this issue. I suggest that we look at a visit to two country areas during the year with the purpose of including the country members in an Information/Committee Meeting day. Any other suggestions would be most helpful. This area needs discussion and the planning will involve committee composition and meeting dates and places.

The last point is that we must continually examine the reason of the existence of the Federation. Why are we here? What do we offer to film societies? What do film societies want and need? Are we addressing their wants and needs? Do we see them often enough?

Our job as the management committee is to continually address these issues and to ensure that we all can articulate the FVFS view and policy. Here is another project in which we must all be involved. I look forward to a vibrant and enjoyable AGM.

### Your Current FVFS Committee

John Arkins	President
John Turner	Vice-President
Susan Davidson	Secretary
Ian Davidson	Treasurer
Andrew Oldroyd	Committee
Ross Campbell	Committee
Jean Middleton	Committee
Gail Arkins	Editor ReelNews

### Film Societies!

#### An Anniversary?

#### Special Date?

We'd like to hear about it.

Send the details to

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

We'll include them in upcoming newsletters.

***PLEASE BE INVOLVED!!***

# Society Snippets

From George Dummet  
Port Fairy Film Society.

Dear Ian, Susan and Gail,  
Best wishes for 2017!

I assume you have seen this, great to share.  
Kindest regards, and thank you for your efforts for  
us all.  
George

## ***David Stratton: A Cinematic Life***

Nicole Kidman, Hugo Weaving, George Miller, Gillian Armstrong and Geoffrey Rush pay tribute to the Australian cinephile and critic in a new documentary out in March, *David Stratton: A Cinematic Life*. Directed by Sally Aitken, the documentary tracks Stratton's love of films from his first cinema experience as a boy living in Melksham, England, to his time running the Sydney Film Festival and co-hosting *The Movie Show* and *At the Movies* with Margaret Pomeranz.

Editor's Note: please click on the web address below as

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/video/2017/jan/24/david-stratton-a-cinematic-life-trailer-video>

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From Trevor Ling  
President, The Moving Clickers Inc. Film Society

Good news for our 2016 "Kickalong" award winner Amie Batalibasi. Those of you who attended our last Film Festival Weekend at Lorne were fortunate to see Amie's excellent short film ***Blackbird***. In case you are not up to speed on this award, the Moving Clickers donate \$1,000 each year to a graduate student of the VCA Film and Television School as a "Kickalong Award" to help an emerging young film maker pursue their career in the industry, The VCA nominates the graduate who receives this award.

Amie who is a writer, director and producer (and talented in all those roles) has just been awarded the 2017 Merata Mita Fellowship by the Sundance Institute which in addition to a cash grant provides a year long continuum of support

plus access to the Sundance Institute creative services and mentorship.

A richly deserved award for Amie and a confirmation of our student assistance program and we wish her well in her aim to develop ***Blackbird*** into a full length work.

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From John Foss  
Bells Beach Surf Film Festival

## **2017 BELLS BEACH SURF FILM FESTIVAL**

The seventh annual Bells Beach Surf Film Festival was run in Torquay during the first week of January screening a selection of surf films from Australia and around the world including four Australian Premieres.

The festival was sold out on three of its four nights, creating a wonderful atmosphere in the audience.

Highlights of the festival include ***Distance Between Dreams*** (USA), which explored the life story of a family of big wave riders in Hawaii, ***Las Olas*** by Melbourne surf film maker Joel Sharper which explored surf culture in Central America and ***Second Souffle***, which took the audience into the lives of four surfers in Morocco.

Funds raised at the festival will be donated to young surf filmmakers around the world.

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# Croydon Film Society - 60 Years

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By John Turner

Vice President, Croydon Film Society

A group of Croydon residents came together in 1956 under the guidance of Mrs. Betty Jope and Mrs. Turner (no relation) to form a film society.

With equipment (16mm) provided by the local State School and publicity from the Croydon Mail, a public meeting was held on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1956.

This resulted in a season of six films, documentaries from the State Film Centre, being screened at the Croydon Hall. Membership for 1956 reached 200 at ten shillings.

In order to purchase a 16mm projector, debentures were sold to members for one pound each in 1957 and screenings were organized for community groups and eventually a children's group was started. Also 1957 saw the screening of the first feature film and also special screenings in the homes of members followed by a discussion.

1958 saw the membership pass the 200 mark and all the debentures repaid. Also this year marked the publication of the first Newsletter, which has been of a particularly high standard for all the intervening years. CFS has always screened bi-monthly, giving 22 screenings a year for, at this time, twenty shillings.

In 1959, CFS embarked on a 'new adventure' by screening six 35mm features in conjunction with the new proprietor of the Croydon Theatre, which also used the same venue. This was increased to eight in 1960 and membership was closed at 350. The subscription fee was eventually doubled and membership settled down at well over 30, enabling CFS to purchase the 35mm equipment in 1963.

Over the next few years membership almost reached 400 but fell to below 250 in 1970 despite upgrades to the equipment and the seating.

