

Federation of Victorian Film Societies

Annual General Meeting

Minutes



Saturday 14th March, 2026 commencing at 1:35pm
Williamstown Town Hall Former Council Chambers,
104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown.

1. PARTICIPANTS

Executive: Henry Screen (Macedon Ranges FS) – Chair, Ian Davidson (Whitehorse FS), Susan Davidson (Whitehorse FS) – Minutes, Suzanne Nunn (Ballarat FS), Geoff Holmes (Maldon Golden Movies FS), Kerry Deakin (Corangamite FS), Yvonne Holmes (Maldon Golden Movies FS), John Shortridge (Whitehorse FS).

Delegates: Adrian Sumner (Goulburn Valley FC), Barry Cheney (Little FS), Garth Wesson (Corangamite FS), Cathy Halliday (Barwon Heads FS), Michael Slee (Williamstown FS), Leona Sterling (Goulburn Valley FC), Evelyn Wuchatsch (Anglesea MC), Marion Rivers (Baringo FC), Kevin Purvis (Croydon FS), Di Feldtmann (Dookie FS), Jenny Mathison (Winchelsea MC), Rebecca Bowman (Yarra Ranges FS), Vicki Paris (Yarra Ranges FS), Aroon Naidoo (Yarra Ranges FS).

Observers: Therese Slee (Williamstown FS), Allan Park (Williamstown FS), Jack Neill (Williamstown FS), Clare Green (Baringo FC), David Rivers (Baringo FC), Robyn Willocks (Barwon Heads FS), Christine Paech (Croydon FS), Rohan Wilks (LV FS), Marius Burger (Portarlington FS), Ronnie Burger (Portarlington FS), Jane Dufty (Williamstown FS), Peter Steinle (Williamstown FS), Ross Dufty (Williamstown FS), Stewart Mathison (Winchelsea MC).

Apologies: Peter Bennett (Lake Mulwala MC), Elaine Price (Lake Mulwala MC), Jason Patton (Brackenbury East FS), Chris Nixon (Camberwell FS), Louise McDade-Cartey (Goulburn Valley FC), Lisa Cressey (Buninyong FF), Graham Orr (Trentham FS), Mary Dracup (Forrest Flicks FS), Maureen Ryland (Bright FS), Ken Fraser (Mirboo North Arts FS), Dennis Arnolda (Mt Eliza 55+ Club FS), Brendon Fitzgerald (Ferntree Gully FS), Sally Kirkham (Ferntree Gully FS), Rob Ziffer (Sale FS), Screen and Studies Salons, David Lorensene (Melbourne Horror FS), Jack Kramme (Melbourne Horror FS).

2. MINUTES of the 2025 AGM

Moved: G. Holmes/K. Deakin *that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th May 2025 be accepted. Carried.*

3. MATTERS ARISING from the MINUTES - Nil

4. CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we roll into our 2026 season, I believe we can reflect on 2025 and say it has been a good year - a case of 'steady as she goes', in the face of some ongoing and increasing challenges.

But first, I want to thank the Williamstown Film Society, to Michael Slee and the WFS committee for their generous support in hosting today's activities

Second, I want to say Thanks - to the hard-working volunteer committee of your FVFS - Ian & Susan Davidson, Suzanne Nunn, John Shortridge, Yvonne & Geoff Holmes, Kerry Deakin.

And third I want to say thanks to all the committees of all our member societies for their work and commitment in making the film society movement in Victoria the success it is today.

These challenges include -

- the ageing demographics of many Societies and their impact on succession planning.
- the growth of Streaming Services and their control of titles and rights (not available to us).
- the reduced availability of independent and arthouse films on physical media (DVD/Blu-ray).
- Competition for eyeballs.

To expand on these challenges -

Demographics & Succession:

I speculate that the median age of a film society member is probably about seventy.

Nothing wrong with that if there are some 'younger ones' coming along as members and with the potential/interest in joining a committee.

Succession planning is hard and is best done gradually; candidates can absorb the culture at their own pace, and become part of a society's hierarchy without really noticing or feeling pressured.

Streaming Services:

The most significant threat we face from Streamers is their acquisition/control of titles and the associated rights. The growth in the number of Streaming Services seemed to have slowed, and we may have reached 'Peak Streaming.' Our earlier fears that streaming would decimate film societies have proved unfounded, which speaks to the strength of the communal and social benefits of societies.

However, what has not peaked is the acquisition of film rights either through their own productions or co-productions offering exclusive post cinema rights, or via concentration of ownership through mergers or takeovers (witness the likely takeover of Warner Bros by the Ellisons' Paramount-Skydance).

Availability (?) of physical media, i.e. DVD and Blu-ray:

We are noticing a trend of a reduction in the availability of films on physical media, particularly for smaller foreign language, independent and arthouse titles; cost pressures and the smaller market for these types of titles are key factors influencing the trend.

