



The Society of
**AUSTRALIAN
CINEMA
PIONEERS**

Founded 1933



MEMBERS' BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 3 Welcome from Lori Flekser, President
- Page 4 Welcome from Ross Barnard, National Secretary
- Page 5-6 Cinema Pioneers Card and Cinemas Listing
- Page 7 Merchandise
- Page 8 Branch Presidents and the National Committee
- Page 9 National Cinema Pioneers of the Year
- Page 10 2024 Pioneers of the Year
- Page 11 New Members, July – December 2024
- Page 12 In Memoriam, July – December 2024
- Page 13 Past National Presidents of the Society
- Page 14 The 91st Anniversary Dinner
- Page 15 Save the Date – 92nd Anniversary Dinner
- Page 16-17 NSW /ACT Branch
- Page 18 Victorian Branch
- Page 19 Queensland Branch
- Page 20 South Australia Branch
- Page 21 Western Australia Branch
- Page 22 Tasmanian Branch
- Page 23-26 From the Archives...
- Page 27 The Motion Picture Industry Benevolent Society
- Page 28 Coming Events offering discounts to Cinema Pioneers

FROM CINEMA PIONEERS PRESIDENT, LORI FLEKSER



Dear Cinema Pioneers members,

I'm excited to introduce you to the inaugural February Cinema Pioneers bulletin. With so many events rolling out across the country in 2025, and much news from the year just gone, we believe that two annual bulletins will allow us to keep you informed beyond our social media posts and emails.

As the following State Branch pages will attest, each year sees the Society stepping up with terrific opportunities for members to come together and hang out with colleagues, reconnect with old friends and make new ones and celebrate the contributions you've all made in every sector of our industry: be it funding, production, post production, distribution, exhibition, media, academia or service companies. Each year also sees us growing and developing, with more members, more merchandise and more industry news.

I take any and every opportunity I get – like this one – to draw attention to the enormous generosity of all the exhibitors and distributors who continue to give Cinema Pioneers the gift of seeing movies on the big screen at no cost or for a small gold coin donation.

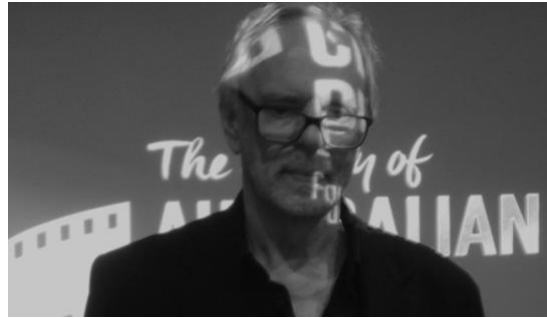
A reminder also that the National and State branches of the Society are run by a wonderful bunch of working and retired industry professionals who volunteer their time and energy to plan and deliver terrific events that bring all industry sectors together. If you want to be more involved or have ideas about possible Cinema Pioneer events or activities, please contact the President of your State Branch.

Here's to a healthy, happy and successful 2025 and I look forward to seeing you (or pictures of you) at Cinema Pioneer events throughout the year.

Warmest Regards,

Lori Flekser
President, The Society of Australian Cinema Pioneers

FROM NATIONAL SECRETARY, ROSS BARNARD



Dear Members,

I'd like to add my welcome to the very first February Cinema Pioneers National Bulletin – I've enjoyed compiling it over the summer holidays. My thanks to all who have contributed.

As Lori has said, our intention in producing this additional Bulletin is to keep you updated with what's been happening across the Society over the past six months, as well as to advise you of Branch activities already confirmed for 2025.

This Bulletin is only being sent to members with an email address, so if you are in touch with any members not on email, please print it out and share it with them, or better still, if they now have an email address, please provide it, and we'll email the bulletin directly to them. Those without email will still be sent a printed copy of the [August Bulletin](#), containing notice of the 2025 AGM, the annual financial report and information about the 2025 Anniversary Dinner in November.