By 1973 a record 475 joined up and the society was able to fund additional heating, which had been a bone of contention with the council for some years.

Membership had increased to 618 by 1984 (at \$15.00) and the council finally made some very necessary improvements to what had always been a very basic building.

At the end of the 1986 season, Betty Jope retired as secretary of CFS after 30 years during which she not only carried out secretarial work but booked and organized the films, produced the Newsletter, which she continued to do for another ten or more years, and also designed the posters which were handed out at the first screenings of the year.

In 1999 the June-August Newsletter, now written and produced by Rosemary Dearman, carried the following citation on the occasion of the Betty Jope tribute film: "We miss Betty's iron hand and decided to make this gesture in appreciation of all that she has done for this society over the years. The functions she performed for all of those years (some of them included very large membership years) are now performed by a total of four different people! Suffice to say that Croydon Film Society would not exist today without her many years of dedication to its success."

During these years Betty was supported by Rosemary in a variety of jobs and also Roy Pitman, Craig Allamby, Richard Bell, and Pat Gordon. Betty and Pat were also stalwarts of the FVFS, Betty serving as Secretary for eighteen years and Pat as Vice-President and President.

The period 1986 to 1991 was punctuated by repeated meetings with the council regarding the facilities at the Croydon Hall. Ducted heating was finally installed in 1989 but the sound quality and seating remained a great problem. After the first screening in February 1991 the society was handed an ultimatum by the council to completely refurbish the bio box at a cost of thousands of dollars, with no provision made for other necessary upgrades to the hall. With a membership of around 500 at a fee of \$28.00 the committee decided to move to the Mooroolbark Community Centre.

This venue with its flat floor, moveable seating and rudimentary projection facilities proved, in many ways, to be a disaster. After three years of declining membership the society decided to move to the Croydon Twin Cinemas in February 1994. This brought about an immediate increase in membership which, having fallen to below 300, now hovered around the four hundred mark for several years, with the annual subscription rising by stages to \$65.00 with a generous \$25.00 discount for pensioners.

## *Croydon Film Society (continued)*

The closing of the cinemas by Hoyts was the final factor causing another move, again after the season had commenced and without losing a screening. However the factor causing the fall in membership was almost certainly the often necessity for members to have to wait on the entrance staircase or outside the cinema as the previous screening was still in progress.

The move to the Reading Cinemas at Chirside Park was the best thing that ever happened to CFS and it was not long before the membership was oversubscribed and a second auditorium had to be used with the film being screened simultaneously in both auditoriums. Membership grew to 550 with a waiting list and Guest Passes had to be abandoned because one of the significant features of CFS screenings is the high percentage of members who attend each fortnight. With Richard, (Treasurer for over thirty years), Rosemary (the only permanent Newsletter editor since Betty Jope) and Craig still being on the committee, Max Kennedy (President for the last twenty years), Andrew Watkins (Secretary for twenty years), Julie Pietsch, Bruce Owen and Howard Tankey all covering membership and film research and bookings since Betty's retirement in 1986, this has been the most stable organizing group for any film society in Australia.

After twenty years of continuous success based on screening films which had only been released, often with limited success, at art-house cinemas in Melbourne, CFS built an enviable treasure chest. The result of this has been that CFS has been able to assist other societies in the region, who were not so fortunate or had suffered from a disaster such as bushfires. They have also been able to support students by offering a prize for a short film competition judged by ACMI, and award a grant to Deakin University providing a \$1500 Film and Media Scholarship for each of three years. Deakin select the recipient from students who have completed their first year.

CFS has had a long history of supporting parent organizations with Pat Gordon, Betty Jope, John Turner, John Arkins and Brian Graham serving on the FVFS, the first four in Executive positions. Betty Jope, John Turner and John Arkins also have been prominent ACOFS Executives. No wonder that CFS was twice voted Film Society of the Year. CFS has set the standard for stable, careful, fully documented administration which has resulted in their continuous success over sixty years.

Early in 2015 Reading Cinemas decided to take the decisions regarding Cinema rentals, to organizations such as CFS, out of the hands of the local managers and administer these contracts from head office. This resulted in a rental increase of some 300% for the society which would have meant more than doubling the membership fee.

After many months of negotiation the best result which could be obtained was to keep the status quo for the remainder of 2015, but no alteration to the proposed increase was to be considered for 2016.

This meant a survey of possible new venues and it soon became obvious that the refurbished Croydon Cinemas presented a very attractive alternative. Again two cinemas would be required to accommodate the current membership but apart from minor disadvantages the two larger auditoriums appeared to be ideal. Negotiations with the manager and partner George Aleksunas were amicable and quickly brought to a conclusion with a rental figure considerably less than the proposed increase but above the current rental from Reading Cinemas.

The new membership fee was kept to a viable increase of about one third and with other judicious savings, it was hoped that the budget could be balanced. The great unknown, obviously, being the effect on renewals, from members, due to the new location and the price rise.

The initial response was a reduction of about one hundred members but also a considerable number of new members, which by half year had almost equalled the 2015 figure.

