



## **Australian Council of Film Societies**

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### **Minutes of ACOFS Annual General Meeting ACOFS AGM 2011 (Launceston)**

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**Date of AGM:** Saturday April 16 2011

**Location:** The Tram Shed, 4 Invermay Road, Inveresk, Tasmania

**1. Welcome.**

Time of commencement: 9.30 am

**ACOFS Executive at commencement of AGM**

President: Bryan Putt (Chairman)

Secretary: Eric Dixon

Treasurer: Mark Horner

Vice President: Michael O'Rourke

Committee: Michael Lines-Kelly

Committee: Paul Sofilas

**2. Apologies:**

None

**3. State Federation Delegates in attendance and recognised:**

**On behalf of the Federation of Victorian Film Societies.**

1. Ian Davidson
2. John Turner
3. Prodos Marinakis
4. Susan Davidson
5. Andrew Watkins
6. Suzanne Nunn
7. Barboo Marinakis
8. Anna Blainey Warner

**On behalf of the Federation of NSW & Associated Film Societies.**

1. Michael O'Rourke
2. Michael Lines-Kelly
3. Bryan Putt
4. Eric Dixon
5. Brett Powell

**On behalf of the Tasmanian Federation of Film Societies.**

1. Thomas Busby
2. Jim Mansbridge
3. Mark Horner

**On behalf of the West Australia Federation of Film Societies.**

1. Paul Sofilas

**4. Observers:**

Scott Harding (Umbrella Entertainment),  
Megan Finlayson Crowlands film society)  
Paul Bywater (Hobart Film Society),  
Peter Gillard (Launceston Film Society)  
Jenny Powell.

**5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the special meeting of 20 Dec 2010**

Not discussed

**6. Confirmation of Minutes of 2010 Annual Council Meeting**

Moved Michael Lines-Kelly, Sec B Powell. Passed.

**7. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There was some concern that the minutes had not been distributed to all delegates.

**8. Correspondence**

None.

**9. ACOFS President's report**

**Report attached.**

The executive took on board the comments from the AGM that ACOFS needs to be reinvigorated.

The Executive had a couple of face-to-face meetings in the year and all contributed to the rewrite of the constitution.

Michael and Bryan had a meeting in Sydney with the President of IFFS, Paolo Minuto, and an agreement was reached that DVDs from the Italian Film Festival would be made available to Australian societies.

A partnership has been set up with Newtown Flicks, an independent distributor in Sydney who has several Australian features for which no distribution could be organised.

All screening rights are now out of date, and there is room to move with the agreements and a new agreement could be made which is more acceptable to both sides.

ACOFS renewed our relationship with NZ federation. There is a possibility of setting up a new subgroup in IFFS covering Malaysia, NZ and Australia.

ACOFS had a meeting with NTLC in June and there seems to be an opportunity to work even closer with them.

The president wished to thank Eric Dixon as secretary and webmaster, M Lines Kelly and P Sofilas.

Also Mark Horner and the Launceston FS for the conference in Launceston.

The work ahead of ACOFS is to develop the new subgroup in IFFS further, talk to distributors further, to Govt about funding given that most Govts around the world regard film as art, set up a part time secretariat, promote film societies through social networks, offering first year free.

There are opportunities for partnerships with telecentres in WA. A smart card is being considered for all members. Follow up Italian films and Newtown Flicks.

Therefore everyone should vote for the new constitution.

**10. Matters arising out of President's report**

None.

## 11. Treasurer's Report

Presented by Mark Horner, Treasurer, as circulated

Started with \$6374 in the cheque book to which \$523,89 interest was added. Expenses were payment of IFFS full membership (\$413.84), travel to 3 meetings in Melb in June, Sept and Dec, plus expenses for the Launceston conference.

Now, as at 15 April 2011, we have \$2755.80 in the cheque account plus a term deposit of \$16,000 and \$5000 special fund for insurance.

## 12. Matters arising from the Treasurer's report

Ian Davidson noted that the Report submitted was incomplete as it did not cover the required 12 month period Jan1 to Dec 31 and can therefore not be accepted as a full annual report for ACOFS. It was agreed by the Meeting to accept Mark Horner's report as an **interim** financial report, acknowledging that an updated report for the whole year would need to be completed and then the Annual report prepared. Mark Horner undertook to see this would be done within a reasonable time.

