

ACOFS Bulletin

Australian Council of Film Societies

NUMBER 58

MAY 2019

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

This Issue contains information important to your office bearers and film society programmers. Please also pass it on to all your committee and other interested people - including those who are not on email.

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

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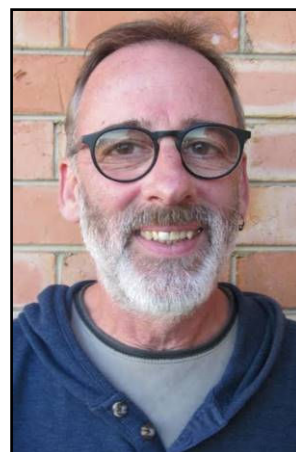
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1. From the President

Who is Mark Horner?

Proudly Tasmanian, living in Launceston and passionate about film, I got involved with a film society. I am a current member of the Launceston Film Society and an executive member, Vice President, of the Launceston Film Society committee. I am involved with my Federation, The Tasmanian Federation of Film Societies (TFoFS) of which I am currently Vice President.

My involvement with ACOFS began in 2010. I remember it well, the AGM in York, Western Australia which I attended as TFoFS delegate and was elected ACOFS Treasurer. The following year I assisted, with the help and support of the Launceston Film Society, in hosting the ACOFS AGM in Launceston and was elected ACOFS Vice President. Since then I have been a TFoFS delegate at ACOFS AGMs held in Canberra, Sydney and in more recent times, Melbourne. At the 2019 ACOFS AGM, I was elected President of the ACOFS Executive Committee. I am delighted the current Executive Committee includes members from all Federations.



I would very much like to acknowledge and thank Ian Davidson for his leadership as President of ACOFS for the last eight years. Ian remains on the Executive Committee as editor of the ACOFS Bulletin.

One of the outcomes of the 2019 ACOFS AGM is to engage a sub-committee to explore and examine future film screening mediums and formats. With the digital era well and truly part of film screening, it was recognised that this will continue to change and ACOFS should be in a position of readiness when this happens. What better place to start than with film society members. ACOFS Secretary, Sue Nunn, will be contacting all Federation Secretaries requesting they offer members of film societies in their Federation, an invitation for interested film society members to be part of this sub-committee. I am encouraging all Federation Secretaries to actively pursue and promote interest from film society members and advise Sue who is willing to be part of the sub-committee. ACOFS needs to be vigilant and ready to support film societies with all aspects of film screening issues. Please, get involved.

Mark Horner, ACOFS President.

[If you are interested in ACOFS developing any new ideas to help film societies, please email Mark with your suggestions and comments at president@acofs.org.au]

2. What Happened at the ACOFS AGM?

ACOFS (The Australian Council of Film Societies) is the peak national body of the Australian film society movement. Each State in Australia has its own independent ACOFS-affiliated Federation of Film Societies - run by individuals based in that state – dedicated to looking after the interests of member film societies in that state.

As at January 2019, over 160 Australian film societies, film clubs, community cinemas and film festivals are members of these state federations.

The current state federations, who have affiliated with ACOFS are:

FVFS - The Federation of Victorian Film Societies

NSWFFS - The NSW Federation of Film Societies

FQFS - The Federation of Queensland Film Societies

WAFFS - WA Federation of Film Societies

SAFFS - SA Federation of Film Societies

TFoFS - Tasmanian Federation of Film Societies.

Associate member – Screen and Studies Institute (SASI)

At the 2019 ACOFS AGM, held in Melbourne on Sat 13th April, there was a rotation of Executive members. The Executive Committee is now as follows:

President: Mark Horner (TFoFS)

V President: Jim Mansbridge (TFoFS)

Secretary: Suzanne Nunn (FVFS)

Treasurer: John Turner (FVFS)

Committee:

Ian Davidson (FVFS) – Editor of The Bulletin

Jason Lockwood (NSWFFS)

David Smith (WAFFS)

Kerry McKinnon (FQFS)

Bill Biscoe (SAFFS)

Societies are satisfied that the DVD rights agreement is generally working well, although it is sometimes difficult to find the rights for the older titles. That need has been satisfied to some extent by the introduction of Park Circus as another source from overseas.

What ACOFS would really like to investigate is, "What technology will follow DVDs?". ACOFS is hoping to create a working party to determine what technology is likely to follow DVDs and how will film societies cope? We are looking for input from anyone who has ideas or the expertise to help us in this study. Please contact president@acofs.org.au if you think you have something to offer.

