ACOFS Bulletin

Australian Council of Film Societies

NUMBER 38

SEPTEMBER 2014

This Bulletin has been compiled and edited by Ian Davidson, (ACOFS President) president@acofs.org.au

This Issue contains information important to your president, secretary, treasurer and programmers, so please pass it on to all your committee people - including those not on email.

And please ensure it does not get caught up in spam filters!

In this issue:

- 1. From the President
- 2. ACOFS Indie Films From Asia
- 3. Duration of Copyright
- 4. News from the SLC at the NFSA
- 5. DVD Competition Winners
- 6. A New DVD Competition from Umbrella
- 7. The ACOFS DVD Rights Agreement
- 8. News From the DVD Distributors
- 9. New DVDs from the SLC at the NFSA
- 10. From the MIFF
- 11. 16mm Short Films to Borrow
- 12. Short Film Festival
- 13. NFSA online Exhibition Priscilla

1. From the President

A further thought about the technology of screening DVDs.

In 2007 the FVFS (Victoria) put together a number of DVD projector packages to make it easier for the more adventurous film societies to move into DVD screenings. These packages included two DVD players, a digital projector, stereo amp, 2 speakers and assorted cabling and changeover switches.

At the time, we chose to base the video switching and cabling on the then superior SVideo signal and the audio connection was made using stereo analogue audio, although the more adventurous societies employed a co-ax digital connection for 5 channel surround sound. A small video monitor (often sold as a car video screen) made use of the A-V output from the DVD players through a separate "monitor" switch.

Now, S-Video does not exist on any new equipment, and very few offer A-V plus Digital Co-ax as well as HDMI. It is even becoming difficult to find simple DVD players as all new

equipment is BluRay, in some cases with HDMI as the only output connection! I believe DVD players are disappearing because BluRay players can also play DVDs – but I have found them more sensitive to fingerprints and small scratches.

And whatever became of the optical digital audio connection? Was that another bright idea that has been shelved? Another flash in the pan? - (Sorry about the puns!)

The implication is that every time we need to replace a player, or any part of the projector package, we need to re-design the whole lot to take into account the new technology – or at least allow for the loss of the old!

Maybe I am old fashioned – or just getting too old to keep up with this constant need to redesign our setup just to keep up with the market!

Whatever will be next? I just can't wait! (Ian Davidson)

2. ACOFS Indie Films from Asia

In the last ACOFS Bulletin we announced the forthcoming arrival of several Indie (Independent) films from Asia for use by member film societies. I am pleased to announce they are here and available for film societies to borrow. They are being distributed on behalf of ACOFS by the FVFS, through their Indie Library for just a minimal fee of \$10.

The films are:

FLIGHT OF AN ANGEL

Philippines, 2011, 94 mins, Drama, (not rated)

Dir: Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.

FVFS panel voted 3.5 (out of 5).

Flight of an Angel (Paglipad ng Anghe) explores the story of Gabby, a young accountant in a television network, who leads an uneventful, if not boring, life. He wakes up to a regular day, does his routine, until on his way to work he sees an old beggar asking for help. He helps the old, sickly lady and brings her to a hospice where the nuns take care of the old and dying. After this act of charity, he starts noticing feathers growing on his back. As the feathers grow into full wings and complicate his life, he starts to face the consequences of being an "angel".



FLOWER IN THE POCKET

Malaysia, 2007, 97 min, Drama/Comedy. 4×3 ratio. (Not rated) Dir Liew Seng Tat

Nominated for 8 awards. Won 5.

IMDb Rating 6.3

FVFS panel voted 2.8 stars (out of 5)

Director Liew Seng Tat creates a captivating but meandering film about two young boys who are growing up without a mother and without much attention from their father, who spends all his time at work fixing broken mannequins.



IT GETS BETTER

Thailand, 2012, 99 mins, Drama, (Not rated)

Dir: Tanwarin Sukkhapisit

FVFS panel voted 3.5 stars (Out of 5)

IMDb score 7.6.

At first sight this film comes across as four separate stories about four separate people – four unrelated stories about



men questioning their gender or living a transgender life. However, all is not as it at first appears. Into this mix comes Tonmai (Phanuphong Waraeksiri), a young man returning from America to attend to his father's affairs on the occasion of his untimely death. The father owned and operated a successful nightclub (The Fountain) in the city.