There has been no independent audit of the accounts.

It was moved by the treasurer that the interim financial report as presented be accepted noting that a further report is to be prepared covering the missing period and a full annual financial report is also to be prepared. Moved M Horner, Passed. **ACTION: M Horner.**

## 13. Reports presented from each state Federation - see tabled reports.

### On behalf of New South Wales: Michael O'Rourke

Although NSW has lost many societies it has also gained some, so now sits at 43 societies. There has been difficulty in relying too much on the few individuals at federation. The DVD rights scheme has been working well and there has been positive feedback from societies and the distributors. Beris has been a very valuable member of the federation but has since resigned. At the NSW Federation AGM it was agreed that further development of the CCA proposals might be worthwhile. Michael acknowledged support from the Victorian Federation. They are considering using the Italian DVDs as an attraction when visiting new towns to promote the advantages of setting up a new film society.

### On behalf of Victoria: Ian Davidson Circulated.

The FVFS is very healthy with 67 member groups of which 11 joined in 2010. We have two Community Cinemas and 3 Community film festivals as members at the moment. It is not always clear why societies fall by the wayside – perhaps we should do some research. Two big reasons quoted for joining the FVFS are the DVD rights and PL insurance. The DVD rights scheme is well used, with 228 DVD rights being requested worth \$12,500 to the distributors. Even so some feedback shows there is still need for education on responsibilities and on how to use the DVD rights process. The information on the website has been invaluable and has minimised the need for person-to-person discussions. We hope to improve communication between groups, support SA better and enhance the DVD rights schemes.

### On behalf of Western Australia: Paul Sofilas

Several organisations in WA show films or enquire about joining WAFFS but very few end up joining.

One possibility to follow up is co-operation with CRCs throughout WA.

The box scheme does not operate any more because the SFC that was the key to controlling the films in WA is no longer operating. Thanks also to FVFS for fielding lots of queries about starting film societies – even from WA.

### **On behalf of Tasmania: Mark Horner**

TFOFS meets once per year at the AGM. Film societies in Tasmania are going strength to strength. Launceston has 1400 members. Hobart has 300. There are some 35mm, 16mm and DVD societies screening in cinemas, RSLs, council halls etc.

### **14. Matters arising from federation reports**

Nil

### **15. Report on International Federation of Film Societies**

Presented by **Michael O'Rourke, ACOFS**

IFFS very keen to involve federations from outside Europe. Australia and NZ were represented at the recent meeting in Brazil. There is a possibility of a new sub-group in Australasia, including Malaysia, Australia and NZ. Membership price has now been reduced to \$100 Euro to attract more members.

Many film makers are involved in film societies in Brazil leading to more opportunities for access to films.

Cinesud is an organisation that is happy to distribute low budget films with minimal rights to all countries, which may be worth following up.

A film from Rome "The Mob" is available to ACOFS societies to screen for 40 Euro. It was shown at the Italian Film Festival. Michael can get the flyers.

Global Film Initiative and Film Movement are companies in America that distribute DVDs that are otherwise unavailable.

There are large number of children's Cine clubs represented in IFFS. There are 70 in Denmark alone.

### **16 Matters arising from IFFS Report**

None.

### **17. Motion presented and voted upon:**

*Motion: That in accordance with a resolution of the Council made on 20th December 2010, the whole of the Constitution be altered by adopting recommendations made to this meeting by the Executive.*

Moved Michael Lines-Kelly, seconded Brett Powell.

M Lines-Kelly spoke FOR the motion.

At last AGM, it was agreed the ACOFS needed re-invention.

Difficulties with the organisation and representation. ACOFS now includes 4 federations purporting to represent all societies. There have been many changes - Social, technological, Govt funding is more available, and this has had a big impact on societies.

The pool of talent – people with experience – is shrinking. With ACOFS there are many more people here today than at previous meetings and that is good, but unless they are prepared to participate there is no point.

ACOFS needs succession planning

These are the three main drivers behind the new draft.

The draft was distributed, some suggestions received, it was modified, and suggestions incorporated. A third draft was sent out and a special meeting held in December at which the proposal was adopted and the exec charged with getting a final draft to present today.