ACOFS continues to be the main interface between member film societies and organisations such as the NFSA, Federal Government, film and DVD libraries and distributors.

The next AGM will be in Blackburn (Victoria) on **Saturday 18th April 2020**. All delegates are urged to attend. If you are unable to attend would you please at least send a report covering status, achievements and concerns at least one week ahead of the meeting. A detailed invitation will be sent early in 2020. If you want to come to the AGM but would like to be billeted, or if you can offer billeting in Melbourne, please let the ACOFS secretary know in plenty of time.

3. Everyone Should Buy a History Book

The sales of the book written by John Turner and produced by ACOFS – "THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN FILM SOCIETIES" has been dismal. We strongly recommend that all State Federations try to persuade all member film societies to either purchase a copy or request their local library to do so - preferably both. The libraries usually have an on-line order request into which you would quote the ISBN- 9 780646 985329 and state it is available through James Bennett and co. The price is now \$50 to any purchaser. There is also an order form on the ACOFS website www.acofs.org.au.



4. Three Stories From the Tasmanian Federation AGM

THE TFOFS WEBSITE

We had previously paid a company to create the TFOFS website. After we had paid our annual fee the website stopped working and when we told the company this they replied asking for more money to upgrade the software. They ignored what we had said in this and subsequent emails and later asked for even more money for the registration of our domain name tfofs.org.au. We didn't pay and when our domain became unregistered it was temporarily taken over by a porn site. We have a new free website at <https://sites.google.com/view/tfofs>

Discussion: All Film Societies should ensure your domain registration is current, and don't pay exorbitant amounts for web services. Also, member societies are encouraged to check the links from this new website to their societies.

[Editor's note. Prodos Marinakis (Screen & Study Institute (SASI)) is offering free website and hosting services to all ACOFS-affiliated film societies. No strings attached. No adverts. No pop-ups. No hidden costs. Your film society website will be fully maintained, secure, and always up-to-date. Over 30 film societies around Australia already use this free service. To find out more, simply email: prodos@prodos.com and write "Film Society website?" in the subject line of your email. Highly recommended!]

MIDLANDS FILM SOCIETY

2018 has been a challenging year for the Midlands Film Society, as we have had issues with our aging equipment. Initial research indicated that we would be up for new equipment, at a cost of between \$15,000 and \$30,000, depending on what components we replaced. These problems were compounded by poor acoustics in the town hall, increased costs in hiring the hall, and a number of very long-standing committee members who would like to step down.

In view of our difficulties we surveyed the members, and those who responded stated that they did not want the Society to end, and that despite the difficulties they enjoyed and appreciated having this facility.

I am pleased to say that the most urgent of these problems, the state of the equipment, has been resolved, and we hope we will be able to continue with our current projector for the foreseeable future. We will, however, need to address the question of our sinking fund [equipment fund? Ed], in readiness for when this equipment finally does become obsolete. Last year our membership stood at 65.

Comment from the Tasmanian Federation

The Federation is here to help any film society respond to a major & unexpected challenge to its current situation.

The Midlands Film Society had been given quotes of up to \$30,000 to deal with their sound and projection issues. Other societies pointed out (at the AGM) that they bought adequate equipment for much less cost. For example the Hobart and Bruny Island Film Societies spent about \$1,400 on Optima film projectors and Eaglehawk Neck spent about the same on a Benq projector. The Midlands Film Society committee was encouraged to talk with and visit other film societies to find out about their equipment.

The Lesson?

Talk to your Federation, and to other societies, before committing yourselves to huge expenditures which may not be necessary. Also, put some money every year into an "equipment fund" (sometimes called a "depreciation fund" - Editor), so that when you need new equipment the finance is available.

HOBART FILM SOCIETY INC.

The highlight of the year was our honouring of Paul Bywater at the AGM in December 2017 on his completion of fifty years on the committee. For most of that time he has been the efficient and imaginative principal contributor to, and editor of Hobart Film News, and responsible for designing and compiling our brochures, and mainly responsible for all aspects of booking films for our screenings, including keeping records and liaising with distributors. He also set up the Society's collection of hundreds of films on DVD for members to borrow, largely his personal collection, was long our main projectionist, and sees that our equipment is maintained. He has also served the committee well in several other respects, including some years as President and representing us at TFoFS (Tasmanian Federation of Film Societies) and ACOFS (Australian Council of Film Societies). He was awarded honorary life membership at the 1980 AGM.