PEPOT ARTISTA

Phillipines, 2005, 103 min, Comedy/Music, 4×3 ratio, (Not Rated).

Dir: Clodualdo del Mundo Jr

IMDb score 7.0

FVFS panel vote = 3.4 (out of 5)

Nominated for 10 Awards - won 4

Pepot Artista is a comedy-musical that focuses on a ten-yearold boy whose dream is to become a movie star. Pepot, the dreamer, is surrounded by people who are equally dazzled by the movie world – from his own mother to the principal in his school to the impersonators in the neighbourhood carnival.

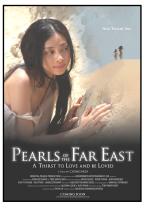
See <u>www.fvfs.org.au/indie-films</u> for more information on these titles.



The FVFS has several other films in their Indie Library which they are prepared to make available to member societies in other states, as follows:

- BLUE LIES. Australia, 2008, 80min. M Drama (M). Written and directed by Gerald Lawson. Lawson's second feature. Borrow the DVD from the FVFS for free or purchase from the director for \$15. Then pay through the FVFS \$35 for screening rights.
- CRUSHED. Australia, 2008, 90 Min, PG, Drama. Free loan from the FVFS, and pay the FVFS \$20 for screening rights. Or purchase from the director for \$25 (including screening rights).
- 3. DAY IN A LIFE, A. Canada, 2000, 94 mins, No rating. Borrow for free from the FVFS library and pay the FVFS \$35 for screening rights. Or purchase a copy on line, including screening rights for \$79.95.
- 4. FOUR OF A KIND. Australia 2009, 115min, Drama, M. Free loan from the FVFS or purchase from Antidote for \$15. Then pay the FVFS \$35 for screening rights. Or purchase the DVD with included rights from Antidote for \$49.95.
- LITTLE LIES. Australia. 90 mins. PG, Comedy/Crime. Lawson's first feature. Borrow the DVD from the FVFS for free or purchase from the director for \$15. Then pay through the FVFS \$35 for screening rights.
- McLEAN'S MONEY. Australia, 2013, 97 min, Comedy/Drama. Lawson's latest and best feature. Free loan from the FVFS or purchase from the director for \$15. Pay the FVFS \$35 for screening rights.
- 7. PEARLS OF THE FAR EAST. Free loan and rights through the FVFS for \$55. Further information is in past ACOFS Bulletins and on the FVFS website.
- 8. SITA SINGS THE BLUES. USA. 2008. 89 mins. Animated. Not rated. Dir: Nina Paley. Borrow the DVD from the FVFS and pay the FVFS \$10 for screening rights and handling.





- 9. SONGS THEY SANG, THE. Australia. 2011, 94 min. Doco. Not Rated, Directed by Rohan Spong. Borrow the DVD from the FVFS and pay the FVFS \$10 for screening rights and handling.
- 10. WHAT I HAVE WRITTEN. Australia. 1996. 96 mins. Drama/Mystery. Directed by John Hughes. Borrow the DVD from the FVFS and pay only \$10 to cover handling costs and screening rights fee.

More details on all these DVDs can be found on www.fvfs.org.au in the Indie library section.

3. Duration of Copyright

The question of duration of copyright is a mystery to many of our members, so here is an extract of an email forwarded to us from a major DVD distributor in Australia. It was drafted by their legal counsel and sent to another customer with relation to copyright and the public domain.

"the suggestion that "copyright on most movies is extinguished after 50 years and thus, it is not bound by copyright legislation" is wrong.

The general rule is that copyright in cinematograph films made on or after 1 May 1969 subsists for **70 years after the end of the calendar year of first publication**. Films made before 1 May 1969 are often still protected by copyright as a 'dramatic work' for the duration of the author's life plus 70 years (if the author of the work died after 1 January 1955). Many classic films fall within this category as their authors (eg directors) died after 1 January 1955 and are therefore still protected by copyright. For example a film such as CASABLANCA which was first released in 1942 was directed by Michael Curtiz who died in 1962, hence we consider that the copyright in this film as a dramatic work will still subsist until 2032."