As Croydon Cinemas is one of the suburban venues with an art-house stream there has obviously been some cross pollination to the advantage of both.



# Award for Ian Davidson

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From Hazel Austin

President, Whitehorse Film Society.

I have some very exciting news to share with you this month. Several days before Christmas I received a snail mail letter from Whitehorse Council informing me that Ian Davidson was a recipient of a Community Achievement Award, which was presented to him at the Australia Day Civic Awards at the Whitehorse Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Let me tell you something about Ian's involvement in the Whitehorse Film Society and film societies across Australia. Ian has been a member for many years, serving on the committee since 1975 including as President for seven years. Ian is one of our key projectionists and keeps our equipment operational, recommending suitable new equipment when our older items no longer work. He convenes the film selection committee for our annual programs, purchases the DVDs and arranges screening rights for each film, developed and maintains our website and edits our newsletter each month.

Additionally, Ian has contributed to the wider film society movement for over 30 years. He has worked with other communities to establish new film societies, has provided support and advice to existing societies, often visiting them to meet with the people seeking his support. He is one of our representatives to the Federation of Victorian Film Societies and has been on the executive there since 1980. Ian has introduced such innovations such as the Film Views magazine, the Buster Awards for service to film societies, a Public Liability insurance scheme and a screening rights agreement with distributors.

Our film society recognised Ian's contributions and commitment to us and made him a life member in 2008. Last year our committee recommended Ian to Whitehorse Council for an award to recognise his contribution to the film society movement, especially in the local community over many years, and they agreed with us.

Ian had no idea we had nominated him for an award and was most surprised when he got the letter from Council informing him of this award. We had managed to keep it secret as he missed the committee meeting when the Council had called for nominations and the recommendation was made. Lucky coincidence!!!

I am sure you would agree that Ian has, and continues to make, a significant contribution to our film society. I for one hope that he will achieve a very long life membership and that his interest and participation in our group will continue throughout that time.

On behalf of our film society I would like to say:

***CONGRATULATIONS IAN on your  
COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. It  
is well deserved.***

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From Susan Davidson

On 26<sup>th</sup> January about a dozen Whitehorse Film Society members went along to the Whitehorse Centre for the Australia Day Citizenship and Civic Awards Presentations to see Ian Davidson receive a Community Achievement Award from the Mayor for his services, both to the local film society and the film society movement across Victoria. Ian was the only individual to receive an award with the other four recipients being groups.

Following the presentation a civic reception was held for the Award recipients and their guests where we mingled with other Award winners, local Councillors, State and Federal Members of Parliament. This was a great opportunity to spread the word about the Whitehorse Film Society. Several said they were film buffs and hoped to attend a screening when their busy schedules permit.

Ian was then presented to the crowd outside at the well-attended twilight Australia Day Concert along with representatives of the other Award winners. So all in all it was a great opportunity to publicize the film society, and committee members took every opportunity to hand out leaflets of our 2017 programme.



Ian Davidson with the Mayor of Whitehorse, Cr. Denise Massoud.



Ian Davidson with some of the Whitehorse Film Society Committee.

### Fantastic Film Facts

O. J. Simpson almost played *The Terminator*, but James Cameron thought his persona was “too pleasant” to portray such a dark character.

The big scene in *Pulp Fiction* where Vincent stabs Mia in the heart with a needle was actually shot in reverse. So really, John Travolta was pulling the needle out of her.



# For Your Information

By Ian Davidson

## FVFS Membership Applications 2017

Most society representatives who have reapplied for FVFS affiliation in 2017 have used the new on-line application form and found it faster and easier than the hard-copy version. Because it is an interactive process it is able to offer focussed guidance for most questions and skip over any irrelevant questions. For example, if the film society does not wish to register a film festival with the application then all the questions about a film festival are hidden. A hard-copy version is still available for download, or posted, for anyone not wanting the on-line version. But because it is impossible to have an "intelligent" hard copy of the form, no questions are masked, so this version is longer and more complex than the on-line version.

So why does the FVFS need so much information? Why can't a society just say "No changes from last year?"

There are several reasons:

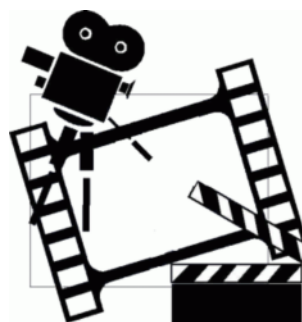
1. The affiliation application is a legal document and its completion by the applicant each year endorses the fact that the film society is operating in a manner which is compatible with being an authentic film society.
2. Things do change from year to year, even phone numbers, points of contact, number of screenings and so on, so saying "same as last year" is rarely valid.
3. By completing the application, the film society committee is reminded of the film society rules and their obligations as an authenticated film society.
4. Film and DVD distributors expect the FVFS to authenticate each film society every year. They want to know that if a film society is a member of the FVFS then that film society is aware of the rules and operates in a manner appropriate for non-theatrical screenings.
5. Some of the questions asked are for data collection purposes, so the FVFS can get up-to-date information on how film societies are operating in today's economic climate and what sources they are using, and what rights are being requested. This places the FVFS in a very strong position when negotiating rights agreements with the distributors. It also gives the FVFS an early warning if any society is having difficulties.