The Society continues to be prominent in TFoFS. Jim is its President and Paul is its Public Officer.

We received favourable comment in the recent History of Australian Film Societies: "... amongst its many innovative actions, Hobart Film Society is probably the only film society in Australia which has made a success of evolving from being a 35mm operation to a total reliance on 16mm, before the inevitable move to DVD ... Hobart Film News is still published bi-monthly ... this would now be one of the half-dozen or so excellent quality newsletters over the last fifty to sixty years servicing film society members. Hobart Film Society is not only the longest running film society in Australia but also is a prime example of the success which can be achieved by a very few dedicated people."

We have continued to screen on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays (except for the summer break) with, every four weeks, a Monday night special screening of more esoteric films from the Society's collection or from the National Film and Sound Archive. Membership at the end of the financial year (30 September 2018) was 149 (previous year was 148): 55 singles (22 full, 33 concession) and 94 doubles (47 counted as twos: 17 full, 30 concession).

We achieved a second successive small surplus after several deficits; our financial position remains sound.

5. Stories From the Film Societies –

This is a new segment designed to introduce you to one of the many film societies around Australia. Let's try and include one film society per issue – so it's up to you to send in your short piece about your film society. Tell us why it is a great film society, or why it is succeeding against all odds. Others would like to hear your story!

Eaglehawk Neck Hall Film Society

Eaglehawk Neck is a coastal township in south-east Tasmania, an hour's drive from Hobart, with a resident population of about 350 and located within the Tasman Municipality, which also includes the popular tourist site of Port Arthur. About half the homes at The Neck are holiday homes so our population can more than double on weekends and public holidays.

The Eaglehawk Neck Hall Film Society was established in 2010, partially as a means of raising funds for our community hall but also to provide an opportunity for local people to experience films 'on the big screen' as, like many film societies in Tasmania, our community (of about 350 residents) is remote from cinemas in the bigger cities in our State. With the competing media of television, paid streaming services and computers, we have had to find ways to attract people to 'come out at night' and have tried to make our film screenings a more social experience with meals prior to our Saturday screenings, often matching the food with the film (e.g. Hungarian goulash for *The Grand Budapest Hotel*). We can often have over twenty people sitting around a long table eating and discussing the upcoming film or films that they have seen recently.

Our screening equipment - projector, 4 metre-wide screen, BluRay player and surround system - was purchased via a grant from FRRR (Fund for Rural and Regional Renewal) after our Hall had been badly damaged by an arson attack in March 2009.

We held 19 members' screenings during 2018, thirteen on Saturday evenings and six on Thursday evenings. From time to time we sponsor public screenings of films that we believe may attract a local following, such as *EMO the Musical*, which was written and directed by a 'local lad' who grew up down the road at Port Arthur and who attended the local District High School. We prepare and distribute two six-month screening calendars each year (March to August and September to February) with information and notes about the upcoming screenings. Screenings are advertised on local community websites, in our local paper, and on posters at local shops and businesses.

Our membership in 2018 averaged 69, with attendances averaging 27. We have both annual and quarterly memberships, as many of our members 'go north' for the winter, or may be holiday home owners who are not here all the time. Films are a mixture of recent popular, award winners, documentaries, and classics. Australian films such as *Breath*, *Ladies in Black*, *The Merger* and *Lion* have proved popular recently. We also try to screen several family friendly films during the year and members are encouraged to bring children and grandchildren to suitable films. Children under 16 are admitted free as guests of financial adult members.

Films are suggested by members, often ones that they have seen 'in town' and think other members would enjoy. Our film society is run and managed by a solid group of members who also assist serving the meals and refreshments (ice creams, candy bars and tea and coffee). The sale of these items helps not only to raise funds for the Hall but

also allows us to keep our membership costs down, as many of our members/residents are either retired or on limited incomes.

Dave Moser
Society President and Screening Coordinator

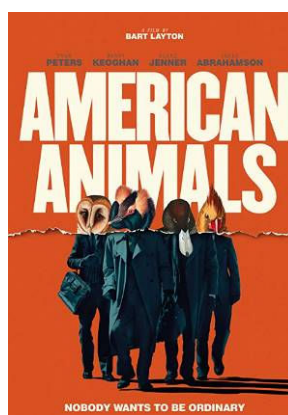
6. News From the DVD Distributors

For the latest distributor contact details and websites see ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B on www.acofs.org.au/resources (Updated regularly). The contact is included below, only where it has changed recently and may not yet be included in the website version of the Fact Sheet.

