



# SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE

(No.1

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## WHAT IS “SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE” or SSU?

The AMMPT Western Region committee is trialling a simple two page broadsheet to keep members abreast of developments and initiatives. The publication's name is not set in stone. Name suggestions from members would be welcome and should be sent to the secretary Peter Foyster. Our thinking is that the broadsheet should be low cost and distributed at the monthly AMMPT social / technical meetings and then by email as far as possible. The SSU is not intended to interfere with the national function of Newsreel.

## COMMITTEE MOVEMENTS

Western Region President Ross MacDonald, who replaced Ron Frank as President earlier this year, has stood down as President of the Western Region and is now enjoying a well-earned holiday in Cuba with his wife. John Fuhrmann has been appointed for the remainder of Ross's term. Richard Rennie has re-joined the committee and recently published a book "The Encyclopaedia of Western Australian Wireesses and Gramophones". Chapters cover the establishment of wireless in WA, the early days of 6WF and the 'Mulgaphone', WA television demonstrations in 1929, 1932 and again in 1936. The book is available from the WA Museum Bookshop, State Library Bookshop and the WA Historical Society Bookshop.

## CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

Concern about the availability and use of the Cygnet Theatre in 2013 prompted your committee to support a joint meeting between the owner of the Cygnet Theatre Colin Stiles, Cygnet Manager Graeme Kahn and John Fuhrmann. There was agreement that AMMPT WR should actively stay in touch on developments. Colin Stiles wants the theatre to remain operating and advised we should plan for its use in 2013. Therefore Jillian Carlson with the help of George Robinson has planned the film programme for next year.

## STORAGE INVENTORY

Graeme Lacey (coordinator) and a work team of Ross MacDonald and Keith Rutherford have made a number of visits to CBH and Koala Storage and completed the tagging and logging of stored national collection items ready for their removal. Contact will be necessary with members who may have items in safe keeping for the collection. Some storage boxes have been purchased for packing and transport purposes.

## PUBLICITY AND RECIPROCAL MARKETING

The Western Region committee has endorsed the reciprocal publicity and marketing arrangement with Stirling Theatre Organ Productions (STOP). This arrangement originated through an approach by John Fuhrmann to Daryl Binning two years ago. STOP and AMMPT Western Region and members receive one complimentary ticket to the other's show. Simon Eadie is updating the Capital Radio community announcement.

## CINEWEST

Ron Jones from Busselton has informed members that in accordance with AMMPT National's July media release he has donated film projectors that were used in community halls and associated equipment to museums at Pemberton, Northcliffe and Nannup. He is presently endeavouring to do the same at Bunbury, Collie and Margaret River with projection equipment that was used at the Drive-Ins in these towns. The Western Region committee applauds Ron's action which promotes country community recognition of the significance of cinema in local social history and hopefully assists local tourism.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Fred Bell Hall in Bentley has been tentatively booked for 2013. New committee member Richard Rennie with support from Keith Rutherford has undertaken to plan a series of events aimed at interesting members and attracting a wider audience to AMMPT meetings. A survey to assist Richard and Keith has been circulated and their return with your opinions would be appreciated.

See  
over

## MEMBER SNAPSHOT

- William E (Bill) Gaynor OAM RFD

beginning of a life long association with the cinema industry. Bob Hatfield (owner) and Tom Franin (projectionist) took me on in May and I went into training 3 sessions a week. (unpaid).

In November I became the Assistant Projectionist, 4 nights a week at the Empire Theatre in West Leederville until August 1958 when the cinema burnt down. My generous employer assigned me relief work at the Wembley and Shenton Park Theatres and when summer came, the Cameo Gardens in Wembley.

I was still a student studying for the Leaving/Matriculation Certificate which I obtained in 1958 and this gained me entry to Claremont Teachers' College. Time was still found for City Beach surf lifesaving duties, Wembley Rover Scouts, playing A3 Grade Hockey and National Fitness Council youth leadership activities.

After the Matriculation exam I followed my mentor projectionist Bob Minorgan (my wife's father) to the New Oxford Theatre, became part of the family and firmly entrenched in the cinema industry.

Qualifications seemed to be the order of the day so I undertook a correspondence course to become a qualified projectionist. Theory was no problem as was the practical test at the Ambassadors Theatre assessed by the legendary Reg Starr! This resulted in the awarding of Cinema Operators Licence (No 429). However, its issue was delayed until I was 21 years of age. This treasured possession still has pride of place in my portfolio!

Whilst teaching in remote Sandstone there was demand for me to be the town projectionist for the weekly cinema session using the schools' 16mm equipment. When teaching "overseas" and appointed to Cockatoo Island (Yampi Sound), I contracted as one of the cinema operators on 35mm equipment – as well as 16mm films on Sunday nights using the schools equipment.

One cannot just leave a life-long interest. Accordingly I have a collection of projection equipment and other ancillary equipment that will keep me entertained in my retirement

#### • Eddie Mills

I met Ron Tutt (member- deceased) when at Harlow College in 1943 just outside London during the war. He taught me how films work and allowed me to operate the portable projector that he brought to the school for film shows in the Gym.

After leaving college I was a projectionist for ABC (Associated British Cinemas) before going into the RAF in National Service as a Radar Operator/Electronics for two years. On discharge I passed an exam and was employed by The British Broadcasting Corporation as a Radio Sound Recordist, actually doing stereo research, on a system with radio sound for the left channel and TV sound for the right. The famous 'ping pong test'

My career moved to TV film production at Ealing studios, then bought by TV for Drama and documentaries, as boom swinger, Floor recordist and dubbing mixer (Z cars, Maigret etc). Then changed to BBC TV News as a recordist cameraman.

There was a lot of travelling, plenty of danger with earthquakes, wars, Vietnam, anything spectacular. As the only recordist not married and without children, I was assigned the nasty stories and became fed up with being shot at, with only a microphone to fight back. So I moved.

Migration to Perth occurred in 1969, and a job with Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) was out of reach for five years. In the meantime I entered into Commercial TV, as a one man band, Camera and sound in Channel nine. The commercial idea was "don't let the truth get in the way of a good story". Luckily in 1975 I at last gained employment with the ABC as a sound recording, dubbing mixer.

So, I started in the ABC and finished in the ABC. I retired in 1997.

**BEST WISHES FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON – WESTERN REGION COMMITTEE**