Don't forget that you can update your Cinema Pioneers membership Card at any time. The introduction in 2023 of a new-style membership card featuring our redesigned logo has proven very popular with our members, with over 1,000 now having been issued – that's one third of our total membership. These cards will remain available indefinitely but remember that there is no obligation to renew - both the new and the older 'blue' photo ID version of the Cinema Pioneers Membership Card will continue to be recognised by cinemas. However, the older cardboard version without a photo is no longer accepted by most cinemas.

To obtain a new card, just email a digital passport-style photo to secretary@cinemapioneers.com.au, confirm your current postal address, and transfer the \$20 replacement card fee to:

The Society of Australian Cinema Pioneers Ltd

BSB: 032-066

Acct #: 134 606



(** But even if you don't need a new card, don't want to buy any merchandise, but are just very grateful for what the Society does for its members, any donations are always gratefully received. **)

RECOGNITION OF THE CINEMA PIONEERS ID CARD

On presentation of your Cinema Pioneers ID card, the following cinemas will issue two admissions – for yourself and a guest – with the following provisos and exceptions.
Please read them carefully.

Many cinemas now require a 'gold coin contribution' from Cinema Pioneers using their Photo ID Cinema Card. Monies raised from this small 'donation' support various charities, including Cinema Industry Benevolent Societies. As it is at the discretion of the Exhibitor and therefore no standardised rule for this, some cinemas charge differently, so we urge you to check before attending and have a few coins in your pocket just in case.

The President and Executive Committee are grateful for the privileges extended to our members, and thank all distributors and cinemas involved.

The following major exhibitors generously honour the Cinema Pioneers card, and we gratefully acknowledge their ongoing support:

Hoyts, Event, Birch Carroll & Coyle, Village, Palace and Reading Cinemas all charge a 'Gold coin' contribution for Cinema Pioneers presenting their membership card at the box office. Carefully note EXCEPTIONS listed below.

Please check the policy with the following Cinemas before attending:
Wallis Cinemas * United Cinemas * IMAX Melbourne

EXCEPTIONS:

- Always check session listings for the 'No Free Tickets (NFT)' descriptor against certain titles, generally in the first few weeks of release.
- The card cannot be used on Saturday evenings after 6.00pm, on Public Holidays, or for Premium Seating and Special Programs (e.g. Special Previews and Premieres).
- Cinemas may not accept the card for certain other sessions on occasion, such as special events, co-sponsored film festivals, Q&A screenings.
- The following exceptions to using the CP card have been advised by these exhibitors:
 - HOYTS Lux, Daybeds and DBox
 - EVENT and VILLAGE Gold Class, V-Max and 4DX
 - EVENT IMAX Cinemas
 - READING Titan Luxe Cinema

To the best of our knowledge, the following **Independent Cinemas** continue to honour our Membership Card, but sometimes their policy may change. Always check beforehand. Please advise the Secretary if a cinema no longer recognises the Cinema Pioneers Card, or if find that recognises the card but is not listed here.

NSW and ACT

Boolaroo (Newcastle) - the Lake Cinema
Canberra City Dendy Cinemas (excluding IMAX)
Ettalong Cinema Paradiso
Griffith City Cinemas
Metro Cinemas at Bathurst and Lake Haven
Narooma Kinema
Nelson Bay Cinema Complex
Nowra Roxy Cinema Complex
Randwick Ritz
Roseville Cinemas

Bowral - Empire Theatre Complex
Cremorne Orpheum (Hayden Orpheum)
Great Lakes Cinema 3, Tuncurry
Merimbula - The Picture Show Man Twin
Mount Victoria – Mt. Vic Flicks
Narrabri Crossing Theatre
Newtown Dendy
Orange Odeon 5
Richmond RAAF Theatre
Tamworth Forum 6

Tuggeranong (Canberra) Limelight Cinemas
Regional Cinemas Australia - Port Macquarie, Nambucca Heads, Inverell, Kempsey, Sawtell

Wagga Wagga Forum 6 Theatre
Gold Coast Arts Centre Cinema
Ironbark Theatre at Chinchilla
Moncrieff Entertainment Centre at Bundaberg
Summergarden Twin Cinemas at Bowen

QUEENSLAND

Bribie Twin Cinemas at Bribie Island
Hervey Bay Cinemas
Limelight Cinemas at Ipswich
New Farm Cinemas
Warrina Cineplex at Townsville
Cineplex Australia at Hawthorne, Balmoral, Redbank Plains, Southbank, Nerang and Victoria Point.

