



# SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE

(No.34 April / May 2016)

## ON THE ROAD

In recent years AMMPT Western Region has been fortunate to have had cooperation from Hoyts, the Grand Cinema Company, the University of WA, the FTI and Cinewest in Busselton resulting in the acquisition of cinema equipment for the Sunset Museum which would otherwise been lost to posterity. Former sole cinema operators such as Lindsay Morris and private collectors have also donated items to expand the range of projectors available for public display. In February Lindsay donated a Raycophone J1 projector to the Museum. Country traveling in March by Barry Goldman, Graeme Lacey and Gerry Voutsinas resulted in the collection of equipment owned by former Collie exhibiter Eddie Wheeler. Eddie's son Greg contacted John Fuhrmann and Roy Mudge with an offer to AMMPT. Clive Woodward also recently completed a solo journey to Geraldton on behalf of AMMPT to follow up a lead from member Ken McKay advising that equipment including two ABC TV cameras were in the back yard



of the Geraldton Dump Shop. (See opposite). It is a sad fact that many second hand, antique and bric-a-brac shops will have somehow taken possession of TV or cinema equipment that has heritage value and may be a worthwhile addition to the Museum. Any member visiting such a retail outlet should keep an eye open on AMMPT's behalf for any such items. Luckily these original ABC Channel 2 cameras were acquired at no cost from the Geraldton Dump Shop.

## RENOVATION AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT AT SUNSET HOSPITAL

In early March President Bill Gaynor and committeeman Keith Rutherford attended a briefing meeting with personnel from the Sunset Hospital Steering Committee and other Hospital "tenants". Advice was received on the scale and scope of Stage 1 works and how they might disrupt the activities of the various groups. In essence developments will progress from the river side of the Sunset site footprint and northwards. This will result in some disruption to tenants as sewerage, drainage and water infrastructure are replaced and upgraded. Areas for volunteer parking may also vary across the projected 22 week works period. There does not appear to be any building renovation at this point.



## CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

### GRAND CYGNET CINEMA

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> 10.00AM

### "ON THE TOWN"

Our next Classics of the Silver Screen presentation is the 1949 MGM musical "On The Town" starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Anne Miller and Betty Garrett. The film was an instant success and won an Academy Award for Best Music. Three sailors are on shore leave, where one falls in love with the picture of "Miss Turnstile". The sailors race around New York attempting to find her in the brief period they have and meet other girls.

## CONGRATULATIONS KEN

Member Ken McKay hit the headlines in the Melville Times as a result of his nomination for a State Heritage Award. AMMPT also recognises his contribution to the TV industry both as an early employee at Channels 7 and ABW 2 and then as a historian documenting the early days of the industry. Ken was encouraged to nominate by AMMPT Librarian Beth McKechnie.

## PLAZA THEATRE PROJECTORS IN SIGHT

Since early 2004 efforts have been made to acquire for the Sunset Museum projectors that are installed in the 1937 built Hoyts Plaza Theatre. The current owners of the Theatre live in Singapore and responsibility for the management of the property rests with Lease Equity. The entrance and exits were converted into shops in Plaza Arcade. Access to the auditorium is now through a laneway entrance. Following many administrative mishaps museum curator Roy Mudge using his bulldog tenacity gained



permission for AMMPT members to inspect the auditorium and condition of the projectors. The theatre owners having finally agreed to donate two Phillips projectors to AMMPT. A working party consisting of Trevor Kelly (see Ken McKay's photo opposite), Graeme Lacey, Graham Kahn, and Yvonne Voutsinas, Richard Ashton Keith Rutherford and Roy Mudge reconnoitred the venue. Showing signs of wear after use as a disco the building is in poor shape with the ceiling over the circle showing signs of sagging and is likely to fall down. The projectors will need to be dismantled prior to carriers removing them

from the theatre. Projector removal has its own problems with approval still needed from the Perth City Council for vehicle access into Hay Street Mall. Our curator continues to battle the bureaucracy.

## IN FOCUS PRESENTATION - Ken McKay – RSL Hall, in Fred Bell Parade,

**St. James - Wednesday April 20th - 7.30pm. TV THE TROUBLED YEARS.** A presentation and exposé of the turbulent happenings in the Western Australian TV industry in the 1980s supported by video excerpts. The perceptions of an industry insider will provide a different perspective on the puzzling manoeuvrings which are still impacting on the industry today. If you are aware of a friend or acquaintance who may be interested in attending please inform and invite them to this free presentation.

## THINK ABOUT YOUR COLLECTION

A number of people in our community (not necessarily AMMPT members) have over the years systematically collected memorabilia and equipment that has played a part in the Western Australian television or cinema industry. Items may have been inherited, perhaps gifted as a whole collection or even stumbled upon in an unexpected place. At some point a decision will have to be made on the long term future of the collection. Personal factors such as deciding to downsize a residence or move into a retirement village will force a situation where the fate of these items may be uncertain. There is the potential to ensure the long term survival of significant equipment by letting AMMPT have the opportunity to add it to the Sunset Museum collection. AMMPT is not operating a warehouse or store but rather has items that are in the process of being turned into interesting public displays that tell a story about Western Australian cinema and television history. Hopefully these comments are food for thought and will help the posterity of our industry interest.