4. News from the SLC at the NFSA

There has been a small price rise in June 2014 (to match CPI). NFSA are keen to cover their costs and overheads in an environment where existing funds have to go further every year. The new prices are:-

DVD, BluRay and Video - \$22

Black Screen DVD (Short compilations) – Free

16mm features (Over 60 mins) - \$44

16mm shorts (under 60 mins) - \$22

16mm shorts (11 or less) with a feature on the same date - \$11

16mm shorts packages (up to 8 shorts totalling 90 mins or less) - \$88

There are many other assorted charges for other services – See

http://www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/screening-loans/fees/

As you may recall, the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA) would like to canvas your views on the Screen Lending Collection. This is to help them better determine the way forward for the service.

Attached please find a link to the online survey - please feel very free to pass this other people in your organisation, or further afield, for their feedback too.

You will note that they have included a request for your name and email address to allow them to possibly contact you in the future about the service - this is completely optional.

Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/368VLR9

The survey will close on **Wednesday September 10, 2014**.

After July 2015 borrowers may need to negotiate rights separately from arranging to borrow the film or DVD. This will be the case more and more often as rights expire. Any bookings made prior to June 2015 will be honoured however.

ACOFS and member film societies will continue to be consulted as plans become clearer, but we do strongly urge everyone to respond fully to the survey from NFSA.

5. DVD Competition - Winners

Congratulations to Bev Bowie of Alpine Film Society, Victoria, who won the DVD of *I Love You Too*. There is another competition below.

ACOFS also held a competition in July (in between Bulletins). The prizes were in-season passes to see Fred Schepisi's new film *Words and Pictures*. The winners were:-

John Duraz and Imelda Carson, Barossa Film Club, SA.

Wendy Blake, Alpine Film Society, Victoria.

Bill Biscoe, Barossa Film Club, SA.

Jonathan Cecil, Moving Clickers, Victoria.

Allen and Berice Jones, Portland Film Society, Victoria.

Thank you Umbrella Entertainment for these in-season passes.

6. New Competition – Win a DVD Pack from Umbrella

Umbrella is happy to offer 2 x prize packs (consisting of *Rats of Tobruk*, *Forty Thousand Horsemen* and *Sons of Matthew*)- Offer valid for film societies conducting screenings of any of the Umbrella war titles for the month of September / October / November. Please contact Achala Datar- theatrical@umbrellaent.com.au for bookings.

7. The ACOFS DVD Rights Agreement

The DVD rights agreement Fact Sheet 3B is constantly being updated as new distributors come to our notice or existing ones change their contact details. Download one today to keep up to date. www.acofs.org.au/resources/. There have been some changes to the contacts. The latest version was uploaded on 25rd August 2014.

The ACOFS agreement applies only to societies that screen DVDs non-theatrically (ie to members only) and only where the society sources their own copy of the DVD. The agreement does not cover supply of the DVD from the distributor, although the society may make their own arrangements in this regard.

The ACOFS agreement does not apply to 16mm, 35mm or 2K digital screenings.

8. News From the DVD Distributors

These DVD distributors are party to the ACOFS DVD rights agreement, under which member film societies pay special affordable prices for their DVD screening rights. As ACOFS' part of the agreement, we promote the distributor's catalogues and especially information on any new acquisitions.

For contact details and websites see ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B on www.acofs.org.au (Updated regularly).

Roadshow

(Chrystal Remington)

Roadshow charge for their DVD rights on the basis of average audience, so if you have not registered your membership size with your State Federation you may be charged DVD rights at the highest rate!

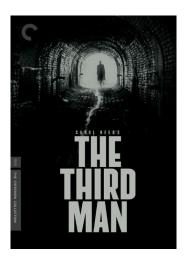
Roadshow now includes many titles from Studiocanal, who have recently acquired Hoyts Distribution.

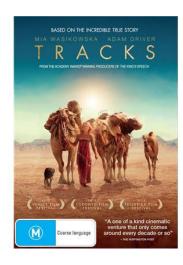
Studiocanal has a huge back catalogue of titles such as:

This is Spinal Tap,
Deer Hunter,
Apocalypse Now,
Colditz Story,
Death on the Nile,
Tales of Beatrix Potter,
Third Man,
Wicker Man (1974),
And many more

Coming Soon to Roadshow:

12 Years A Slave Barefoot Blue Is The Warmest Color Camille Claudel 1915 Great Beauty, The Labor Day Last Vegas Week-End. Le Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom Nebraska Nymphomaniac Volumes I & Ii (Lars Von Trier) Out Of The Furnace **Tasting Menu** Tracks All Is Lost Dallas Buyers Club Divergent Gloria Grand Budapest Hotel Invisible Woman, The Monuments Men, The Noah Selfish Giant, The Wadida





Madman

(Susan Davidson ACOFS) dvdrights@acofs.org.au

Since 2011 ACOFS has been handling the member film society bookings for Madman DVD screening rights on their behalf, and Susan Davidson is the contact at ACOFS. But please remember Susan does have a life outside the film society movement and would appreciate sufficient notice to be able to confirm your booking in plenty of time.