Amalgamated Movies (Available now or soon to be released).

Also handles Madman rights bookings.

19
Alpha
American Animals
Climax
Dark Crimes
Destination Wedding
Front Runner, The
Ghost Hunter
Girl in the Spider's Web
Holmes and Watson
Humor Me
Kusama Infinity
Possession of Hannah Grace, The
Puzzle
Siberia
Slaughter Rulzes
Spiderman into the Spiderverse
Storm Boy (2018)
Venom
White Boy Rick
Zoe



Antidote Films

Antidote charge just \$35+ GST for screening rights for most of their DVD titles.

Hope (Offered for free!)

Whale, The
More than Honey

Curious Films

Please note our contact addresses:
PO Box 7632 Bondi Beach NSW 2016
steve@curiousfilm.com Stephen Fitzgibbon
www.curiousfilm.com +64 9360 7880 (NZ)

Label Distribution

Sue Ristovski sr@labeldistribution.com
Alvin's Harmonious World of Opposites
BBQ, The
Brothers' Nest
Caveman Calling
Defend, Conserve, Protect



Drown
 From Scotland with Love
 Family, The
 Hounds of Love
 Impasse
 Is This the Real World?
 Joe Manifesto, The
 Lucky Stiff
 Pervert's Guide to Ideology, The
 25th Reich, The
 Tom Wills
 What if it Works?

Park Circus (Glasgow)

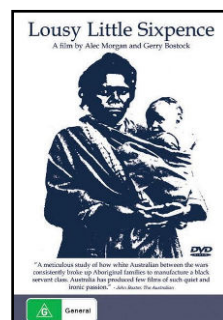
At least three bookings of DVD screening rights were made by member film societies in 2018. Charges were between \$75 and \$120.

[If anyone has had other successes with Park Circus please let me know so I can be better informed.]

Ronin Films

For member prices refer to the "private purchase" price, but remember you then have to pay the appropriate screening rights fee. Ronin will accept the recommended \$50 plus GST for DVD screening rights. www.roninfilms.com.au for details and purchase prices.

Vacant Possession (1994) – remastered
 Rocking the Foundations (1985) – remastered
 For Love or Money (1983) – remastered
 Lousy Little Sixpence (1982) - remastered
 Revenir (To Return)
 Teach a Man to Fish, (2018), 50 mins.
 Blown Away, (2018), 61mins
 Searching for Ingmar Bergman (2018), 99 mins, Von Trotta.
 From Under the Rubble



To Note: Ronin's entire catalogue is now available for streaming. Go to roninfilms.com.au.

Want a holiday in France? Andrew Pike will be leading a small group (up to 10) for 11 days to St Tropez in the South of France, for a CINEMA HOLIDAY. 3 – 14 October 2019. Register interest at <https://www.roninfilms.com.au/video/10833/0/16007.html>

Sharmill Films

(Chris@sharmillfilms.com.au)

See their website: <http://www.sharmillfilms.com.au/film-catalogue>

Umbrella Entertainment

New Titles

In Like Flynn
 In a Relationship
 Backtrack Boys
 Man in a Hurry, A (L'Homme Presse)
 Arctic

New Classic Releases

Mad Dog Morgan
 Death Warmed Up
 Navigator, The: A Medieval Odyssey
 Los Olvidados
 Freedom
 Australian Rules



Coming Soon

Undermined: Tales From the Kimberley
Lords of Chaos
House That Jack Built, The
Back of the Net
Man Who Killed Don Quixote, The
In Your Hands (Au Bout des Doigts)
Under the Silver Lake

For a full list of all Umbrella Entertainment Public Performance Rights List, contact James Brennan james@umbrellaent.com.au

Want something special on DVD that you cannot get anywhere else? Create a list of what DVDs you would like and send your list with the subject: "What We Want on DVD and Blu-Ray" to James at Umbrella.

Contact James for bookings or call on 03 9020 5136 or james@umbrellaent.com.au

For Australian titles in the Umbrella catalogue, Umbrella may be able to assist you to invite the director to attend your screening for a Q&A. Ring James Brennan.

