

# ACOFS Bulletin

## Australian Council of Film Societies

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*This Bulletin has been compiled and edited by Ian Davidson, (ACOFS President) [president@acofs.org.au](mailto: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!**

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### 1. From the President, Ian Davidson – NFSA Good News or Bad?

This is a brief ACOFS Bulletin distributed between the usual dates to let all societies know what was presented at the ACOFS AGM.

On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015, Michael Loebenstein (CEO NFSA) announced the release of the much anticipated NFSA Strategic Plan for 2015-2018. It is now available for anyone to download and read from <http://www.nfsa.gov.au/plan/>. In his words, "It is a roadmap and clearly articulates what our focus and priorities will be for the next three years".

Then on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Meg Labrum, (Deputy CEO, NFSA) made a much more detailed presentation to the ACOFS AGM, which was not all doom and gloom, but offers some hope for the future for film societies reliant on the SLC. Her report is below, followed by a summary of the subsequent discussions.

I have also included a list of the ACOFS Executive committee elected for the next 12 months.

Full AGM minutes will be available shortly to all participants and to any member requesting a copy. Email [president@acofs.org.au](mailto:president@acofs.org.au).

### 2. Presentation by Meg Labrum, Deputy CEO National Film and Sound Archive

Meg apologised for Michael Loebenstein who was prevented from attending because of other commitments.

Meg's presentation follows: -

- “1. The NFSA is committed to providing access to the National Collection to the non-theatrical community sector particularly in regional and rural Australia to facilitate screen appreciation.
2. The NFSA will continue to provide a loans service within this remit and in a more sustainable and affordable model which will achieve partial cost recovery.
3. It will be a smaller, more curated collection licensing Australian titles and selected international titles that are not available through commercial distributors, are NFSA or other Archive owned titles or in Public Domain or licensed from producers.
4. The NFSA Screening Loans service will focus exclusively on DVD/Blu-ray format acquisitions and loans. VHS will not be offered.
5. NFSA Screening Loans will now be part of the Collection Reference team and includes both non-theatrical (formerly NTLC) and theatrical loans from the NFSA National Collection. Stephanie Carter will manage both these collections.
6. Because of the fragility and rarity of the 16 mm collection, bookings for 16 mm screenings from July 2015 will be limited to entities that have the projection facilities and skills to handle these unique and irreplaceable prints. Please contact Steph Carter for any enquiries re the 16 mm collection. An audit of the 16 mm collection is planned to identify unique, fragile, obsolete and unfit for loan titles. Film Societies get a 50% discount on 16mm loans, ie \$60 + freight in both directions.
7. The NFSA Screening Loans service will work with the education unit of the NFSA as a critical component of the NFSA’s community engagement and education functions in actively promoting access to the collection and stimulating community awareness and interest in the NFSA’s core work.
8. Fees will be reviewed every year from July 2016.”

During the following discussion these points were clarified.

The Screen Lending Collection (loans) will focus on DVD and BluRay. VHS will not be offered, and 16mm will be available only through the archive collection (of which there are about 1,300 with life-of print licences).

Only Australian DVD titles and selected International titles which were not available from commercial distributors would be acquired or renewed for licensed non-theatrical screenings. These would be on DVD or Blue Ray only.

The 16mm titles would be absorbed into the Access Collection where they would be more tightly controlled.

There are many titles both 16mm and DVD with ‘life of print’ licenses.

Titles with a shorter license period would not be renewed and prospective borrowers would need to contact the rights holder for screening rights.

NFSA also intend to use their contact with International Film Archives to obtain DVD copies of highlights of their collections adding these to the SLC.

The SLC will be managed by Jane Cruickshank and be part of the Education unit. New acquisitions will be done by Stephanie, Jane and the team.

The Archive is able to produce a limited number of DVDs from its 16mm holdings on demand. ACOFS could provide a list of titles likely to be borrowed.

16mm will only be available in future, to members with a proven trouble-free track record of 16mm projection. Because of the fragility of the 16mm films they would only be issued to known borrowers and would attract a fee of \$60 plus freight both ways.

Jim Mansbridge asked about booking a year in advance as the Hobart Film society normally books its next year’s program in August. Meg agreed that this would be OK. She added that the current booking system would remain in place in the short term but the plan was to merge all bookings into a new system.

John Turner asked about the provision of licensed DVDs of titles from the KODAK/ATLAB restoration process and Meg agreed that this was a priority.

Also John asked about the suggestion, a couple of years ago, that ACOFS could distribute titles from the Film Australia catalogue after purchasing a distribution copy. Meg again agreed that this was possible.

In Summary:-

**16mm:** They are becoming rare and need to be handled with care. All 16mm titles will be moved to the main archive collection where they will be audited. Valuable or rare titles may become "Archival prints" and unavailable to borrow. Most of the 1300 titles which have life-of print licences will still be available to authentic users with a confirmed record of "responsible handling" of prints. Those titles without a current screening licence will remain in the Archive but the borrower will be required to arrange the screening rights. The price for borrowing a 16mm feature will increase to \$60 plus freight both ways (This is half the fee to regular borrowers).

**VHS:** Will not be available for loan in future.

**DVD & BluRay:** Will cull titles that are available from commercial distributors in Australia. But will be able to increase the collection of more curated items from Australia and selected international titles that are not available commercially here, are archive controlled, with the Goethe Institut or in the public domain. Another possibility is that the NFSA may be able to copy some of their licenced 16mm films onto DVDs for inclusion in the SLC. ACOFS would welcome the opportunity to suggest titles to be copied. Rights for current holdings could be renewed subject to the above guidelines. DVD loan prices are likely to increase with CPI in future, although unlikely for the next 12 months.

**Booking System:** Will continue with the current system for now, and able to take bookings beyond the end of 2015.

### 3. ACOFS Executive positions

At the ACOFS AGM of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the following were elected to the executive:

President:	Ian Davidson (Vic)
Vice President:	Leth Maitland (NSW)
Secretary:	John Arkins (Vic)
Treasurer:	John Turner (Vic)
Committee:	Jim Mansbridge (Tas) David Smith (WA)

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This bulletin is the official newsletter of

**ACOFS - Australian Council of Film Societies**

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