The most popular titles booked from Madman recently by film societies were:-

Beyond the Hills Hunt, The Kid With a Bike, The Lunchbox, The Sarah's Key Searching for Sugar Man

Recent Acquisitions at Madman include:

Adult World Band Called Death, A



Battle Of The Sexes, The

Beyond Outrage

Blackfish

Blood Ties

Blue Exorcist: The Movie

Blue Ruin Cheap Thrills Cupcakes

Cutie And The Boxer

Dirty War Enemy

Fly Me To The Moon Garden Of Words, The

Generation Iron Gilded Cage, The

Hentai Kamen

Hijacking, A

Homeland

How I Live Now

How To Make Money Selling Drugs

It Boy

Jappeloup

London The Modern Babylon

Mademoiselle C

Mistaken For Strangers

Muscle Shoals

Naruto Shippuden Movie 5: Blood Prison

Next Goal Wins

Oh Boy

On The Job

Past, The

Protector 2, The

Real

Short Term 12

Station, The

Stories We Tell

Stranger By The Lake

Sunlight Jr.

Third Half, The

Tiger Eves

Trials Of Muhammad Ali, The

Turning, The

Uncharted Waters

We and The I, The

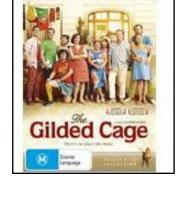
Weekend Of A Champion

What Richard Did

Which Way Is The Front Line From Here?

White Elephant

Wrath Of Vajra, The







Note that Madman does not hold non-theatrical screening rights for all titles on their website. Some titles might only have commercial rights while other titles are being sold by Madman on behalf of other smaller distributors. So always check apparent Madman titles with dvdrights@acofs.org.au and give plenty of notice!

Ronin Films

(Andrew Pike)

Allies, 1983, 95 min. PG

Arnav at Six, 28 mins.

Birdman: The Art of William T Cooper

Horses of Fukushima, 2013, 74 mins. PG

Land Between, The, 77 mins.

Redfern Story, The, 2014, 57 mins.

Tagged, 2006, 59 mins

Tender, 2014, 73 mins.

Under the Palace Wall, 53 mins.

Waiting for Harry, 1982, 56 min.

Yorky Billy, 1980, 17 mins.

See www.roninfilms.com.au for details and purchase prices.



(Naomi Kume)

Hollywood Gold – Moulin Rouge

Hollywood Gold - Niagara

Hollywood Gold – Notorious

Cinema Cult – Braindead

Cinema Cult - Society

Cinema Cult – Spider Baby

Elton John – Million Dollar Piano

Peter Gabriel – Back to Front





Aztec International Entertainment

(Nicki Jackson)

Stella Days, 2011, USA, 100 mins. Drama, Dir by Thaddeus O'Sullivan.

The Exam, 2011, Hungary, 89 mins, Thriller Drama. Dir. By Istvan Bodzsar.

Umbrella Entertainment

(Achata Datar)

Current Specials

Autoluminscent

Back Of Beyond

Between Wars

Chabrol Collection, The

Festen

For Valour

Forty Thousand Horsemen

Highest Honour

Jean de Florette

Kapyong

Man who will come

Mango Tree

Manon de Sources

Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence

Rats of Tobruk

Revealing Gallipoli

Sons of Matthew

Suspiria

Thousand skies

And many more...



Coming Soon from Umbrella

Crossing, The Last Impresario, The Stag, The Texas Chainsaw Massacre Words and Pictures

Keep an eye on the Umbrella website <u>www.umbrellaent.com.au</u> because they regularly have **DVD sales** of titles that may be of interest to film societies and film buffs.

For example, on August 20th ACOFS was advised of a sale of 80's classic titles for just \$5 each, such as *Fitzcarraldo, Winter of our Dreams* and *Road Games*.

