

Federation of Victorian Film Societies

Annual General Meeting

Minutes



Saturday 25th May, 2024 commencing at 10:33am
Indented Head Community Hall, 326A The Esplanade, Indented Head 3223.

1. PARTICIPANTS

Executive: Henry Screen (Macedon Ranges FS) – Chair, Ian Davidson (Whitehorse FS), Susan Davidson (Whitehorse FS) – Minutes, Suzanne Nunn (Ballarat FS).

Delegates: Tony Veitenheimer (St. Leonards FS), Adrian Sumner (Goulburn Valley FC), Barry Cheney (Little FS), Geoff Holmes (Maldon Golden Movies FS), Yvonne Holmes (Maldon Golden Movies FS), Clare Green (Baringo FC), Lorraine Hughes (Portarlington FS), Mary Dracup (Forrest Flicks FS), Sheryl Norris (Reels FS), Garth Wesson (Corangamite FS), Alex Kuebler (Barwon Heads FS),

Observers: Julie Wilson (St. Leonards FS), Kerry Deakin (Corangamite FS), Alison Klitzing (Portarlington FS), Graham Carpenter (Reels FS), Christine Gascoigne (Baringo FC), Les Littleford, Dale Gibbon, Nelia Gibbon, Rachel Forgasz.

Apologies: John Shortridge (Whitehorse FS), Michael Slee (Williamstown FS), Wayne Gilmour (LV FS), Christine Bouchier (LV FS), Ann Dyer (LV FS), Leona Sterling (Goulburn Valley FC), Tatura FS, Yarra Ranges FS, Ferntree Gully FS, Jean Middleton (Croydon FS), Beverley Bloxham (Chewton FS), Graham Pitts (Maldon Golden Movies FS), Beverley Durham (Baringo FS), Lisa Cressey (Buninyong FF), Alison Bainbridge (Grampians FS), Marilyn Martyn (Little FS), Kevin Purvis (Croydon FS), Lorraine Rutherford (Macedon Ranges FS), Tom Liu (Monash FS), Karen Dexter (Movies at Numurkah), Glenda Marshall (Trentham FS), Graham Orr (Trentham FS), Anglesea MC, Anne Smith (Dookie FG), Winchelsea MC.

2. MINUTES of the 2023 AGM

Moved: S Nunn/L Hughes *that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th March 2023 be accepted.* **Carried.**

3. MATTERS ARISING from the MINUTES

Nil

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year rolls by . . . and we are still standing! 'Steady as she goes' could be our theme for 2023, well mostly. Although FVFS activities have continued smoothly enough we are not without our challenges; specifically in the human resources area.

This past year we have seen the retirement of two long standing FVFS committee members, namely John Turner and Jean Middleton; both have been on the FVFS committee for many years in various roles. Many of you will be aware of John Turner's epic book 'The History of Australian Film Societies', copies of which are available for your society on request. There will be much more to say about John and Jean's contributions in the next edition (August) of ReelNews but for now – a HUGE THANK YOU to both. Also leaving the committee is Mike Tye (President of the Southern Fleurieu Film Society in South

Australia) Yes, we have members in South Australia who appreciate the support FVFS delivers. You may recall Mike's video presentation on how SFVS creates their excellent movie review segments that are screened before their main film. We hope Mike will be able to rejoin us in the near future.

Our finances are in good shape as can be seen in the Treasurer's report tabled today (thank you Ian Davidson) and we continue to explore how we may best use some of this money.

Membership is down somewhat; we are currently at 70 paid-up member societies. In 2023 membership was 76, in 2022 it was 79 and in 2021 81. Is this a long-term trend, or just a temporary blip? On the upside we do have a steady trickle of enquiries from new or potential new Societies. We will monitor the changes closely.

We have continued with our support for young aspiring filmmakers via our annual Award for Honours student/s in the Deakin University's Film Television & Animation course. The Award is \$3000 shared between the winning students (usually two). The winners are chosen by Deakin University course leaders and the award goes to assist these students with their production costs.

We are currently having discussions with Deakin about other options to support their Film students; one option is a Scholarship instead of the Award as presently constructed. Early days for this, and no decision has been taken yet.

Also arising from our relationship with Deakin University is the possible opportunity to produce a documentary about the Film Society movement. I think this is an exciting idea requiring a lot more discussion and research to ascertain whether it is feasible and what form it could take. So many questions; we will keep you informed as we explore the idea.