Note that once the on-line application form has been completed, the applicant presses the "REVIEW" button to check their responses in the completed form, then when ok, presses the "SUBMIT" button to send it to the FVFS. At that point a copy is also returned to the applicant's email address.

If your film society has not yet completed an application form, then it will be assumed you will not be re-joining the FVFS so will not have access to the preferential screenings rights fees, will not be covered by the ACOFS film loss and damage insurance policy, will cease to receive material from the FVFS and will not be able to participate in the FVFS AGM and Information Day on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

The data collected by the application forms includes:

- The FVFS currently has paid-up membership of 75 film societies split almost evenly between country and suburbs, and seven film festivals in the country.
- There are currently eight organisations who have not yet rejoined in 2017.
- 65 film societies screened a total of 705 DVDs between them in 2016, worth almost \$49,000 in screening rights fees.
- There are a total of 6,050 members across all film societies, averaging just over 80 members in each.
- Three societies screen DCP only, and three screen 16mm only, although some others are still able to screen 16mm films plus DVD.
- Over the 62 years the FVFS has operated, we have had a total of 397 different organisations as members.



# Bits & Pieces - Worth a look!

## DVD Titles in the FVFS General Library

These titles are available at no charge to member film societies, although you will need to arrange the screening rights – follow the process in ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B.

All titles are reviewed on the website with links to trailers. [www.fvfs.org.au/library/](http://www.fvfs.org.au/library/)

*The Angels' Share*, Scotland, 2012, 106 mins.

*The Band's Visit*, France/Israel, 2007, 85 mins.

*How I Ended This Summer*, Russia, 2011, 124 mins.

*Katyn*, Poland, 2007, 122 mins.

*Manganinnie*, Australia, 1980, 90 mins.

*Ray Harryhausen – Special Effects Titan*, France, 2011, 90 mins.

*Somers Town*, UK, 2008, 71 mins.

*Terri*, USA, 2011, 101 mins.

*There Will Be Blood*, USA, 2007, 158 mins.

*Up the Yangtze*, Canada, 2007, 93 mins.

*We of the Never Never*, Australia, 1982, 134 mins.

*Wendy and Lucy*, USA, 2008, 80 mins.

*The White Ribbon*, Germany/Austria/France, 2009, 144 mins.

*Wind*, USA, 1992, 126 mins.

## FVFS INDIE LIBRARY

FVFS Indie Library is now open to individual borrowers.

So that film societies can better evaluate the films in the FVFS Indie Library, we are opening it up so that individuals from registered film societies may borrow any film in that library for free - your only cost will be the return postage on the DVD.

The full list of films with brief synopses and trailers are available on [www.fvfs.org/indie-films/](http://www.fvfs.org/indie-films/)

Contact Ian Davidson, [admin@fvfs.org.au](mailto:admin@fvfs.org.au) for more information or to borrow a DVD.

**Don't forget the FVFS Indie Library when programming your 2017 films.**

## Film Festival Information

There are two websites that cover Film Festivals around the world. The sites are [FilmFestivals.co](http://FilmFestivals.co) and [filmfestivallife.com](http://filmfestivallife.com). If you want to find out about festivals or have your own festival advertised, then these are two sites to use. Happy searching.

## Just to Make You Smile

A doctor on TV said that in order to have inner peace in our lives during this political campaign, we should always finish things that we start. Since we all could use more calm in our lives, I looked around my house to find things I'd started and hadn't finished.

I finished a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of wum, the remainder of Valiumun scriptins, an a box a choclutz. Yu has no idr how fablus I feel rite now.

Sned this to all ur frenz who need inner piss. An telum u luvum.

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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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The FVFS does not necessarily endorse the statements or views contained in any personal statements in articles, letters to the editor, films, etc., mentioned in this newsletter.



# News from Mt. Gambier

By Rob Forgan  
Reels Film Society,  
Mount Gambier.

## REELS FILM SOCIETY AT RISK from Q FEVER!

Q-fever is an illness caused by a condition - "Last Minutus"- which can be caught by movie patrons who do not take advantage of paying their Reels Film Society subscriptions via EFT but seemingly prefer to stand in long Q's on cinema night, experiencing severe bouts of congestion. This condition is highly contagious but the good news is that the infection can be avoided with technological advances such as EFT.

Q-fever experienced by Reels patrons affects people differently, ranging from mild through to severe, with long lasting consequences, such as frustration, inability to get to Charlie's Bar for a wine and be struck down with food envy while watching those, who have paid in advance, graze the nibbles provided. Instant weight loss results with a similar, often alarming drop in fluid levels.

