

Federation of Victorian Film Societies

Annual General Meeting

Minutes



Saturday 26th March, 2022 commencing at 12:03pm
Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre, 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.
3131.

1. PARTICIPANTS

Executive: Ian Davidson (Whitehorse FS), Susan Davidson (Whitehorse FS) – Minutes, John Turner (Croydon FS), Henry Screen (Macedon Ranges FS) - Chair.

Delegates: Joan Harding (Old Scotch FS), Michael Slee (Williamstown FS), Adrian Sumner (Goulburn Valley FC), Bea Wicks-Kaandorp (Yarra Ranges FS), Sally Ahern (Yarra Ranges FS), John Shortridge (Whitehorse FS/Little FS), David Phair (Murrindindi FS), Dorothy Davies (Ferntree Gully FS), Brendan Fitzgerald (Ferntree Gully FS), Leona Sterling (Goulburn Valley FC), Louise McDade-Cartey (Goulburn Valley FC), Graham Pitts (Maldon Golden Movies FS), David Lorensene (Melbourne Horror FS).

Observers: Sam Dougherty (Melbourne Horror FS), Brett Powell (Whitehorse FS), Gail Arkins (Little FS).

Apologies: Andrew Oldroyd (Prom Coast FS), Suzanne Nunn (Ballarat FS), Jean Middleton (Croydon FS), Wayne Gilmour (LV FS), Christine Bouchier (LV FS), Marcelle Everard (Baringo FC), Rhonda Irving (Baringo FC), Alex Kuebler (Barwon Heads FS), Christine Cansfield-Smith (Beechworth FS), Lisa Cressey (Buninyong FF), Ross Sellenger (Camberwell FS), Beth Ripper (Court FS), Anne Smith (Dookie FG), Valda Dickins (Dookie FG), Fiona Oakes (Kingston Movie House), Jennifer O'Connor (Kingston Movie House), Rob Forgan (Reels FS), Lachlan Kelly (Southern Fleurieu FS), Mike Tye (Southern Fleurieu FS), Gaille Abud (St. Andrews FS), Pat Reynolds (St. Andrews FS), Diane Sloan (St. Leonards FS), Gail Plowman (Warrandyte FS), Alpine FS, Baringo FC, Bright FS, F Project Cinema, Flickside FS, Movies at Numurkah FS, Network FC, Port Lincoln FS, Portarlington FS, Sale FS, St. Dunstons Hall FS, Tatura FS, Trentham FS, Vantastic FS, Winchelsea MC, Prodos SASS, Smart Girls SASS, British History SASS, Celebrate Israel SASS, The Impossible SASS, God Loves Atheists SASS, Liberate Education SASS, Science & Technology SASS, Teddy Bobo SASS.

2. MINUTES of the 2021 AGM

Moved: A. Sumner/J. Shortridge *that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on 10th April 2021 be accepted.* **Carried.**

3. MATTERS ARISING from the MINUTES – Nil

4. CORRESPONDENCE – Nil

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now I've completed my first year as FVFS President I hope I have some idea of what I should be doing.

I bring to this role a love of good cinema, and some knowledge of the Film Society environment (through my involvement as Vice President of Macedon Ranges Film Society).

As we progress away, hopefully, from the scourge of Covid we survey its impact on our activities, attendances and membership numbers.

Apart from Covid, societies face increasing competition for memberships, attendances and relevance . . . and the huge challenge of attracting a younger cohort of potential members.

The rise of subscription streaming services (Netflix, Stan, Disney, Prime etc.) affords people the opportunity to view a huge library of films of all genres; huge choice and the great convenience of not having to get off the couch.

Whether this is the best way to watch a movie is a debate for another occasion.

Societies face numerous challenges; I've already mentioned Streaming Services and attracting a younger cohort to membership, there's also

- Demographics – we have a predominantly aged/ageing demographic of Society members
- Finding enough committee members to run the Society can be difficult, as can succession planning – bringing fresh faces to take over from long serving committees.
- Busy contemporary lifestyles – people today seem to have less time for special interest activities
- A greatly improved home viewing experience via large smart 4K TV sets now in many homes.
- Problems with venues - acoustics, heating/cooling, seating - uncomfortable chairs, catering facilities
- Possible inferior picture and sound quality if equipment is not maintained/updated

. . . lots of challenges . . .

But, it's not all doom and gloom, let's remember our strengths -

- Quality films
- Low cost to view these films
- Access to hard-to-find and unusual films
- Social activity - discussion, drinks, supper etc. The social aspect is unmatched by others.
- Special events e.g. themed screenings, retrospectives, anniversary of . . . Etc.
all enjoyed with like-minded people.
- Discussions about films – both informal and structured
- Free Library access - borrow your society's films
- Providing a 'cinema going' experience for people in regional and remote areas where there is no commercial cinema option.

The Federation's membership has grown and remained fairly steady throughout the Covid period. Back in 1955 we had 26 Society members. Membership then rose steadily (with a few ups and downs along the way) to a peak of 87 in 2018. Through Covid, membership has remained steady in the 80's and is currently at 82.

We can't stop streaming or coerce younger folk to join up . . .but we can keep doing what we do best; show good films in a friendly socially engaging environment and share our enjoyments.

We need to be vigilant, to experiment and innovate where possible

But ultimately, my message is - **keep doing what we do . . . and do it well.**

Moved: H. Screen/L. McDade-Cartey *that the President's report be accepted.* **Carried**

Matters arising from President's Report: - Nil

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was distributed with the meeting documents and is available on the FVFS website. I. Davidson spoke to his report.

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

Matters arising from Treasurer's Report:- Nil

Adoption of Membership Fees for 2023:

Moved: I. Davidson/G. Pitts *that the 2023 membership rates for Film Societies, Film Festivals and NPV Cinemas remain unchanged.* **Carried.**

7. ELECTION of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

All positions were declared vacant. Nominations were received by the due date for the following positions and as they are below the maximum allowed, they were therefore appointed:

President:	Henry Screen
Vice President:	John Turner
Secretary:	Susan Davidson
Treasurer:	Ian Davidson
Committee:	Jean Middleton, Andrew Oldroyd, Suzanne Nunn.

The President called for nominations from the floor, but none were forthcoming.

8. OTHER BUSINESS - Nil

MEETING CLOSED at 12:20pm.