Vendetta Films

(Can approve rights for DVD screening even if they don't have the DVD)

Alice Davies: alice@vendettafilms.co.nz

Happy Prince, The
Old Dog
Orchestra Class (eCinema)
Exes, The (eCinema)
Girl

7. New Titles from the NTLC at the NFSA

The NTLC (Non-Theatrical Lending Collection) is part of the NFSA (National Film and Sound Archive) in Canberra. There are 1,682 DVD and BluRay titles, of which 851 are feature films available for loan to film societies at \$22 (including rights and delivery to you). See their catalogue at loans.nfsa.gov.au

The following licenced DVD or BluRay titles are listed as having been added in the last 90 days:

Berlin Um Die Ecke, 1957, BluRay
Majub's Journey, 2013, DVD
Die Stadt von Morgan – Experimental Asien, 2015, BluRay

Contact nontheatric@nfsa.com.au for details.

Also don't forget that the NTLC may have some older titles which you will not be able to get elsewhere. Even where the original Australian distributor no longer holds current rights, the NTLC may have purchased the screening rights themselves.

The NTLC may be able to licence a viewing of your own copy of a DVD where they hold the screening rights to that title in their collection. This means that if a title held by the NTLC is already booked out when you want it, you can use your own copy after paying the NTLC the normal \$22 fee for the screening rights for that title.

Unfortunately, titles which come up as "Educational Use Only" cannot be screened at a normal film society – unless that film society is a member of a U3A group.

8. Don't Forget the Norwegian Embassy Films

As advised in previous issues of The Bulletin, The Norwegian Embassy can provide recent feature films, free of any charge, including non-theatrical screening rights. For film information and contact details, see the ACOFS website:
www.acofs.org.au/resources

9. Drop me a Line

Please send all comments, suggestions and articles to editor@acofs.org.au
This newsletter is intended to reflect information and news from all societies, so please let us know about anything of interest at your society.



Letter 1. Why not set up an "Orphan Fund" for films without rights holders?

Response: We have discussed having an Orphan fund for films without rights holders but found there are some difficulties. We would be taking money under false pretences because ACOFS cannot approve the rights, and you would still be screening the DVD illegally if you don't have the owner's permission. Just because there is no owner in Australia does not mean that an overseas owner does not exist!. Where a film rights holder cannot be found, no-one can give the approval to screen it (A requirement of the law).

If, for some reason it is out of copyright (Possible although not likely - except for unwanted films) then we would be taking money unnecessarily. The best we have managed to organise for you is to refer you to Park Circus which is a good back-stop for some of the older films. See the Fact Sheet 3B for details.

Letter 2, We are still waiting!

Many thanks for your letter/s. Ian Davidson, editor.

10. Trivia

Exploring the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) for biographies of up-and-coming actors:

"Sarah Snook was born and raised in Adelaide, South Australia. Showing promise in performing arts at a young age, Sarah was awarded a scholarship to study drama at Scotch College, Adelaide. After high school, she was accepted in to the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) and graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting).

Having started out in theatre in Sydney, Sarah was the runner-up in the 2011 Australians in Film Heath Ledger Scholarship. She has since gone on to work extensively in film and television in Australia, receiving awards from the Australian Academy for Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) for Best Actress in a Film (2014, "Predestination") and Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama (2011, "Sisters of War"), the Film Critic's Circle of Australia (FCCA) for Best Actress - Lead Role (2014, "Predestination" & 2012, "Not Suitable for Children"), and the Australian Film Critics Association (AFCA) for Best Actress in a Supporting Role (2015, "These Final Hours").

Internationally, Sarah has acted in numerous films, most notably "Steve Jobs" and "The Glass Castle". She also appeared in the Netflix series, "Black Mirror". On stage, Sarah made her West End debut in 2016 alongside Ralph Fiennes in The Old Vic's production of Ibsen's "The Master Builder".

Sarah appeared on two Australian productions, "Winchester" and "Sibling Rivalry", and then in New York in 2017 to shoot the first season of HBO series, "Succession".
- IMDb Mini Biography By: Anonymous "



Sarah Snook also played a role in the ABC Drama "Secret River", and more recently in the movies "The Dressmaker" and "Brothers Nest".

Personally, I think Sarah is one of the best new actresses from Australia.

ACOFS - Australian Council of Film Societies

Incorporated in Victoria: A0057904W ABN: 69 667 887 179

Secretary, Email: secretary@acofs.org.au

If you want to have the ACOFS Bulletin emailed to you directly, please email me at

editor@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.*

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.