

Federation of Victorian Film Societies Inc



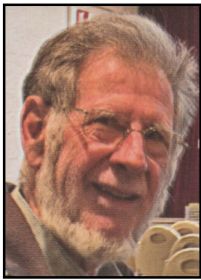
INFORMATION SHEET 02A - December 2024

Starting a Film Society - Presentation

This Information Sheet contains the slide presentation from the FVFS Information Day on 7th December 2024 at Bundalaguah (near Sale, Vic)

Its purpose is to provide a snapshot overview of how to set up a new film society, and what rules and conditions must be met for that society to be affiliated with the FVFS.

Author and presenter: Ian Davidson.



Ian Davidson is treasurer of the FVFS, and responder of most enquiries regarding starting a film society, film society rules and finding DVD screening rights. He is the FVFS representative to ACOFS (The Australian Council of Film Societies, whose membership consists of the 6 State Federations). In ACOFS, Ian is also the editor of The ACOFS Bulletin.

Ian is one of the delegates from the Whitehorse Film Society to the FVFS.

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www.fvfs.org.au

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Starting a Film Society



Information day at Bundalaguah, 7th Dec 2024.

A quick guide to starting your own film society.

FVFS – Federation of Victorian Film Societies
(Representing and supporting 75 film societies in Victoria)

ACOFS – Australian Council of Film Societies
whose 150 members are the 6 State Federations.

Presented by - Ian Davidson, Treasurer FVFS

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The Venue



What size do you need?

Consider the comfort.

Are the sightlines OK?

Is it dark enough?

Are the acoustics good?

Is there a kitchen?

Is there easy access?

Parking?

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Equipment



Your equipment or the venue's?

DVD, Blu-Ray or 4K.

Hi Definition projector. At least 1080 x 1920

Is the screen big enough and 16:9 ratio?

Stereo or 5+1 Dolby sound?

Consider seeking an equipment grant from local council and/or Community bank.

More expensive if DCP or film.

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DVD source



Borrow or buy your movies?

DVDs - free from libraries – but available?

NFSA will lend for \$22 – but may close soon

Some distributors can supply a loan copy for a fee.

Download the movie from a Streaming service or the DVD distributor?

To buy a DVD costs \$10 - \$30

To buy a Blu-Ray costs \$20 - \$35

To buy a 4K disc costs \$30 - \$40

But is the movie you want available in your format?

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Choice of program



There are plenty of good ideas available from other film societies and through the FVFS ReelNews newsletter and ACOFS.

Most societies send us their program and StarBox scores to report in ReelNews.

Check on IMDb and Rotten Tomatoes.

Will your program be updated annually or more often?

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Legal issues



You need an agreed constitution (ie rules). The FVFS can offer several models to choose from.

There are different models for screening in a theatre, in a meeting room or in a private home.

We recommend Incorporation for legal protection.

Some banks require you to be incorporated.

You should also apply for an ABN (Business Number) and then apply to ACNC for not-for-profit status.

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Insurance



The FVFS recommends that you be insured if you meet in a public place, and we can assist with contacts in the industry.

Public Liability - \$10M or \$20M cover is usual. Many venue operators insist on you having sufficient cover.

Equipment insurance – if you own the equipment.

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Copyright law



You must not screen a movie in public without permission of the rights owner – usually at a fee.

Owning the DVD is not enough.

Screening to the public is usually around \$250.

If screening to members only, it costs about \$50 - \$100.

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Your budget



Although the society is not-for-profit, you cannot afford to make a loss!

Any surplus must be retained in the organisation and used to further your aims.

You might have an “Equipment fund” to save \$100-\$200 pa for equipment upgrades.

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Your budget - 2



INCOME:

Usually only from memberships.

EXPENSES:

Venue

DVD purchases and rights

FVFS Affiliation

Insurance

Publicity

Catering

New equipment

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Example budget

(Assuming 50 members in a medium size hall)

Venue rental: 10 x \$70	\$700
DVD purchase: 10 x \$20	\$200
DVD rights: 10 x \$80	\$800
FVFS affiliation	\$32
PL Insurance (\$20M cover)	\$364
Equipment insurance	\$200
Suppers: 10 x \$20	\$200
TOTAL	\$2,496

So target income is \$2,500 or \$50 per member.

To get started

- ❖ Find 2-3 people to help, at least for the first year.
- ❖ Find a suitable venue.
- ❖ Decide on equipment (Your own or venue's)
- ❖ Decide on a potential program.
- ❖ Do a rough budget to determine membership fees.
- ❖ Select a great, representative film to start.
- ❖ Promote widely as possible, the formation of a new film society and offer free "come-and-try-it" tickets.

At the first screening

- ❖ Explain the aims of the film society.
- ❖ Describe the proposed program and how future programs will be selected.
- ❖ Decide on the best screening night.
- ❖ Ask for volunteers to join the committee.
- ❖ Keep a record of who attended and their emails.
- ❖ Say that this meeting is your first AGM.
- ❖ Enjoy the film.
- ❖ Have a great supper.
- ❖ Accept memberships and collect payments.

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Further reading

FVFS Info Sheets

- ❖ No 01 – Who can join the FVFS
- ❖ No 02 – A quick guide to starting
- ❖ No 03 – Film Society Constitutions
- ❖ No 05 - Tax issues
- ❖ No 07 – Digital technology
- ❖ No 08 – Incorporation
- ❖ No 12 - Copyright issues
- ❖ No 31 – Finding screening rights

And many more

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Then



- ❖ Join the FVFS – The application form is on our website www.fvfs.org.au
- ❖ Incorporate (optional)
- ❖ Set up a bank account
- ❖ Apply to the Tax Office for an ABN and then the ACNC for not-for-profit charity status.
- ❖ Set up insurance
- ❖ Organise your committee – allocate jobs, decide on meeting frequency etc.
- ❖ Buy your DVDs for the year and seek rights.
- ❖ Prepare posters etc, and promote the society

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That's all folks. Enjoy your new film society!



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