And finally, the most important issue on my mind is the 'human resources' issue I began with. As with committees in many voluntary organisations most of the work falls on the shoulders of a dedicated few; the FVFS is no exception. We are in need of help; please consider joining the FVFS committee, it isn't a demanding commitment. We meet 3 – 4 times a year via online video conference; any tasks that arise are shared around and so the more eyes, ears and knowledge we have available the easier it is to solve problems or develop new initiatives. Also having more people involved makes the important process of transition and succession a reality; at present it is not. The same people can't continue to serve indefinitely. Hands up please! Henry Screen, President.

Moved: H. Screen/A. Sumner *that the President's report be accepted.* **Carried**

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

S. Nunn explained to those present what is involved in being a member of the FVFS Committee. Corangamite FS said they invite film society members to come along to a committee meeting to see what is involved and everyone thought that was a great idea. Three of those present expressed interest in attending an FVFS Committee meeting.

The question was asked as to why the number of societies joining the FVFS has decreased. We are not absolutely certain, but it is probably due to the impact of Covid-19, with no societies starting up in those few years.

S. Nunn spoke about ReelNews and encouraged people to include the distributor for the films on their programmes. H. Screen is the current editor, and we rely on the members to provide the articles for publication. If there are other items we should be including in ReelNews please let the editor know. If you see a film that you think film societies would be interested in please write a short review.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report and balance sheet for the 2023 financial year was distributed with the meeting documents and are available on the FVFS website.

The reported surplus in 2023 was \$3,538.99, taking our overall financial assets to \$88,523.96.

The income from memberships in 2023 was \$4,765.00 from 76 members, which is an increase from the previous two years because we had waived most fees in those years. The number of members however has dropped to 76 from the numbers in 2021 and 2022.

The surplus from 2023 is inflated because -

1. \$1,654 in member affiliation fees for 2024 were paid early, in 2023, but only \$1040 of the 2023 fees were paid early in 2022 (ie \$614 was not really 2023 income).
2. An estimated \$928 costs for the Maldon Information Day in 2023 are still to be paid (they have not yet sent an invoice).
3. Anticipated ACOFS 2023 membership fees of \$1,125 are yet to be paid (They have not yet sent an invoice).

So, the total outstanding expenses from 2023 are approx. \$2667, making the real surplus closer to \$872.

Looking at the anticipated incomes and expenditures for 2024, and using accrued accounting (where costs and incomes are allocated to the appropriate period), the likely surplus will be up again, to around \$2,070. This is 49% of the income we normally earn from affiliation fees. The main reason for the increase is the better interest rates we are now getting from the banks and the fact that ACOFS is expected to reduce membership fees again. So, I believe there is a good argument for reducing the FVFS membership fees from the start of 2025. It is too late to do so for 2024. If we reduce the affiliation fees by 30%, the new anticipated surplus would be about \$915.

The proposed FVFS Membership fees would be:

Members	Annual fee	Delegates
1 - 25	\$21	1
26 – 50	\$32	1
51 – 100	\$53	2
101 – 500	\$77	3
Over 500	\$102	4

Moved: I. Davidson/A. Sumner *that the Annual Financial report be accepted.* **Carried.**

Adoption of Membership Fees for 2025.

Moved: I. Davidson/G. Holmes *that all affiliation fees for 2025 be reduced by 30% to reduce the surplus, and to enable film societies some leeway to recover from Covid-19.* **Carried.**

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM TREASURER'S REPORT:

A question was asked about the large surplus and whether there was a limit to how much a film society could accumulate. I. Davidson explained that most of the excess funds come from film festivals which the FVFS used to run, and higher interest rates. There is no limit on what is permitted. The FVFS would appreciate any suggestions for how to spend the money. If the documentary about the film society movement goes ahead it will cost money. A member asked if a film society could request funds to support them if they are in trouble. It would certainly be considered at Committee level.

9. ELECTION of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Moved: A. Sumner/G. Wesson *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
Secretary: Susan Davidson
Treasurer: Ian Davidson
Committee: Suzanne Nunn, John Shortridge, Graham Pitts, Geoff Holmes.

The President then called for nominations from the floor.

Kerry Deakin expressed interest in joining the Committee.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

11. MEETING CLOSED at 11.08am.