Following that meeting, because there was not unanimous support, a working party was set up to close the gaps between opposing points of view. Recommendations were incorporated and circulated on the 24th Feb for adoption at this AGM. It is complicated as it needs to embrace incorporation needs as well as that of the new CCA.

Major points are:

1. The traditional method of screening films has changed forever because of technology. But that change has been part of other changes – availability of funding, resources, halls, community centres. They are there for the community for things like access to film. They don't need to bother with complicated packages of film. DVDs are easier. The definition of film society is very precise and does not allow ACOFS to include newer type organisations that wish to show films. So we need to look outside the definition to include other organisations. That is why we chose CCA because it is looking at the wider community of non-profit cinema
2. Ageing administrative personnel. We need succession planning. All federations exist on the shoulders of a few people. Who will they hand on to? Currently several tiers exist in the film society movement. Need to have fewer tiers such as RACV, RACQ, who have members and board – no intermediate structures. When you set up a communication structure to allow communication from top to bottom you immediately involve the bottom layer. They can all then be informed as to what is happening at ACOFS and international level. Then you have a better chance to get more grass roots people involved.

A constitution needs to be a work in progress – reflects needs of members and needs to be able to change. It is not set in concrete. It needs to be changed over time. And that is the difficulty the executive faced. They put up a proposal and sought a genuine consultative process.

I Davidson spoke AGAINST

It all happened too quickly with newer drafts overlapping older drafts before all comments were received. There is a major issue of process here. Even the paper tabled is still a draft. And it is quite inappropriate to accept a draft for adoption at this AGM.

The FVFS will not support it for a number of reasons which there is no time to expand now.

The correct process for change was not followed – deadlines for change, as required by the current constitution, were not met.

Proposals are a complete replacement, not an alteration or amendment. It is a misleading understatement to call this an amendment.

15 major problems still exist in the proposal from the definition through to membership and how to vote. So it is impossible to accept this as a final constitution as being proposed.

It is far too complex for most film societies committees to understand.

Not one of the responses from societies in the FVFS were in favour of the new constitution.

FVFS has formally voted to reject the proposal. Also if it is passed, the FVFS would feel that it cannot participate further in the work of ACOFS.

We have already embraced Community Cinemas at FVFS without a change to the constitution.

ACOFS discussed this last year and agreed that also could be accommodated without a major change to the constitution.

In the FVFS we have been directing ReelNews at members of film societies for years and now decided it is fruitless. Members join societies to see and discuss films. They are not interested in ACOFS and even less what is happening at IFFS.

Best to make use of and support natural progression from film society members to committee to state federation to ACOFS. A step process, gaining knowledge and experience at each step. Expecting members to launch directly from film society member to ACOFS executive is asking too much. It works best to grow from the ground up.

Michael O'Rourke.

Would hate to see a split in the ACOFS and Film Society movement. Michael Lines Kelly and Ian Davidson are both very important in ACOFS. So lets not break what we have.

At the NSW AGM, we have trouble getting people on board to do the work so support the idea of a two tier system, but unable to get interest at QLD, ACT and NT level. James Sandry of ACT likes the idea of direct input into ACOFS rather than through the NSW FVFS.

Andrew Watkins spoke – AGAINST the motion.

There was originally interest at his film society (Croydon) but then bafflement - because it is not clear what is really being proposed - then disappointment.

Revitalisation is not an outcome of these proposals.

None of these proposals meet any of the identified needs or issues identified earlier.

The structure really disenfranchises all societies and federations. "I believe these proposals go nowhere".

Paul Sofilas was at the ACOFS meeting in December and sees no real benefits for WA, so will not be supporting the motion.

Tom Busby pointed out that he had given some feedback. 10 of the Tasmanian societies did not wish to change the constitution. He had written to the President, but still has not had a response and it was not commented on at the ACOFS special meeting. The first draft of the proposal was terrifying - then there were three more amendments, none of which seemed to solve the problems.

Tasmania does not support the proposal.

Michael LK. The exercise has been in good faith. It is a complex exercise and will take time. In the future any change cannot be approved until the next AGM, so do we really want to wait that long?

The motion was put and through a show of hands the following outcome was recorded.