VICTORIA

ACMI - The Australian Centre for the Moving Image offers complimentary admission to a Cinema Pioneer and one guest subject to availability. However, this offer does not apply to external partner film festival events.

Arts Centre, Warburton
Bairnsdale Sun Cinemas
Carlton Nova Cinema
Dendy Cinemas Brighton
FOMO Cinemas Brunswick East
Kino Cinema Collins S
Metro Cinemas Boronia,
Mornington Cinemas (Rosebud and Warragul)
Sun Theatre Yarraville
The Memorial, Healesville
Wonthaggi Cinema
Showbiz Cinemas, Swan Hill, Ballarat and Portland

Astor Theatre St. Kilda
Cameo Cinemas Belgrave
Classic Cinemas Elsternwick
Dromana 3 Drive-In
Hamilton and Port Fairy Cinemas
Lido Cinemas Hawthorn
Mildura Wallis Cinemas
Sale Cinemas Centre
Swanpool Cinema
Wangaratta Cinema Centre
Yarram Regent Theatre

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Capri Theatre - Goodwood
Kadina Cinema - Kadina
Oatmill Cinema - Mount Gambier

Cinema Augusta - Port Augusta
Lincoln Cinema - Port Lincoln
Regal Theatre - Kensington Park

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Ace/Hoyts - Midland Ace - Rockingham

Luna Cinemas - Perth and Fremantle

TASMANIA

Metro Cinemas at Burnie Star Theatre, Launceston State Cinema North Hobart



MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Our branded items of Cinema Pioneers merchandise may be ordered at any time. Every sale contributes a few dollars to maintaining the Society's financial viability.



CAPS: \$25 plus \$10 postage



KEYRINGS: \$10 inc. postage



MEMBER PINS: \$15 inc. postage



MOUSE MATS: \$15 inc. postage

Transfer payment to: **Society of Australian Cinema Pioneers Ltd**
BSB: 032-066
Acct #: 134 606

Place your order and confirm your mailing address via email to:
secretary@cinemapioneers.com.au

Your purchase will be posted immediately!

STATE PRESIDENTS AND THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The governance of the Society of Australian Cinema Pioneers is undertaken by the National Executive Committee (NEC), which meets twice a year in July and November.

NEC Meetings and the Members' AGM are conducted on Zoom.

The NEC comprises former National Presidents, State Branch Presidents and other Cinema Pioneers Members co-opted on an occasional basis.

The National Secretary/Treasurer is an ex officio member.

National President: LORI FLEKSER

Presidents of the Society's State branches

NSW/ACT	MIKE SELWYN	139 O'Sullivan Rd Bellevue Hill NSW 2023
QLD	CHRIS PITCHER	90 Nojoor Rd Mudjimba Qld 4564
SA	GLYN BERRY	24 Domain Common Highbury SA 5089
TAS	YURIK CZYZ	56 Forest Road West Hobart Tas 7000
VIC	KEITH STEVENS	PO Box 2632 Cheltenham Vic 3192
WA	ALLAN STILES	15 Bland Street Kensington WA 6151

Emails may be sent to all Presidents via the drop-down menu on the Cinema Pioneers Website Contacts page

Former National Presidents currently serving:

GREG DENNING TIM READ JOHN ROCHESTER MIKE SELWYN

Co-opted Cinema Pioneers currently serving

SANDRA ALEXANDER CATHERINE LAVELLE JANINE PEARCE
DEREK SCREEN KERRY WESTWOOD

National Secretary/Treasurer

ROSS BARNARD, 7 Keir Ave, Hurlstone Park NSW 2193

email : secretary@cinemapioneers.com.au

Website : www.cinemapioneers.com.au



Facebook: The National Facebook page is open to everyone

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cinemapioneersnational>

The State Facebook groups are for members only. They contain information about functions, events, cinema updates and history, and often sadly the passing of Cinema Pioneers members.