Q Fever Symptoms to watch out for:

- \* Extreme tiredness and confusion amongst patrons and volunteers on the membership desk
- \* Congestion
- \* Severe headaches
- \* Sweating and possibly swearing
- \* Nausea
- \* Blurred vision by volunteers taking memberships and handling cash
- \* Aching muscles and joints while waiting your turn in the Q
- \* Weight and fluid loss due to inability to get to refreshments

The REMEDY "Renew via EFT!"

Kind regards,  
Reels Membership and Medical Officer

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Mount Gambier | South Australia | 5290



## Just to make you Smile!

### HISTORICAL FACT

Who says building a border wall won't work?  
The Chinese built one over 2,000 years ago and  
they still don't have any Mexicans.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SCOTTISH WEDDING

Two Glaswegians, Archie and Jimmy, are sitting  
in the pub discussing Jimmy's forthcoming  
wedding.

"Och, it's all goin' pure brilliant," says Jimmy.  
"Ar've got everythin' organised awready, the  
fluers, the church, the caurs, the reception, the  
rings, the minister, even ma stag night."

Archie nods approvingly.

"I've even bought a kilt to be married in!"  
continues Jimmy.

"A kilt?" exclaims Archie. "That's magic, you'll look  
pure smart in that. What's the tartan?..."

"Och," says Jimmy, "A'd imagine she'll be in  
white."

# Using Technology for your Society

By John Arkins  
President,  
Croydon Film Society.

## ***Introduction***

Technology can be a blessing or a curse.

How many times have you been asked -

- do you have a web site?
- will you send out this as an email to all the members?
- set up the details of the program.

It's fine if you have a technical whizz in your organization but you cannot rely on their being around at your beck and call to set everything up when you need it.

So how about you do it yourself!

Wow! - that's a tall order.

What do I do first? Do I know the programs I am going to use? Where do I have the time to learn that? – it's all too hard.

Well, no – it isn't!

There are a significant number of free or low-cost products that will do most of the work for you and will enable you to produce a quality result.

So, let us cover two areas broadly, being the society website and the society bulk email, and two free products being ***Wix*** for the website and ***MailChimp*** for the bulk emails.

Firstly, for each of these products there is a period of time spent to learn how they work and what they can do for you. The advantage for the user is that they produce a professional product with very little extra work and the process can be accomplished by anyone who has a reasonable level of computer skill.

## ***Wix (Website Creation & Hosting)***

The software is accessible via the Internet and thus does not reside on any computer in the society so it does not matter whether you are on an Apple, PC or Linux system, as long as you have Internet access you can use it. It also means that there can be multiple users in disparate locations. Once you have an account, the ***Wix*** Organisation can look after the process of establishing your website -

from obtaining your domain, hosting your site and providing you the templates to create your website.

There are a number of standard templates that you can select from and for a few extra dollars a larger number of alternative templates that are more detailed. Movement of data and information into the system is quite easy and ***Wix*** will accept word documents, pictures and other images. The setup also leads you through a series of questions whose answers fill the website template with all the data required.

For any user the most important steps are firstly to have planned what information the website will contain, secondly to have collected that information and have it in a consistent form to import into the website and thirdly to have a clear idea of the colours, font and layout that is to be used.

***Wix*** then allows you to preview the site and ensure that it looks right. Now you can publish (that is put it on the web as a live site) and everyone can see your information.

Provided you stick to the simple format this process is available for free. If however you need to purchase a domain name or to have hosting service you will have to pay for those services – but you would have to no matter how you create your website.

## ***MailChimp (Mailout to your members)***

Often there is the requirement to mail out information to a large number of your members. With the price of postage and the time that mail can take to be delivered, a number of societies are adopting the use of bulk email services. To avoid the issue of being treated as junk mail or have the email address blacklisted, it is wise to use a service that does not cause these problems.

***MailChimp*** is a service that enables a user to set up a list of members who are to be sent an email, the email itself being either a text or a text and picture. It is free as long as you keep below certain volumes, otherwise you pay for the service.

Once you have your head around their terminology, it is an easy system to use. It allows you to reference other documents within the document being sent and in some cases, societies use it for creating and sending an electronic newsletter to their members. The most onerous job of this process is keeping the member list of names up to date.

## *Technology for your film society (continued)*

The system provides very good statistics of what has happened including how many emails have been delivered, how many not delivered, who has unsubscribed and who has opened their email. The summary information shows the percentage of recipients who have opened the email, the percentage of members who have clicked on a link and the comparison of these figures to the industry average.

This mail system can be used in a variety of purposes, as an emergency contact mechanism, a means of sending information to all members and as a vehicle for publishing an electronic newsletter.

Establishing an emergency email system is important as it is usually urgently required. It is able to be put into operation in as short a period as 30 minutes. Most of this time is in the construction of the email and the last few minutes in the process of checking the sample output. When the send button is pressed the emails start arriving with the members within the first minute.

This system also allows each email to be individually addressed giving a much more personal approach.

Some quite large societies (500 members) can use this for free as a principle communication system as they do not exceed the number of contacts (members) allowed of 2000 and the number of emails per month of 12000.