Also, Elvis Presley, Neil Young, David Bowie, Frank Zappa & Leonard Cohen are some of many music DVDs now on sale at Umbrella for as little as \$5 each.

Subscribe to the Umbrella newsletter on their website for all the latest bargains.

Rialto Distribution

(Hayley Weston) Or book the rights through Roadshow.

All Cheerleaders die

Author's Anonymous

Bad Johnson

Beyond the Edge

California Scheming

Dragon Fighter

Ernest & Celestine (US Version)

Face of Love. The

Inevitable Defeat of Miser and Pete, The

Knights of Badassdom

Like Father, Like Son

Lords of London

Manipulation

Ray

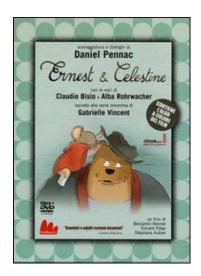
Second Chance, A

Selfish Giant. The

Torment

Two Lives

Venus in Fur



Amalgamated Movies

(Steven Snell) Can also ship if a copy if required.

Battle of the Sexes (PG)

Battle of the Year

Berserk: The Golden Age AR III - The Advent

Blood Ties (MA)

Blue Ruin (MA)

Enemy (MA)

Heaven is for Real

Hentai Kamen (M)

Her (MA)

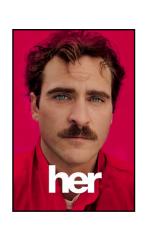
Jappeloup (PG)

Kill Your Darlings

Next Goal Wins (M)

Past, The (M)

Tiger Eyes (M)



Titan View

(James Hicks)

10 Terrorists

11 Eleven project

33 Postcards

Bathing Franky

Black and White Sex

Blind Company

Centre Place

Codgers

Gossip nation

Graphic Novels! Melbourne

I am a Girl

iSOLATE

Jammed, The

Johnny Ghost

Maclean's Money

Men's Group

Miss Nicki and the Tiger Girls

Mother Fish

Rise of the Eco Warriors

The Sunset Six

This is Roller Derby

Three Blind Mice





Sharmill Films

(Katherine Thornton) In Search of Chopin Force Majeure Winter Sleep

9. New DVDs from the SLC at the NFSA

The SLC (Screen Lending Collection) is part of the NFSA (National Film and Sound Archive) in Canberra. There are over 1,024 DVD and BluRay feature films available for loan to film societies at \$22 (as at Aug 2014 - including rights and delivery to you). See their catalogue at loans.nfsa.gov.au

The following have been added in the last 90 days, and are available for screening.

Adam's Woman, 1970

American Friend, The

Divided Heaven, The (BR)

Five Cartridges

Goya (BR

Hey, Hey, It's Esther Blueburger

Lissy (BR)

Naked Among Wolves

No Worries

Oh Boy

Shadows of the Peacock

Shiralee, The

Solo Sunny (BR)

State of Things, The

Sterne = Stars (BR)

Suspicion, The





Note: You can search the SLC database yourself at http://loans.nfsa.gov.au/htbin/wwform/076/wwk770

You can search for a specific title, or search by year, acquisition date, country or origin etc., but remember that not all titles are necessarily available to film societies. Make sure you mark "titles licensed for screening" when searching. One quick and easy tool is the "Quick search list" which includes pre-defined searches such as:-

"All titles - All formats - Licensed for screening"

"DVD and Blu-ray titles licensed for screening"

"DVD and Blu-ray feature films licensed for screening".

10. From the MIFF

John Turner of International Film Group has just spent several weeks at the Melbourne International Film Festival, and has some recommendations on the feature films to see if and when released. John "only" managed to see about 40 features at MIFF, but of those he recommends the following:-

4 ½ stars

Timbuktu

The Salt of the Earth

Macondo

Honeymoon

Jimmy's Hall

4 stars

Two Days, One Night

Blind Date

National Gallery

400 Blows (Retrospective)

3 1/2 stars

Trap Street

The Grandmaster

Black Coal, Thin Ice

Queen and Country

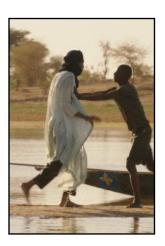
Touki Bouki

Black Diamonds

The Hope Factory

Amour Fou

Wish I Was Here.



