



# SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE

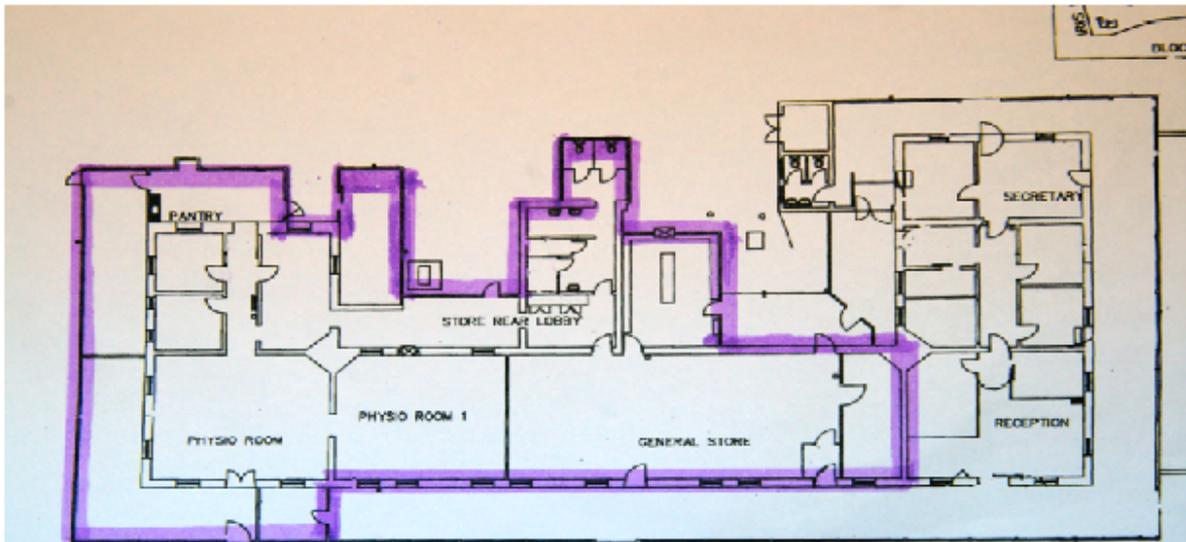
(No.2 November / December 2012)

## CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

The popular Sunday morning Classics of The Silver Screen series held at the Cygnet Theatre which has considerable public support will recommence on February 17<sup>th</sup> with the showing of Mrs Miniver starring Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon. These films are important to AMMPT Western Region because apart from providing an opportunity for us to interact with members of the public they are the main financial engine for the organisation. Flyers on the annual Classics series for personal use or distribution to the public will be available from the Cygnet Cinema or our secretary Peter Foyster.

## SUNSET HOSPITAL

Under the coordination of Graeme Lacey and with assistance from Keith Rutherford work is continuing on the preparation of the Sunset Hospital facility for eventual storage use of national collection items. AMMPT is one of a number of not for profit groups allocated a particular building or space at the complex and will need to work in harmony with those organisations already in residence. We need to ensure neighbouring local residents are not inconvenienced and access to the site will not be permitted after hours or on weekends.



For members who are not aware of the footprint of the building the highlighted area is the portion to be sub-leased to AMMPT Western Region by ScreenWest. Vikki Barr, the Locations and Film Services Manager for ScreenWest has met with John Fuhrmann and advised the process of drawing up the sub-lease is underway. There are a number of agencies or persons involved namely, the Minister, Colliers, Building Management and Works, ScreenWest and conveyance lawyers so a precise timeframe for receipt of the sub-lease for perusal by your committee is difficult to determine. The activities by Daryl Binning over the past few years are eventually going to bear fruit.