A brief survey of Distributors told us that most are continuing to provide discs if that is their system. Not all do of course, so it depends on who you are dealing with about a particular film;

I discussed this in more detail in the latest issue of ReelNews. Suffice to say I believe, that in the not too distance future, more films will only available to us as a 'stream' or as a 'digital download'

A quality Competition:

Today more of us are watching films at home via our large high-definition TVs - image and sound quality is very good and the comfort of your own couch is attractive.

However, this does not offer the best viewing experience when compared to a commercial cinema - the place where films are made to be shown.

Today's film society can offer an experience that is, whilst not quite cinema standard, not far off it.

Plus, your film society offers that unique friendly, collegial environment in which to share the viewing experience with like-minded folk.

So, ask yourself, does your venue offer a comfortable, convenient viewing environment with best possible pictures and sound reproduction when compared to streaming at home; if not, you may over time have a problem.

I think it is fair to say that the basis for our continued existence is a passion for quality films, our access to screening rights at realistic prices and the availability of films on disc or digital.

Our ACOFS Rights agreement with Distributors is critical and must be respected and protected.

Our FVFS membership is steady in the mid-seventies with a trickle of proposals for the formation of new societies so we can look forward to a successful 2026 - 2027 year ahead. *Henry Screen - 14 March 2026.*

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Nil

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report and balance sheet for the 2025 financial year was distributed with the meeting documents and is available on the FVFS website. (See Appendix 1)

Our net deficit for the year was \$2,614, giving us a final balance of \$87,242. The main income was \$2,613 (Membership fees from 74 members), bank interest of \$4,254 and society payments for equipment insurance of \$2,054 (although this was almost exactly balanced by payment of the policy). The main expenditures were AGM and Information Days \$5,494, Deakin Film Award \$3,000, and equipment insurance as above. The deficit is perhaps misleading because many societies pay their affiliation fees prior to 1st January, and not always the same number each year. This accounts for the \$1,600 difference between 2024 and 2025 although the membership was virtually the same.

The cost of Information Days in 2025 was almost \$1,833 more than in 2024 because of the additional costs of holding one of the Information Days in Myrtleford and the travel and accommodation involved. We expect Information Day costs in future years to be closer to the 2024 amount.

The Treasurer expects that FVFS should have a surplus in coming years, so there is no need to change affiliation fees.

The Treasurer noted that bank interest is almost double what we get in affiliation fees due to our healthy bank balance, and that is a reason for keeping it at that level, unless a worthwhile project is found. The healthy balance is due to the successful running of film festivals in Warburton and Halls Gap over several years, and not the result of an accumulation of affiliation fees.

Moved: I. Davidson/ G. Holmes *that the Annual Financial report be accepted. Carried.*

Adoption of Membership Fees for 2027.

Moved: I. Davidson/Y. Holmes *that the affiliation fees for 2027 remain the same as in 2026. Carried.*

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM TREASURER'S REPORT - Nil

9. SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

Details of the changes and the reasons for the changes were provided with the meeting papers and on the website. (See Appendix 2).

The Treasurer presented the reasons for replacing the Standing Resolutions and renaming them Supplementary Rules.

Moved: I. Davidson/A. Sumner *that the current FVFS Standing Resolutions be replaced by the proposed updated rules and renamed FVFS Supplementary Rules. Carried*

10. ELECTION of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Moved: C. Halliday/M. Rivers *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 equal to the maximum allowed, they were therefore appointed:



President:	Henry Screen
Vice President:	Suzanne Nunn
Secretary:	Susan Davidson
Treasurer:	Ian Davidson
Committee:	John Shortridge, Geoff Holmes, Kerry Deakin, Yvonne Holmes, Garth Wesson.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a question about the Deakin Scholarship the President reported that FVFS has provided a \$3000 award for the last few years to Honours students from Deakin University's film school to assist them with their final project. The Executive plans to review and evaluate the effectiveness of this award in the coming year.

Feedback from members confirm the Information Days are worthwhile and provide valuable information and networking opportunities.

12. MEETING CLOSED at 2:06pm.

FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN FILM SOCIETIES			
Balance sheet ending 31 December 2025			
		2024	2025
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Balance as at 1st January	\$88,523.96		\$89,857.20
Net surplus/deficit	\$1,333.24		-\$2,614.85
Balance at 31 December	\$89,857.20		\$87,242.35
REPRESENTED BY THE FOLLOWING ASSETS			
Cash box	\$51.75		\$25.65
NAB Cheque Account	\$1,664.49		\$204.25
Cheques to be lodged	\$0.00		\$0.00
Macquarie Cash Management	\$2,539.04		\$351.54 at 2.75%
Macquarie Savings acc	\$10,601.92		\$11,660.91 at 5.00%
Macquarie term Deposit	\$75,000.00		\$75,000.00 at 4.8%
	\$89,857.20		\$87,242.35
This financial statement was prepared by the Treasurer FVFS			
			