The latest Information from the MIFF is that the top "people's choice" films are as follows:-

Miff 2014 Top 10 Feature Films

- 1 Boyhood
- 2 Obvious Child
- 3 Housebound
- 4 Mommy
- 5 What We Do In The Shadows
- 6 Fantail
- 7 Starred Up
- 8 In Order Of Disappearance
- 9 Sorcerer
- 10 The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya

Miff 2014 Top 10 Documentaries

- 1 Jalanan
- 2 Keep On Keepin On
- 3 Virunga
- 4 The Salt Of The Earth
- 5 German Concentration Camps Factual Survey
- 6 The Case Against 8
- 7 Dior And I
- 8 Don't Throw Stones
- 9 My Name Is Salt

10 I Am Big Bird: The Caroll Spinney Story



11. 16mm Short Films to Borrow

Paul Bywater (Hobart Film Society) has a collection of over 2,000 mainly short films on 16mm which are available on free loan to member film societies and community groups. Borrowers would be responsible for postage costs. Please email paulb@trump.net.au for a list (Excel spreadsheet) and further details.

12. Short Film Festival

John Arkins and John Turner recently curated a short film festival for Croydon Film Society, Victoria. CFS currently offers an annual scholarship to the most promising first year student in the Film and Television Course at Deakin University, Burwood Campus Victoria. Some of the short films are thus from the students of this course.

The Festival consisted of 6 short films. Three from the students of Deakin University and three from the independent films supplied by the FVFS (Which will soon be available through the Indie Library). The most popular were:-

Silent Waltz, Deakin University 2013,12 mins **Sarah's Jihad**, Australia, 2009, 19 mins. By Zev Howley. **Doors**, Deakin University 2013, 11 mins

The Deakin films are the final production of a student or group of students at the end of their film and television course. As such they are not attributed to any individual.

The festival was supported by only about half of the Croydon film society members (although this was still over 180 members!)

Croydon Film Society plan to run another short film festival next year but will only use one cinema instead of the usual two. At least they now have learnt from the experience and any future shorts festival would be easier to organize and operate especially with the new technology.

13. NFSA Online Exhibition – Priscilla

The National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA) has launched its first online exhibition, *Priscilla: 20 Years Young,* to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Australian road movie *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert.*

Priscilla: 20 Years Young showcases a selection of the film's documents and artefacts preserved in the NFSA national audiovisual collection, revealing previously unknown facts about the classic 1994 film.

For example, did you know that *Priscilla* was originally going to feature Kylie Minoque's

early hits, instead of ABBA? The original concept for the film was a Stock/Aitken Waterman jukebox musical, featuring songs by Kylie Minogue, Rick Astley, Bananarama and Jason Donovan!

Highlights of Priscilla: 20 Years Young include:

- 360° views of three of the costumes from the film: the Green Dress (worn by Hugo Weaving's character Mitzi del Bra), the Thong Dress (also worn by 'Mitzy') and the Wattle Dress (worn by Guy Pearce's Felicia Jollygoodfellow).
- A selection of international posters for the film, including a rare minimalist artwork created for its release in Poland where it was known as *Priscilla Królowa Pustyni*.
- A Q&A session with Academy-Award winning costume designer Tim Chappel (*The Dressmaker, Mental, Miss Congeniality*) talking about the inspiration for *Priscilla*'s Oscarworthy frocks, and the challenges resulting from the film's low budget.
- Production documents, including pages from the earliest drafts of the script, a daily production progress report for 28 October 1993, and more!

The exhibition is available here: http://www.nfsa.gov.au/visit-us/exhibitions-presentations/Priscilla-20-years-young/

This bulletin is the official newsletter of

ACOFS - Australian Council of Film Societies

Incorporated in Victoria: A0057904W ABN: 69 667 887 179

Secretary: Prodos Marinakis, PO Box 2165, Richmond South, Victoria 3121.

Phone: 03 9428 1234, Email: secretary@acofs.org.au

If you want to have the ACOFS Bulletin emailed to you directly, please email me at president@acofs.org.au

Our website is www.acofs.org.au

NOTES:

- 1. If clicking on a highlighted link in this newsletter does not take you to your Internet browser, try copying it and pasting it into your browser search bar.
- 2. Please ensure your spam filter is NOT set to capture our emails which include relevant material from ACOFS, such as this Bulletin.
- 3. ACOFS and the State federations do not necessarily endorse the statements or view contained in any personal statements in articles, letters to the editor or in the films mentioned in this Bulletin.