

# Federation of Victorian Film Societies Inc



INFORMATION SHEET 01 Version 11

## WHO CAN JOIN THE FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN FILM SOCIETIES (FVFS)?

### **Quick-Start Guide.**

If you are considering starting a film society, NPV film festival or NPV community cinema, this is where you start. Then see the following Information Sheets.

To start or run a small to medium size, independent film society (the most common variety) you need to read sections 0, 1.0 and 1.1 of this Information Sheet. This type of film society is represented by column 1.1 in the diagram on page 9.

For a small film society screening in a private home, read sections 1.0 and 1.2. Your society is described in column 1.2 of the diagram on page 9.

Then go to Information Sheet 02 for important information, and Information Sheet 03 to design your film society constitution or rules.

## **0. Introduction**

To join The Federation of Victorian Film Societies (FVFS) an organisation must have an appropriate constitution, rules or by-laws, and aims that focus on the art of the moving image (in any form) and must be a not-for-profit organisation. Appropriate constitutions, rules and aims are developed further in Information Sheets 03, 04A and 04B.

To qualify for ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission), income tax-free status, the organisation must qualify as a charity – usually with the purposes of “advancing culture” and/or “beneficial to the public”. See details in Info Sheet 05.

## **1.0 FILM SOCIETIES**

Film societies are organisations formed by groups of enthusiastic people who generally like to select their own films for screening to their members.

Their objectives may be to learn more about the on-going art, history and technique of cinema, to use the film to learn more about other cultures or to help bring society together (especially the socially isolated). In addition, a film society should aim to ensure the best quality films are screened to their members in the best possible environment.

The films they screen may come from commercial film distributors, government libraries, embassies or private collections and some may not have enjoyed general release at cinemas or on TV. Film distributors and DVD rights holders have different rates of hire or screening rights charges depending on the technology, the size of the organisation and whether it operates in a non-theatrical mode (members only) or in a commercial manner (ie charging for individual admission). There is more on non-theatrical screenings in Information Sheet 02.

Films screened may be on any medium - 35mm, 16mm or 8mm film, video, DVD, MP4, streamed or on DCP (Digital Cinema Package supplied on a hard drive, USB memory or downloaded), but must have been obtained legally. Film screening rights for films screened on DCP are usually charged at commercial rates.

Despite the various cinema, television, video and DVD outlets, and streaming sites available for individuals to see or hire films today, film societies continue to thrive. This is due to the atmosphere, social interaction, flexibility of programming, member participation, opportunity to learn about film making or world culture, quality of presentation and the informative and pleasant nature of the screenings. In many cases the film society has an important role to play in bringing a community together.

## **A. Requirements for becoming a certified film society**

[These mandatory requirements should be covered in the society constitution or rules].

The film society will:-

1. Abide by a constitution/rules/by-laws which are adopted by members and approved by the FVFS.
2. Operate as a non-profit association administered by a committee of volunteers (themselves members) and consisting of at least a President, Secretary and Treasurer, elected annually at an AGM.
3. Maintain a list of current members which is available to any member on request (subject to privacy laws).
4. Organise finances independent of any other organisation and report on them to members annually. This may require a separate film society bank account.
5. Treat film as a serious artistic, cultural, and educational medium and have appropriate aims reflecting this.
6. Ensure that a majority of the average audience attending screenings are members. Noting that the special ACOFS DVD screening rights agreement (with special reduced prices) is only applicable for film societies who screen non-theatrically (100% members only). See note below, and Information Sheet 02.