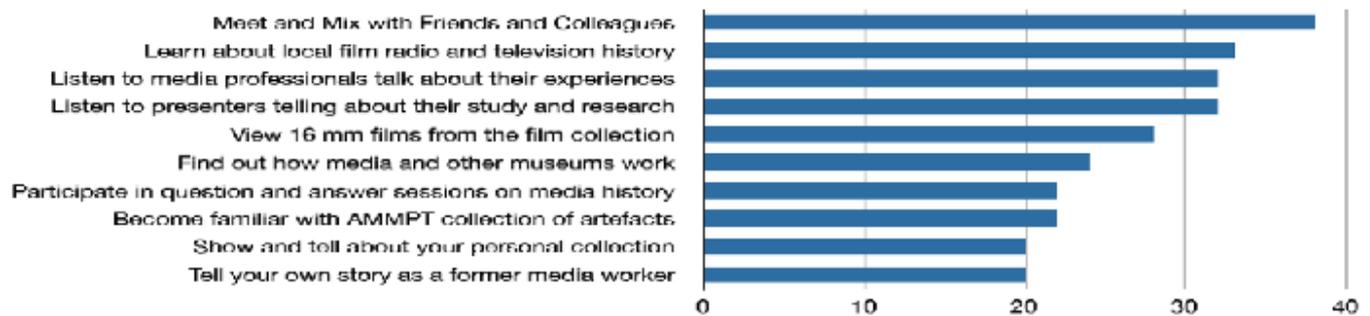
## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS PROGRAM

AMMPT Western Region is supporting the City of Melville and Museums and Local History Service in the presentation of "Movie Magic" at Wireless Hill from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January. The one hour session times commence at 10.30am or 1.30pm at the Wireless Hill Museum cottage in Almondbury Road, Ardress. The program has been developed for children aged 8-16 years and will include viewing the "Kinetoscope", "Mutoscope", "Zootrope", a magic lantern picture show and silent movie. Cost is \$6. Phone 93640158 or email [mdc@melville.wa.gov.au](mailto:mdc@melville.wa.gov.au) for information. Bookings are essential.

see over

## WHAT SHOULD OUR MEETINGS BE ABOUT?

Thank you to the members who have returned survey forms so far. The following graph shows the total scores from respondents and represents your thinking to date.



The organising sub-committee of Richard Rennie and Keith Rutherford will monitor the final results when completing the annual monthly meeting programme.

**NOTE:** The first monthly meeting will be held on February 20th at the Fred Bell Hall in Bentley.

**TOPIC:** The story of the person who built the FIRST radio in WA.

**SPEAKER:** Richard Rennie

In 1899, G.P. Stevens struggled to build a radio transmitter in order to establish wireless communications between Perth and Rottnest. However, because he could not buy the parts he needed from England, he had to build all his own components here in Perth. He eventually succeeded in making Western Australia's first radio transmissions (or did someone else do it before him??)

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

For AMMPT Western Region members and partner at John Fuhrmann's 41 Pawlett Way, Karrinyup, (near the Karrinyup Shopping Centre) BYO meat and drinks. Salads and rolls provided. Please RSVP and view the separate mailed brochure.

## MEMBER SNAPSHOT

• George Robinson

As a 6th Standard 12 year old boy at Collie Primary School I discovered a trolley with a box on it. My teacher asked whether there was anyone in the class who wanted to show films and I was taught how to use a 16mm projector. Not many teachers used a projector so I was moved through different classes during a week showing films. Luckily, I was able to receive extra help from my teacher to keep up with class work.

My free time at school was taken up as a Gestetner operator running off notes for teachers and I can still smell the machine. People know I don't have a computer but I can actually type reasonably well.

Leaving school in 1956 I joined the BOW Cinema being trained by projectionist Eddie Wheeler for 35mm film projection. Our opposition came from the Theatre Royal but I also worked there as well. At the same time my artistic flair was used to generate film posters when they were not supplied. In later years my wife Jane and I would paste up these posters around Collie in the cool of the evening. We had to do it this way because the paste dried too quickly during the day.

It's hard to believe a town the size of Collie had two hard top cinemas. Also, a drive-in theatre started in 1961 and I was the projectionist there until 1979. Fog was sometimes a problem. If it came in by 8.30pm we stopped the show and restarted when it lifted. If it arrived at 10.30pm we issued free passes for another night.

We had a full house for the 1976 version of King Kong when a person at the front decided to drive instead of walking to the kiosk. He took out a speaker pole which put out 3 rows of speakers. It was some job to bundle people into other cars and re-arrange parking to share speakers.

On transferring to Perth in 1978 with the SEC I was placed in charge of issuing projectionist licences and assisted with apprentice exams, but deliberately stayed away from film projection to have more family life with Jane. Barry Goldman is responsible for luring me back to the industry through Somerville Auditorium Festival of Perth films and subsequently the Cygnet Cinema.