### **Summary**

There are many ways to provide mail systems and websites for Societies and here are two ways that can be done by most people for very little cost and great effect.

I would suggest that all members investigate these before parting with hard-earned funds to a commercial organization.

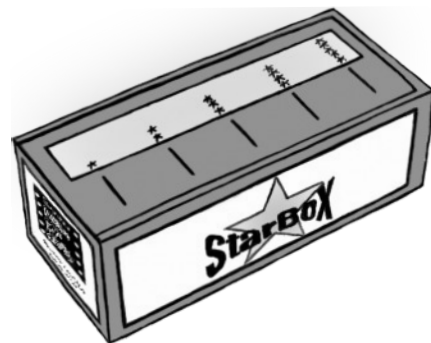


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**\$34 per year. Four issues per year.**

If your screenings are not listed below it means you have not submitted your 2017 program, or have not updated your website.

## Alpine Film Society

## Arapiles Motion Picture Society

Last Cab to Darwin, Australia, 2015.  
Tangerines, Estonia/Georgia, 2013.  
Room, Ireland+, 2015.

## Artist Film Screening Society

## Arts Group of Flinders Film Society

## Ballarat Film Society

What We Did on Our Holiday, UK, 2015.  
Best of Enemies, USA, 2014.  
Wild Tales, Argentina, 2015.

## Bannockburn Movies Film Society & Film Festival

## Baringo Film Club

The Beatles: Eight Days a Week, USA, 2016.  
The Revenant, USA, 2015.  
Girl Asleep, Australia, 2015.  
Mustang, France/Germany+, 2015.  
Memento, USA, 2000.  
Love and Friendship, Ireland/France+, 2016.  
Maggie's Plan, USA, 2015.  
Cinema Paradiso, Italy/France, 1988.

## Barwon Heads Film Society & Film Festival

The Beatles: Eight Days a Week, UK/USA, 2016.  
Tanna, Australia/Vanuatu, 2015.  
Mustang, Turkey, 2015.

## Beechworth Film Society

## Bells Beach Surf Film Festival

Distance Between Dreams, USA, 2016.  
Peninsula Mitre, Argentina, ?  
Second Souffle, Morocco, ?  
Let's Be Frank, South Africa, 2016.

## Bright Film Society

The Belier Family, France/Belgium, 2014.  
Our Little Sister, Japan, 2015.  
Mary Meets Mohammed, Australia, 2013.

## British History Screen & Study Salon

## Camberwell Film Society

La Famille Belier, France/Belgium, 2014.  
God Willing, Italy, 2015.  
21 Grams, USA, 2004.

## Celebrate Israel Screen & Study Salon

## Corangamite Film Society

## Court Film Society

Captain Fantastic, USA, 2016.  
Wild Tales, Argentina/Spain, 2014.  
Girl Asleep, Australia, 2015.  
Elle, France+, 2016.

## Croydon Film Society

The Belier Family, France, 2014.  
Goldstone, Australia, 2016.  
Rams, Iceland+, 2015.  
Hunt for the Wilderpeople, New Zealand, 2016.  
The Nightingale, China/France, 2013.  
Spotlight, USA, 2015.

## DADo Film Society

## Dookie Film Group

## EuRaw Stories

Zero, Hungary, 2015.  
Pussy Riot: a Punk Prayer, Russia/UK, 2013.

## F Project Cinema

Project Nim, UK/USA, 2011.  
The Assassin, Taiwan/China+, 2015.  
Safety Last (with live music), USA, 1923.  
Living is Easy with Eyes Closed, Spain, 2013.  
Pussy Riot: a Punk Prayer, Russia/UK, 2008.

## Far East Film Society

## Ferntree Gully Film Society

Hunt for the Wilderpeople, New Zealand, 2016.  
The Beatles – Eight Days a Week, UK/USA, 2016.  
The Belier Family, France, 2014.  
45 Years, UK, 2015.

## Flexible Respite Film Society

## Flickside Film Society

(Arts Yackandandah)

## Geelong Classic Cinema Inc

## God Loves Atheists Screen & Study Salon

## Goulburn Valley Film Club

45 Years, UK, 2015.  
Rams, Iceland, 2015.  
Looking for Grace, Australia, 2016.  
The Daughter, Australia, 2016.

## Grampians Film Society

Her, USA, 2013.

## Horsham Film Society

## International Film Group

An (Sweet Bean), Japan, 2015.  
La Sapienza, France/Italy, 2014.  
Indignation, USA, 2015.

## Liberate Education Screen & Study Salon

## Little Film Society

Tomboy, France, 2011.  
The Other Son, France, 2012.  
Sherpa, Australia/Nepal, 2016.

## Lounge Lizards Film Society

## LV Film Society

Captain Fantastic, USA, 2016.  
Mustang, France+, 2015.  
Kubo and the Two Strings, USA, 2016.  
The Man Who Knew Infinity, UK/USA, 2015.

