



SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE

(No.4 March / April 2013)

SUNSET - WE ARE IN

Pieces of equipment from the national collection are being transported to Sunset Hospital for storage. Under the watchful eye of Graeme Lacy material in sea containers on Fred Clausen's property is going to the new location. Fred requested that the sea containers and their contents be moved. Luckily the request coincided with the availability of the Sunset facility. Making space available to house and locate the containers was a generous contribution by Fred to AMMPT at an important time in the development of the national collection.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

The AMMPT Western Region committee had been operating with one vacancy for some time. Your committee is pleased to advise the vacancy has been filled by Peter Goodall. Peter has been an AMMPT committee member in the past and strengthens the television background of the group. His experience provides a balance of expertise to the committee.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME SUCCESS – WIRELESS HILL

"Movie Magic", a twice daily presentation for children that included a silent movie with accompaniment and hands-on activities for producing moving pictures, was a huge success. Over 100 attendees were fascinated by the methods of developing moving images which were ably demonstrated by Richard Rennie. AMMPT Western Region in cooperation with the City of Melville jointly supported the event.

MOSMAN PARK MEMORIAL HALL - IDEAS

In early February a number of committee members were provided with a guided tour of the Mosman Park Memorial Hall by Town of Mosman Park Councillor Libby Eustance. Originally the Cottesloe Beach Town Hall / Buckland Hill Picture Gardens the Hall is now part Camelot Outdoor Cinema. Built for silent films in 1919 the two story facility gained an art deco façade in the 1930s. It has been used as municipal offices and later returned into a community facility with a small 140 seat theatre. The Council has recently renovated the building and is to determine its future use. Committee members considered how the facility could be used in whole or part to support AMMPT Western Region activities including a permanent display. The building's main design feature is upstairs and downstairs rooms commencing at the start of the former circle.

Any ideas from members on Hall usage for inclusion in a submission are welcome and should be sent to the AMMPT Western Region Secretary peter.foyster@ammpt.asn.au by the end of March.

MARCH 20th – RSL HALL FRED BELL PARADE BENTLEY 7PM for 7.30PM

“THE PROJECTIONISTS”

The Projectionist was a 1971 film with a plot involving a projectionist who is bored with his everyday life. He starts fantasizing about being one of the superheroes (Captain Flash) he sees in the films he shows.

The heart of the cinema experience was never boring for our projectionists – Roy Mudge, George Robinson and Bill Gaynor who will tell us about their journey in the Western Australian cinema business and give us the benefit of their experience. Meet three veterans of cinema projection in a convivial social setting. This will be an excellent follow-up to Richard Rennie's enjoyable talk on G.P. Stevens which started our members' nights.

CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN – 17th MARCH

Our February film "Mrs Miniver" was a well-attended show. "A Tale of Two Cities" starring Ronald Colman and Elizabeth Allan will continue the 10.30pm Sunday morning 2013 Classics of the Silver Screen series. The film was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture and Best Film Editing. The story is set in the French Revolution and deals with two men who are alike, not only in appearance, but in their love for the same woman. If you have friends and acquaintances who might be interested in attending a show, why not send them this broadsheet or direct them to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZby_hrm75Q. see over

INFORMATION WANTED ON KAMMATAGRAPH ALSO STUART BOOTY

Richard Rennie is researching the Kammatagraph which was a British-designed camera for taking moving pictures on glass discs. They were manufactured and sold circa c1900. In Perth, The Austral Stores, 369 Wellington Street, advertised Kammatagraph cameras for sale in the period 1903–1904. Anyone who has seen a Kammatagraph, or is aware of surviving Kammatagraph movies of Perth can help by contacting Richard. Also information is wanted about Stuart Booty and his work in WA. In 1911 he was showing movies in Victoria Park using a projector of his own construction. In 1920 he built the first x-ray machine in WA, and later in Sydney introduced his Vitavox gramophone. Contact Richard Rennie 9330 1636 email rsrennie@lightandsound.net.au.

FILM LIBRARY PROGRESS

Keith Rutherford advises that with the 400 16mm titles accessioned in 2012, the total 'In Library' count is now 1,040 titles. As film librarian his thanks go to all those volunteers who worked hard to make that happen with a special mention to George Robinson for his critical part in the process. Terry Duke gave extra assistance in helping to do the stock take of all of our held State Library of WA films and a special vote of thanks goes to Keith's wife Jann who spent eight days over Christmas setting up and processing data onto the 186 page 'stock-take' spread sheet.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

To overcome communication confusion AMMPT Western Region has obtained an email address which is as follows: WAregion@ammpt.asn.au . Please use this address or individual committee member addresses as you see fit.

MEMBER SNAPSHOT – GRAHAM KAHN

My earliest film industry recollection is of my father operating a projector in Paeroa (NZ) during World War 2 and the gas burning cars which were around at the time. Following secondary schooling I joined the NZ air force as a radio technician and enjoyed my next 5 years.

I had a crush on a girl from a town called Taukau (famous for the birth place of Sir Edmund Hillary). The town had a dormant cinema in its town hall and the local Mayor approached me to re-open the cinema which I did. The girl operated the candy bar and box office and became my wife. Memories flash through my mind of holding a baby in one arm to stop it crying and trying to thread a projector with the other. This is no easy feat.

In the late 1960s I started to accumulate cinemas in Auckland namely the State Theatre (1400 seats) which was owned by Chinese businessmen and a lease deal done on a handshake. Other acquisitions included the Rialto Theatre in Newmarket (approximately 700 seats) and Victory Theatre (900 seats) which was built by the Americans during WW2. Now managing 4 cinemas I still found time to show 16mm films at two beach resorts during summer. Unfortunately The State Theatre became uneconomic to run, another burnt down and the third was resumed by a council and demolished to accommodate road works.

Not to be daunted a mobile cinema business "Village Theatres Ltd" was established which enabled a screening in a different town every night down the east coast of the north island. Times were tough because this coincided with the emergence of the first video recorders. But the lifestyle was good. I could fish during the day and show films at night.

Eventually, the call to go back into real cinemas became too strong and a move to Wellington saw me manage the Paramount Theatre there for 15 years. I had another sea change and moved into a radio shop for sales and service. However the pull of the cinema again caused me to move back to work for Hoyts NZ for 6 years and subsequently spend an enjoyable time with Reading Cinemas.

Coming to Perth in early 2000 to attend a wedding, I felt this was the place for retirement and eventually decided to emigrate. Somehow I ended up operating the Cygnet Theatre in South Perth.

So much for retirement.