#### **FOR**

1. NSW: Michael O'Rourke
2. NSW: Michael Lines-Kelly
3. NSW: Bryan Putt
4. NSW: Eric Dixon
5. NSW: Brett Powell

#### **AGAINST**

1. Victoria: Prodos
2. Victoria: Ian Davidson
3. Victoria: John Turner
4. Victoria: Susan Davidson
5. Victoria: Anna Blainey Warner
6. Victoria: Andrew Watkins
7. Victoria: Suzanne Nunn
8. Victoria: Barboo Marinakis
9. Western Australia: Paul Sofilas
10. Tasmania: Thomas Busby
11. Tasmania: Jim Mansbridge

#### **ABSTAINED**

1. Tasmania: Mark Horner

So the motion was defeated.

## **18. General Business**

### **18.1 Insurance.**

At the Melbourne AGM (2009) it was explained that the insurance company for the "Film loss and damage insurance" set a \$750 excess on all claims, so it was decided that ACOFS would pay the first \$650 and the societies \$100. In York (2010 AGM) it was decided that ACOFS should self insure.

It is noted that there are fewer 35mm and 16mm film societies, so the risk is lower.

Issues to consider:

Is ACOFS going to continue to self insure?

What are the real costs of replacing films, DVDs etc.

Are DVDs covered?

Policy needs to decide exactly what is covered. However it is something that 2-3 experts should research and make a recommendation to executive. **ACTION Executive.**

One question was asked at the AGM. "Should a DVD society pay the same as a 35mm society?"  
Not resolved.

## **18.2 Incorporation.**

Should ACOFS be incorporated? If not incorporated, each and every ACOFS member (delegate) is liable for any loss. There was general agreement that ACOFS should incorporate.

ACOFS should be looking at public liability insurance for all societies.

FVFS offered, at the last ACOFS AGM, to cover public liability insurance for all participating film societies for \$300 - \$600 depending on size.

At the last 2 AGMs, the offer was made for every federation to notify Ian Davidson FVFS of every society that wants to be covered by the FVFS policy for up to \$10Million. There has been no indication of any interest. The offer is repeated at Launceston. All Federations are to provide names and details of all film societies interested in getting a detailed quote for PL insurance through FVFS. **ACTION All federations.**

Exec to look at PL insurance and general insurance for societies. **ACTION Executive.**

It is proposed that ACOFS exec looks at the position with regard to incorporation, PL and Insurance and report back to council within 3 months. Moved: Michael LK. Sec. Suzanne Nunn. Passed. **ACTION Executive.**

## **18.3 Italian Films on DVDs.**

The Italian Institute in Sydney has offered to copy the Italian DVDs on offer and supply to ACOFS for use by societies free of charge.

M O'Rourke to ask to arrange to extend the loans into 2012. **ACTION M O'Rourke.**

Italian Institute has a large library in Sydney which may also be available in due course. M O'Rourke to enquire. **ACTION M O'Rourke.**

To be distributed through Suzanne Nunn (ACOFS)

## **19. Election of Executive Committee (taken out of order)**

The meeting agreed that the positions to be decided are the usual office positions plus as many committee positions as there are nominations.

### **Nominations and outcomes:**

President: Only one nomination, so Ian Davidson (Victoria) was duly elected.

Vice President: Anna Blainey Warner (Victoria) withdrew, so Mark Horner (Tasmania) being the only nomination was duly elected.

Secretary: Only one nomination so Prodos Marinakis (Victoria) was duly elected.

Treasurer: Nominations were from John Turner (Victoria) and Mark Horner (Tasmania). However as Mark Horner had already been elected as VP, John Turner was duly elected as Treasurer.

Committee: Nominations from Susan Davidson (Victoria), Barboo Marinakis (Victoria), Sue Nunn (Victoria), Andrew Watkins (Victoria), Tom Busby (Tasmania). All were accepted as committee without election.

The incoming president, Ian Davidson thanked the outgoing president and executive, for making us think what we are about and where we are going. Several important issues have been raised, who we are, why we are, where we are going, and how are we going to do it. A reflection of that is that we now have a larger executive that we have had for many years and we can expect many things to start happening.

## **20. 2012 Annual Council Meeting and conference date and venue**

To be in Canberra in 2012, possibly in April, subject to suitable arrangements being made by the NSW federation.

