



# **SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE**

(No.17 June 2014)

## **AMMPT IMAGE**

Two current initiatives will hopefully contribute to refreshing and promoting the image of our organisation. We need to encourage a greater membership from cinema and TV staff and the wider community. As from the June Classics of the Silver Screen offering, an engaging AMMPT “welcome” slide featuring committeeman George Robinson and produced by Keith Rutherford will open the show.

The other action involves revitalising the current AMMPT website which is not awe inspiring or user friendly but does contain interesting information. A tracker (google analytics) has been placed on the current website by new webmaster Beth Mckechnie to find out the number of hits received. At the same time the new website is being developed. The new website will, amongst other, things include support for our sponsors through the use of direct links. Grand cinemas, the Cygnet Theatre, Yagmich Wines and Stirling Theatre Organ have all agreed to being involved with this facility.

## **PROGRESS - SUNSET HOSPITAL STORAGE AND MUSEUM**

Some items in store at Sunset Hospital are in the process of being assembled for display. Assembly also creates additional space. Missing parts for the Presentation Suite Monitor (see below) are being sourced to



complete the exhibit. Clive Woodward and a work experience student have spent many hours piecing the Suite together. Similar maintenance work is being undertaken on cinema gear stored at the Hospital.

## **THE WRITTEN WORD – THE LIBRARY**

One area of AMMPT activities that has not progressed is the library. Library material stored for many years by Trevor Kelly is now in a separate room at Sunset Hospital. Display cabinets, files full of information and a computer are waiting for the right volunteer to set up a system for AMMPT. We are looking for a person willing to gradually develop this resource. A background in library systems is not essential, just a love of books, magazines, cinema or TV and their historic place in our community.

## **IN FOCUS PRESENTATION –JULY 16<sup>th</sup> – 7.30pm FRED BELL RSL HALL**

The next In Focus Presentation **Sounds of World War 1** will be from member Richard Rennie to mark the centenary of the start of the first world war in July 1914. This talk, with demonstrations, will describe the role of the gramophone and the wireless in the first world war. The audience will see and hear a ‘trench portable’ gramophone as used by the Australian troops in the trenches. They will hear rare 1914 gramophone recordings which illustrate the arrival of the British troops in France, the sounds of the battle on the Western Front, and the welcoming home in London of the returning of the troops. The role of the newly developed wireless and the Applecross Wireless Station will also be illustrated. There will be a small museum and memorabilia display of World War I artifacts.

## **CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN – 20<sup>th</sup> JULY– 10.15am – CYGNET CINEMA “RED DUST”**

Our next screening is the 1932 MGM film “Red Dust” starring Clarke Gable and Jean Harlow with supporting roles from Mary Astor and Gene Raymond. On a rubber plantation in French Indochina during the monsoon season, the plantation's owner/manager Dennis Carson (Gable), a prostitute named Vantine (Harlow), and Barbara Willis (Astor), the wife of an engineer named Gary Willis (Raymond) are involved in a love triangle. Carson abandons an informal relationship with Vantine to pursue Barbara, but has a change of heart and returns to Vantine. If you have friends interested in attending the show, why not send them this broadsheet or direct them to [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZby\\_hrm75Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZby_hrm75Q) Successful screenings at the Cygnet are the life blood of AMMPT Western Region.

## **PLAZA THEATRE PROJECTORS**

The former Plaza Theatre located at 650-658 Hay Street, was the first purpose-designed Art Deco cinema in Perth. The Plaza Theatre opened in 1937 and was built for Hoyts Theatres Ltd. In 1965 the theatre closed and re-opened two days later as the Paris. Soon after, Hoyts relinquished their lease to the Ace Theatre group. With the advent of the multi-screen central city and suburban complexes, the theatre was closed permanently in 1984, briefly becoming a youth disco. In 2003 the Plaza Arcade was acquired by Lease Equity, on behalf of Atzemis Berbatis Group for \$26 million. AMMPT made an approach in 2005 for the Phillips Projectors but according to Andrew Pratt (Director – Asset Management) one of the owners did not agree to the projector donation. A recent approach through Lease Equity to the Singapore based owners has resulted in their agreement to donate the projectors to AMMPT. The projectors are a make we do not have in the museum collection.

## **BARRY’S GOLD – PART 9**

Barry Goldman’s historic cinema information details both indoor and garden cinemas that have existed in city and country Western Australia. The series continues and the list concludes [outdoor gardens](#).

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Theatre</b>	<b>Exhibitor</b>	<b>Seating capacity</b>
Reedy	Hall and Gardens	D. Briggs	250
Southern Cross	Hall and Gardens	A.H. Goodwin	400
Subiaco	Shenton and Gardens	Shenton Picture Co.	750
Subiaco	Regal and Gardens	Regal Pictures Ltd.	1200
Victoria Park	Amusu and Gardens	J.R. Johnston	1200
Wembley	Wembley and Gardens	Hatfields Pictures Ltd.	800
Wembley	Cameo Gardens	Hatfields Pictures Ltd.	800
West Leederville	Empire and Gardens	J.C .McManus	800
Wiluna	Ambassadors & Gardens	Goldfields Pictures Ltd.	1000
York	Royal and Gardens	C. Baker	400

Another interesting piece of trivia found in Barry’s historic information is that in 1939 the Western Australian State Government charged exhibitors stamp duty of 2/6d on all contracts over 5 pounds, including a percentage where the contract was over 5 pounds.

**WANTED: INFORMATION COLLATER** – Please contact secretary Peter Foyster.