Signed and Dated	03-January-2026		
REVIEWER'S REPORT			
I report to the Federation of Victorian Film Societies that I have examined the accompanying Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2025 with the books and records of the Federation presented to me. As far as I am able to form an opinion, they are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the Federation's affairs and the results of its activities for the year. I have received all information required to complete this review.			
Signed and dated, 			
	Dated		
	Executive Member FVFS		

FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN FILM SOCIETIES			
Statement of Income and Expenditure 31 December 2025			
INCOME		2024	2025
Admin (Affiliation fees note 1)		\$4,208.00 (71 members)	\$2,613.50 (74 members)
Bank Interest (Note 2)		\$4,195.25	\$4,254.70
Misc income		\$0.00	\$91.89
AGM & Info days		\$0.00	\$0.00
Marketing		\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment Insurance (Socs)		\$1,642.00	\$2,054.00
TOTAL		\$10,045.25	\$9,014.09
EXPENDITURE			
Administration		\$383.35	\$3,702.37
Includes PL insurance of :-		\$273	\$274.45
ACOFs Membership		\$0.00	\$0.00
AGM & Info days		\$3,661.66	\$5,494.63
Equipment insurance for members		\$1,630.00	\$2,040.00
Other financial (Note 3)		\$3,037.00	-
Marketing		-	\$391.94
TOTAL		\$8,712.01	\$11,628.94
SURPLUS / DEFICIT		\$1,333.24	-\$2,614.85
Note 1: \$1,464 in affiliation fees paid in 2024 were early payment for 2025 fees. and \$738 in affiliation fees for 2026 were paid early, in 2025.			
Note 2: Term Dep. Interest was paid into the operating account on termination. (\$3,637.50 on 29 October 2025)			
Note 3: Scholarship expense of \$3,000 was moved to Administration in 2025.			
Admin: = Society liaison, phone, printing, FVFS insurance, Interest Chapters, scholarship, web running costs			
Marketing = Web upgrades, Promo boards, Posters, StarBoxes.			

SPECIAL RESOLUTION – Update to FVFS standing resolutions. 14 March 2026

Motion: That that the current “FVFS Standing Resolutions” be replaced by the proposed updated rules, and renamed “FVFS Supplementary Rules.”

Notes in support of Special Resolution for changing the FVFS Standing Resolutions.

Adoption of the Name “Supplementary Rules”

The name change to “Supplementary Rules” is to remove any confusion with “Normal Resolution” and “Special Resolution” - terms used by the CAV Model Rules. These Supplementary Rules apply in addition to the Model Rules, and are intended to clarify FVFS procedures. They do not conflict with the CAV Model Rules in any way.

Introductory paragraph.

Changes reflect the name change and some parts are reworded for clarification only and to remove duplication.

Paragraph 1. Affiliated Organisations and Members of the FVFS.

The CAV Model Rules assume that all members of an organisation are people, because an organisation per se, cannot attend meetings, vote, stand for committee, but the delegates can.

So, to meet the expectation of CAV, we have described the organisation joining the FVFS as “Affiliating” with the FVFS,” and their delegates are the “Members of the FVFS.” Then everything else follows automatically.

There is no change to the number of delegates, their voting rights, fees etc – just how they are defined. These rules align with the CAV expectations.

Paragraph 2 Nominations for Committee

The changes reflect that most “written” communication is now by email, but is otherwise unchanged.

Paragraph 3.

The only change is to reflect the change in meaning of “Member.”

Paragraph 4. Proxies

Clarifies Clause 34 of the Model Rules in the use of proxies at FVFS meetings.

Paragraph 5 Finances

Minor change to highlight updates in the Model Rules regarding the need for committee endorsement of the annual financial report.

Paragraph 6 Due Date

Aligns the due date for affiliation fees to be paid to be the start of the FVFS financial year.

Paragraph 7 Annual subscription

Improvement in the wording, but no change to the meaning or intent.

Paragraph 8 Non-political and non-sectarian

No change

Paragraph 9 Size of committee

A new paragraph, included as a simple reminder to the FVFS committee of a CAV requirement at FVFS AGMs.

FVFS Supplementary Rules

As approved at the FVFS AGM on 14 March 2026.

Supplementary Rules should be read in conjunction with the Consumer Affairs Model Rules for Incorporated Associations (Associations Incorporations Reform Regulation 2023). Together they constitute the rules and procedures of the Federation of Victorian Film Societies inc. (FVFS).