All members may join any State Facebook group – click “Join” on the page of the Branch you would like to access and confirm that you are a member. Once verified by an Administrator or Moderator, you will be admitted to that group and be able to read all posts, and submit your own for consideration.

We are also on **INSTAGRAM** as CINEMA PIONEERS
and **LinkedIn** as AUSTRALIAN CINEMA PIONEERS (SOCIETY OF)

HONOUR ROLL OF NATIONAL CINEMA PIONEERS OF THE YEAR

This Award was originally known as the 'National Film Man of the Year' until 1994, when it was changed to 'National Film Pioneer of the Year'. In 1998 it was renamed again and has remained 'National Cinema Pioneer of the Year' ever since.

1 ST	1969	HERC C MCINTYRE	30 TH	1998	BILL CARTY
2 ND	1970	KEN G. HALL	31 ST	1999	ROY TUOHY OAM
3 RD	1971	ROC KIRBY AM	32 ND	2000	GRAEME HODGES
4 TH	1972	ARTHUR SMITH	33 RD	2001	MURRAY FORREST AM
5 TH	1973	BERT CROSS	34 TH	2002	PATRICIA LOVELL MBE AM
6 TH	1974	ERIC PORTER	35 TH	2003	ALLAN STILES
7 TH	1975	VIC WEBB	36 TH	2004	RUSSELL BOYD
8 TH	1976	DAVID WILLIAMS AM	37 TH	2005	JOHN REID
9 TH	1977	HERBERT HAYWARD	38 TH	2006	BOB MASON
10 TH	1978	COLIN JONES	39 TH	2007	ALAN RYDGE AM
11 TH	1979	ALF DAFF	40 TH	2008	ROBERT WARD
12 TH	1980	PHIL BUDDEN	41 ST	2009	BOB PARR
13 TH	1981	ANTHONY BUCKLEY AM	42 ND	2010	JOHN DANIELL AM
14 TH	1982	DARBY JEWELL	43 RD	2011	THEO/MARGARET GOUMAS
15 TH	1983	TOM NICHOLAS	44 TH	2012	NATALIE MILLER OAM
16 TH	1984	ARTHUR STILES	45 TH	2013	JILL ROBB AM
17 TH	1985	JOHN W. SMITH	46 TH	2014	BRUCE LEONARD
18 TH	1986	KEITH MOREMON	47 TH	2015	JOHN POLMEAR
19 TH	1987	DAVID JOEL	48 TH	2016	PETER FENTON OAM
20 TH	1988	GORDON PRESLAND	49 TH	2017	ZAREH NALBANDIAN
21 ST	1989	GREG COOTE AM	50 TH	2018	RUSSELL ANDERSON
22 ND	1990	JACK GARDINER	51 ST	2019	RON REYNOLDS
23 RD	1991	GRAHAM BURKE	52 ND	2020	JOHN CRONIN
24 TH	1992	TERRY JACKMAN	53 RD	2021	SANDRA ALEXANDER
25 TH	1993	PETER THOMPSON	54 TH	2022	TONY BURKE
26 TH	1994	LEN WEBB OAM	55 TH	2023	ANDREW MACKIE and RICHARD PAYTEN
27 TH	1995	GEORGE RUTTLE			
28 TH	1996	DAVID HANNAY	56 TH	2024	DAVID STRATTON AM
29 TH	1997	RICHARD PARTON			

2024 NATIONAL CINEMA PIONEER OF THE YEAR

DAVID STRATTON AM



2024 CINEMA PIONEERS HUMANITARIAN AWARD WINNER

KIM WILLIAMS



2024 STATE PIONEERS OF THE YEAR



TASMANIA
CAROL DIPROSE



SOUTH AUSTRALIA
SHANE FULWOOD



QUEENSLAND
FREYA & GRAHAM TIENAN



WESTERN AUSTRALIA
JO McDONALD



VICTORIA
VINCENT PARISELLA



NEW SOUTH WALES
PAUL BRENNAN

MEMBERSHIP

We encourage all Cinema Pioneers to talk to friends in the industry about joining the Society, and to direct them to our website, www.cinemapioneers.com.au for full information about membership eligibility, benefits and other news of interest to members.