## Macedon Ranges Film Society

Micmacs, France, 2009.  
Mystery Road, Australia, 2013.  
Moonrise Kingdom, USA, 2012.

## Maldon Movies Film Society

## Melbourne Horror Film Society

Xiong Bang (The Imp), Hong Kong, 1981.  
Krampus, USA, 2015.  
The Curse, Japan, 2005.

## Melbourne Zombie Film Society

## Moira Film Group

Hunt for the Wilderpeople, New Zealand, 2016.  
We Bought a Zoo, USA, 2011.

## Mount Eliza Fifty-Five Plus Film Group

The Imitation Game, UK/USA, 2014.  
The Chorus, France, 2004.  
The Intouchables, France, 2011.  
The Book Thief, USA/Germany, 2013.  
The Dressmaker, Australia, 2015.  
Mao's Last Dancer, Australia, 2009.

## Moviehouse

My Fair Lady, USA, 1964.  
Boom Town, USA, 1940.  
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, USA, 1967.  
We're No Angels, USA, 1955.  
High Society, USA, 1956.  
Witness for the Prosecution, USA, 1957.  
Sabrina, USA, 1954.  
The Wizard of Oz, USA, 1939.  
Rebecca, USA, 1940.  
Major Payne, USA, 1995.

## Movies at Numurkah

## Moving Clickers Inc & Lorne Film Festival

## Murrindindi Film Society

## Myrtleford Film Society

Marguerite, France, 2015.  
Barbara, Germany, 2012.  
100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared, Sweden, 2013.

## Network Film Club

## North Bellarine Film Festival

## Old Scotch Film Society

Her Majesty Mrs Brown, UK/USA, 1997.  
Cast Away, USA, 2000.  
Leviathan, Russia, 2014.  
Marguerite, France, 2015.

## Phillip Island Movie Club

Phoenix, Germany, 2014.  
A Separation, Iran, 2011.  
The Human Cargo, Italy, 2012.  
Mustang, France+, 2015.

## Plaza Cinema Group

## Port Albert Movie Club

## Port Campbell Community Film Festival

## Port Fairy Film Society

The Dressmaker, Australia, 2015.  
Last Cab to Darwin, Australia, 2015.  
Tehran Taxi, Iran, 2015.  
Carol, UK/USA/Australia, 2015.  
Youth, Italy/France+, 2015.  
Room, Ireland/Canada+, 2015.

## Portarlington Film Society

Oddball, Australia, 2015.  
Run Lola Run, Germany, 1998.  
The Kid with a Bike, Belgium/France, 2011.

## Portland Film Society

## PRODOS Screen & Study Salon

## Prom Coast Film Society

The Beatles: Eight Days a Week, UK, 2016.  
Rams, Iceland, 2015.  
The Castle, Australia, 1997.  
Spotlight, USA, 2015.

## Red Rock Film Society

Truman, Argentina, 2015.  
'71, UK, 2014.  
God Willing, Italy, 2015.

## Science and Technology Screen & Study Salon

## Smart Girls Screen & Study Salon

## St Andrews Film Society

Ernest and Celestine, USA/France, 2012.  
Rams, Iceland, 2015.  
Embrace of the Serpent, Colombia, 2015.  
I, Daniel Blake, UK, 2016.  
Spirited Away, Japan, 2001.

## St Dunstan's Hall Film Society

The Belier Family, France, 2014.  
The Danish Girl, Denmark, 2015.  
Miss Potter, UK, 2006.

## St Leonards Film Society

## Sun Country Movie Club

The King and I, USA, 1956.  
Holiday Inn, USA, 1942.  
Secondhand Lions, USA, 2003.  
Howard's End, UK+, 1992.

## Surf Coast Film Society

The Belier Family, France, 2014.  
The Triplets of Belleville, France, 2003.  
Putuparri and the Rainmakers, Australia, 2015.  
The Lady, France/UK, 2011.  
The Angels' Share, UK, 2012.  
Inside Llewyn Davis, USA/UK, 2013.

## Swinema Club

## Tatura Film Society

The Intern, USA, 2015.  
The Man Who Knew Infinity, UK, 2015.  
Like Father, Like Son, Japan, 2013.

## Teddy Bobo Screen & Study Salon

## The Impossible Screen & Study Salon

## Trentham Film Society

Crackerjack, Australia, 2002.  
Eye in the Sky, USA, 2015.  
The Man Who Knew Infinity, UK, 2015.

## Vantastic Watchers Film Society

## Warrandyte Film Society

The Piano, NZ/Australia/France, 1993.  
Tim, Australia, 1979.  
Life is Beautiful, Italy, 1997.

## Whitehorse Film Society

Florence Foster Jenkins, UK, 2016.  
The Belier Family, France, 2014.  
Putuparri & the Rainmakers, Australia, 2015.  
Tehran Taxi, Iran, 2015.  
The Man Who Knew Infinity, UK, 2015.

## Williamstown Film Society

## Winchelsea Movie Club

## Yarra Ranges Film Society

Sherpa, Australia/Nepal, 2015.  
Bride Flight, Netherlands, 2008.  
Life is Beautiful, Italy, 1997.