Supplementary Rules can be changed only at a General Meeting of the FVFS in accordance with the appropriate procedures for Special Resolutions as prescribed in the CAV Model Rules (Rules 39 and 77)

1. Affiliated Organisations and Members of the FVFS

Any organisation which is accepted by the FVFS because it is directly interested in the objects of the FVFS and it has activities, aims, and rules which are consistent with the requirements of the FVFS may apply to become affiliated with the FVFS under any of the categories:-

- a) Film Society
- b) NPV Film Festival (where NPV = Not-for Profit, Volunteer-run) or
- c) NPV Cinema

Every affiliated organisation must be represented at the FVFS by at least one delegate but may nominate up to four delegates (as per the table below). Where an organisation does not appoint any delegate the president of that organisation is taken to be the only delegate.

Every delegate is defined as a **Member** of the FVFS (These are the “Members” as referred to in the CAV Model Rules).

The maximum number of delegates that may be appointed by an organisation is as follows:

- Film societies with up to 50 members – One delegate
- Film societies with 51 to 100 members – Two delegates
- Film societies with 101 to 500 members – Three delegates
- Film societies with over 500 members – Four delegates
- NPV Film Festival and Cinema organisations – One delegate

The number of members of an organisation is taken as the maximum number of financial members of that organisation in the preceding calendar year. A new organisation may use the anticipated number of members.

The appointment of a delegate to the FVFS ceases immediately if the respective organisation advises the FVFS as such, the organisation resigns or otherwise ceases to be affiliated with the FVFS. If the fees payable by an organisation are in default then their delegates are temporarily suspended.

Each delegate (i.e. FVFS Member) has one vote at FVFS General Meetings.

Honorary Individual Member is an individual who has been proposed by a member of the Committee as being worthy of that honour, and is approved for such membership by the Committee. The appointment of an Honorary Individual Member shall terminate at the next AGM, but they are then eligible for re-appointment. There shall be no more than five Honorary Individual Members at any time.

Honorary Life Member: is an individual who has been proposed by the Committee as being worthy of the honour and is approved by ordinary resolution at an AGM of the FVFS.

An Honorary Member is not eligible to vote at a General Meeting and does not count towards a quorum.

An Honorary Member may be appointed to the Committee as a General member but not to an official position. On that committee the Honorary Member is not eligible to vote and is not counted towards a quorum.

2. Nominations for Committee.

All nominations of members for appointment to the Committee must be in writing and submitted to the secretary to arrive not later than noon on the 14th day preceding the AGM. Nomination by email is acceptable.

Each nomination shall be endorsed by the secretary of the organisation they represent, and accepted by the nominee. This may be achieved by email.

Advice of all such nominations must be given to the secretary of all affiliated organisations and their delegates as soon as practicable after the close of nominations.

Where no nominations for a position have been received prior to the AGM the Chairman may call for nominations at the meeting.

3. Quorums

A quorum at a General Meeting is 10% of members (i.e. delegates) entitled to vote at a given time (Ref. Model Rule 36) providing that at least 10% of all affiliated organisations are represented.

A quorum of the committee is a simple majority of the current members of the committee eligible to vote. (Ref. Model rule 63)

4. Proxies

Ref. clause 34 of the Model Rules. A Member may appoint another member as their proxy to speak and vote on their behalf at a General Meeting other than a disciplinary meeting. Written advice of the proxy must be delivered to the Secretary to arrive at least 24 hours before the meeting is due to start. This includes email.

All proxies must be indicated in the meeting minutes.

Proxies are not permitted at committee meetings.

5. Finances

Ref. clause 41 3 (c) of the Model Rules. The treasurer's report to the AGM should include a financial report which has been certified by the treasurer and at least one other member of the committee.

The treasurer may use EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) for payments on behalf of the FVFS for any amount previously approved by the Committee for payment.

The treasurer may expend funds on behalf of the FVFS (including by electric funds transfer) up to \$100 without requiring prior approval from the Committee for each item for which funds are expended. (Ref. Model rule 69 (3)).

The treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid to or from the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction. (Ref. Model rule 69 (6)).

6. Due Date

The "due date" for affiliation renewals shall be taken as 1st January each year, unless otherwise decided at the previous AGM.

7. Annual Subscription

Clause 12 of the CAV Model Rules require that the AGM sets the procedure for setting the annual subscription and joining fee. The annual subscription may be changed by the

Executive Committee prior to AGM approval after consultation with members, but those changes must be approved at the next AGM. Should the changes not be approved at the AGM, the Executive Committee would then need to take action to reverse the changes so made as soon as practicable.

8. Non-Political and Non-Sectarian

The FVFS is a non-political and non-sectarian organisation.

9. Size of Committee

The Committee should make a recommendation to each AGM as to the size of the Committee required for the next year (i.e. until the next AGM). The AGM would then be in a position to decide how many committee members are to be appointed, in accordance with clause 53 (1) of the CAV Model Rules.

END OF SUPPLEMENTARY RULES