There are several advantages with Canberra as it is close to the NTLC – a key provider of material for film societies.

### **ACTION NSW Federation.**

## **21. Thanks and closure**

B Putt thanked Launceston Film society for the venue.

Meeting closed: 12:24

## **AFTERNOON CONVENTION**

### **Presenters:**

1. Dorothy Jenkins, "Film Societies as Educators"
2. Michael O'Rourke. "The International Film Federation and General Assembly, Brazil Dec 2010.
3. Mark Horner, "The Tasmanian Film Society Scene".
4. Owen Tilbury, "The breath of Fresh Air Festival".
5. Peter Gillard, "Launceston Film Society".
6. David Stratton and Margaret Pomeranz, "Margaret and David Offscreen".
7. David's choice of film. "Love Affair, or the Case of the Missing Switchboard Operator", 1967.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Contacts and addresses
- B. ACOFS President's report
- C. NSW Federation report
- D. VIC Federation report
- E. WA Federation report
- F. Tasmania Federation report
- G. Report from IFFS
- H. Interim Financial Report

## ATTACHMENT A – ACOFS Contacts

### Delegates Representing Victoria:

Ian Davidson ACOFS President (Whitehorse Film Society)	17 Bruce St Mitcham Victoria 3132	Ph: 03 9874 5270 Mo: 0418 987 452 ian.davidson@netlink.com.au
Susan Davidson ACOFS Committee (Whitehorse Film Society)	17 Bruce St Mitcham Victoria 3132	Ph: 03 9874 5270 sm24orr@hotmail.com
Barboo Marinakis ACOFS Committee (Smart Girls Film Club)	153 Lennox Street Richmond Victoria 3121	Ph: 03 9428 1213 SmartGirls@FilmClub.org.au
Prodos Marinakis ACOFS Secretary (PRODOS Film Study Group)	PO Box 2165 Richmond South Victoria 3121	Ph: 03 9428 1234 prodos@prodos.com
Suzanne Nunn ACOFS Committee (Ballarat Film Society and Buninyong Film Festival)	609 Learmonth St Buninyong Victoria 3357	Ph: 03 5341 2266 sjnunn@ncable.net.au
John Turner ACOFS Treasurer (International Film Group)	20 Craithie Ave Park Orchards Victoria 3114	Ph: 03 9876 1128 johnturner10@bigpond.com
Anna Blainey Warner (PRODOS Film Study Group)	PO Box 2165 Richmond Sth Vic 3121	0403 933 786 abla@annablainey.com
Andrew Watkins ACOFS Committee (Croydon Film Society)	116 Dorset Road Croydon Victoria 3136	Ph: 03 9725 5216 saltarello@optusnet.com.au

### Delegates Representing NSW & Queensland:

Eric Dixon (Black Flat Community Film Society, Victoria)	PO Box 1306 Glen Waverley Vic 3150	0430 134 273 ericwdixon@hotmail.com
Michael Lines-Kelly (Left Bank Film Society)	PO Box 468 Mullumbimby NSW 2482	02 6684 3405 Michael.lk@hotmail.net.au
Michael O'Rourke (Workshop Film Group)	35 Croydon St Petersham NSW 2049	02 9564 5258 himself@ozemail.com.au
Brett Powell (Crowlands Film Society, Victoria)	18 Weber Cres E Burwood Vic 3151	03 9803 3003 brett_powell@netlink.com.au
Bryan Putt (Crowlands Film Society, Victoria)	PO Box 5130 Burnley Vic 3121	0407 348 563 meganbryan@bigpond.com

### Delegates Representing Tasmania:

Tom Busby ACOFS Committee (Break O'Day Film Society)	P O Box 31 St Helens Tasmania 7216	Ph: 03 6376 1970 busbytom@gmail.com
Mark Horner ACOFS Committee (Launceston Film Society)	PO Box 60 Launceston Tasmania 7250	Ph: 03 6334 8505 markeymark@live.com.au
Jim Mansbridge (Hobart Film Society)	21 Petty St West Hobart Tas 7000	03 6231 3581 jimmansbridge@yahoo.com.au

### Delegates Representing WA:

Paul Sofilas Augusta Film Society)	C/o 4 Watson Av Augusta WA 6290	0419 940 066 oceans2meet@hotmail.com
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