## Incl Healesville Mini Film Festival

About Elly, Iran, 2009.  
A Separation, Iran, 2011.  
The Salesman, Iran, 2016.

New South Wales

## Deniliquin Film Society and Film Festival

Brooklyn, UK+, 2015.

South Australia

## Adelaide Cinematheque

South Australia

## Port Lincoln Film Society

The Rocketeer, USA, 1991.  
Sweet Bean, Japan, 2015.  
Rabbit Proof Fence, Australia, 2002.  
Sherpa, Australia/Nepal, 2015.

South Australia

## Reels Film Society

God Willing, Italy, 2015.  
The Good, the Bad, the Weird, South Korea, 2008.  
What We Did on Our Holiday, UK, 2014.  
Walking the Camino, USA, 2014.  
Raising the Red Lantern, China, 1992.

South Australia

## Southern Fleurieu Film Society



# StarBox Ratings



***It is clear that not all film societies are reporting their StarBox scores!***

Please calculate the scores to one decimal place and send them to us at [starbox@fvfs.org.au](mailto:starbox@fvfs.org.au) after each screening so that our ReelNews report can be kept up to date. The formula is written on the StarBox.

See compiled results from all years at [www.fvfs.org.au/ideas](http://www.fvfs.org.au/ideas) Info Sheet 17+

StarBox results received since Issue 111 (Nov 2016 )

DVD Title	Society	Stars
Safety Last (with Live Music)	F Project Cinema	4.9
Hunt for the Wilderpeople	Portland FS	4.8
Imitation Game, The	Portarlinton FS	4.8
Quartet	Macedon Ranges FS	4.8
Sunshine on Leith	Little FS	4.8
Brooklyn	Prom Coast FS	4.6
Orfeu Negro	International FG	4.6
Shall We Dance	Moira FG	4.5
Dressmaker, The	Dookie FS	4.5
One Chance	Bright FS	4.5
Human Capital	Yarra Ranges FS – Warburton	4.4
What We Did on Our Holiday	Whitehorse FS	4.4
Last Cab to Darwin	Prom Coast FS	4.4
Hunt, The	Portarlinton FS	4.4
Last Cab to Darwin	Croydon FS	4.4
Our Man in Havana	Camberwell FS	4.4
Imitation Game, The	Camberwell FS	4.4
Florence Foster Jenkins	Whitehorse FS	4.3
Famille Belier, La	Portarlinton FS	4.3
Hunt for the Wilderpeople	Moira FG	4.3
Hedgehog, The	Goulburn Valley FC	4.3
Like Father Like Son	Whitehorse FS	4.2
Walking the Camino	Reels FS	4.2
Nebraska	Prom Coast FS	4.2
My Old Lady	Portarlinton FS	4.2
Nebraska	Camberwell FS	4.2
Human Capital	Yarra Ranges FS – Healesville	4.1
Ixcantul	St Andrews FS	4.1
Hunting and Gathering	Portarlinton FS	4.1
99 Homes	International FG	4.1

Please send all 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)

*Continued next page*





# StarBox Ratings



StarBox results received since Issue 111 (Nov 2016 )

Dark Horse, The	Croydon FS	4.1
100-Year-Old Man Who ..., The	Camberwell FS	4.1
100-Year-Old Man Who ..., The	Barossa FC	4.1
Tomboy	Little FS	4.0
Mustang	Croydon FS	4.0
100-Year Old Man Who...., The	Portarlington FS	3.9
Daughter, The	International FG	3.9
An (Sweet Bean)	Croydon FS	3.9
Picnic at Hanging Rock	Yarra Ranges FS – Warburton	3.8
Lady in the Van, The	St Andrews FS	3.8
Human Cargo, The	Phillip Island MC	3.8
Project Nim	F Project Cinema	3.8
Picnic at Hanging Rock	Yarra Ranges FS - Healesville	3.7
Ernest and Celestine	St Andrews FS	3.7
Micmacs	Macedon Ranges FS	3.7
Martian, The	Dookie FS	3.7
Assassin, The	F Project Cinema	3.6
45 Years	Goulburn Valley FC	3.2
Jedda	Dookie FS	3.2
Tehran Taxi	Prom Coast FS	3.1
Marguerite	Myrtleford FS	2.9
Mafia Kills Only in Summer, The	Portarlington FS	2.5

## Have Your Say!

### *ReelNews is your Newsletter!*

It is important that it reflects the interests of all FVFS members.

The Editor has been able to provide more articles about individual societies, over the last year, because information has been sent in by the members in response to requests.

How about all the other societies! We would love to hear about you, what you are doing and anything special associated with your Film Society or the area in which you live. The next edition is due in May.

The stories can be about any special happening associated with the district, the film society or the members of the society – it's up to you!

Also, in what areas of operation of a Film Society are you interested? What types of articles would you like to see?

Let the Editor know so that **ReelNews** can be completely your Newsletter!

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