

# Australian Council of Film Societies

# BULLETIN

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*Normally, a Bulletin is prepared and dispatched quarterly. But two big items are dominating current events and the Executive believes it is important for everyone to be informed about them. For this reason, this Bulletin is being distributed directly to film societies, to ensure their committees and members have a timely opportunity to understand what is happening.*

## **Special Meeting**

A Special Meeting of the Council was held in Melbourne in Monday December 20th. Ten delegates assembled to consider the Executive's proposal for change. After vigorous discussion, debate and consideration of various amendments, the proposal was accepted on a vote of 7 to 3.

## **Where to from there?**

Following the special meeting of the Council on December 20th, a working party of five was appointed to examine ways of accommodating differing views concerning the proposal. The five members represent a cross section of views, and many years of experience in the film society movement. They are: Bryan Putt - ACOFS Exec and Crowlands Film Society; Eric Dixon - ACOFS Exec and Blackflat Film Society; Ian Davidson - Whitehorse Film Society, Berice and Allen Jones - Portland Film Society.

The working party met on January 31st. Members spent several hours examining the proposed amendment and looking at ways any difficulties could be resolved. Some concern was expressed by the meeting that the name should contain a reference to film societies. There was also broad agreement around the table about the proposal to expand the general membership base to all film society members. The meeting felt that, while admirable as an idealistic democratic exercise, this was likely to be administratively complicated and expensive, especially to individual film societies if they had to collect and pass on individual membership fees. Another concern was the continuing position of federations in the structure. The meeting felt that this needed to be addressed in more detail. The results of discussions were conveyed to the Executive, which has now prepared a second draft amendment that it believes takes into account the matters raised.

A copy of the second draft amendment is attached for the information of societies and their members. Feedback to the Executive is invited and welcomed.

Please forward any responses by email to: [ericwdixon@hotmail.com](mailto:ericwdixon@hotmail.com)

This Constitution replaces the existing Australian Council of Film Societies and Executive with a single incorporated body comprising representatives from each State and Territory.

The new association will undertake a number of functions, such as forming links, alliances and partnerships with peak bodies, establishing a national profile and gaining representation for community cinema Australia wide, with related and appropriate policy-making organisations.

The association will be in a position to provide services to States and Territories not presently serviced by federations; and to assume responsibility for the provisions of services in regions where federations cease to exist. The association will not become involved in operations currently being undertaken by federations in their home states unless it is expressly invited to do so.

The name of the association will be Community Cinema Australia.

All not-for-profit film groups (including community cinemas) will automatically be eligible to be members of the association.

They will have voting rights in Board elections and be eligible to nominate a candidate for election of their State or Territory representative on the Board.

Continuing federations will nominate their State representative directly.

## **The April AGM**

Clearly a very important meeting to look at the revised constitution, which is planned to lead to a revitalised ACOFS.

It will take place in Launceston on Saturday April 16th. 2011.

The AGM will be part of a bigger "Convention" - designed to celebrate the revitalisation of ACOFS. David Stratton and Margaret Pomeranz will be appearing live-on-stage, to discuss the best films of the last 25 years.

David will also introduce a surprise film of his choosing on the opening night Friday April 15th.

More details soon.

The main agenda item for the annual general meeting on the Saturday morning will be the question of the proposed constitutional amendment. The agenda also lists usual matters such as the receiving of presidential and financial reports.

Anyone planning to attend should make accommodation arrangements soon, as there is a big AFL event in town that weekend, and hotels are filling up.

Please email [ericwdixon@hotmail.com](mailto:ericwdixon@hotmail.com) regarding your attendance.

## **[www.acofs.org.au](http://www.acofs.org.au)**

Have you checked out our new revitalised web-site yet? More changes and improvements are coming.

## **3rd World Conference of International Federations and General Assembly**

Recife, Brazil. December, 5-11, 2010

The Vice President ACOFS, Michael O'Rourke – NSW, attended this event on our behalf and will deliver a very interesting report as part of the ACOFS AGM & Conference in Launceston.

## **News from the NTLC**

The NTLC has new funding to help "future-proof" its collection, address the demand for DVDs and update the catalogue indexing terms. A new name is a possibility also for the NTLC just as it is for ACOFS, as it sees its role widening to connect and build regional communities. A clear marketing and profile raising strategy is a priority. ACOFS is to be encouraged to reinvigorate access to the NTLC and help ensure the quality of prints through verification. It is encouraging to note that ACOFS is not alone in identifying the need to change.

## **Contact us**

All correspondence to Eric Dixon – Secretary [ericwdixon@hotmail.com](mailto:ericwdixon@hotmail.com)