The rate of applications for membership of the Society has slowed over the past six months, so please encourage any current or former industry colleagues and friends who have worked in the cinema industry for 20+ years to apply to become a Cinema Pioneer.

NEW MEMBERS (JULY – DECEMBER 2024)

Our 79th National President, Lori Flekser, welcomes all new members who have joined the Society in the past six months.

Our August Bulletin will list those new members who join from January – June 2025.

JULY 2024

GILLIAN STATHAM <i>NSW</i>	HILTON HOWSON <i>NSW</i>	DEB VERHOEVEN <i>VIC</i>
MICHAEL VILE <i>VIC</i>	EMMA WESTWOOD <i>VIC</i>	ANGE LAVEY-MANCHE <i>QLD</i>
THEA McLEOD <i>VIC</i>	DAVID CRONIN <i>VIC</i>	SOTIRI SOTIROPOULOS <i>NSW</i>
MATTHEW CASALA <i>QLD</i>	SIMON WEAVING <i>NSW</i>	

AUGUST 2024

KATHRYN MILLISS <i>NSW</i>	KELLY REDMOND <i>QLD</i>	OSCAR BIRTLEY <i>VIC</i>
BROOKE MORRIS <i>NSW</i>	SONIA DEAKIN <i>NSW</i>	STEPHEN QUARTLY <i>WA</i>

SEPTEMBER 2024

TIFFANY SMITH <i>VIC</i>	ADAM PETTA <i>NSW</i>	MICHAEL BAKER <i>VIC</i>
JUSTIN SULLIVAN <i>VIC</i>	MATT ENFIELD <i>NSW</i>	TIMOTHY KENDRICK <i>NSW</i>
PAULA JENSEN <i>NSW</i>	MATTHEW OZERSKI <i>NSW</i>	

OCTOBER 2024

NICHOLAS EMOND <i>NSW</i>	STEVEN NICHOLLS <i>NSW</i>	MITZI GOLDMAN <i>NSW</i>
PAUL WESTALL <i>QLD</i>	MEGAN SPEZIALE <i>NSW</i>	

NOVEMBER 2024

JOHN BALBI <i>NSW</i>	MICHAEL HELMS <i>VIC</i>	STEPHEN HARDING <i>NSW</i>
RYAN HUGHES <i>NSW</i>	JODEE LENAINE-SMITH <i>NSW</i>	

DECEMBER 2024

JONATHAN DIXON <i>NSW</i>	AMANDA ENDERS <i>NSW</i>	TROY LUM <i>NSW</i>
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VALE (JULY - DECEMBER 2024)

Honouring those Cinema Pioneers who have left us, as advised during the past six months. Our August Bulletin will list those whose deaths we learn about between January and June 2025.

MARGARET ALLEY SA

BEVIN BODEN SA

VENICE IRVING VIC

BERYL MADSEN QLD

FREDERICK NEILSON WA

SUE PARISH SA

KEN TAYLOR NSW

GRAHAM ANDREW VIC

SCOTT CRESWICK VIC

DONALD KENNEDY VIC

GWENDA MATTHEWS NSW

BERN OWEN WA

PETER RICKETTS VIC

CLIFF WILLIAMSON VIC

ROLAND BECKETT NSW

BARRY HALL VIC

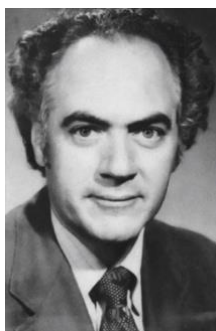
KEVIN LANGTREE QLD

CLAUDIA MCKENZIE WA

BILL PALMER QLD

MICHAEL TARANT QLD

PETER YIANNOUDES VIC



Roland Beckett



Beryl Madsen



Bill Palmer



Ken Taylor



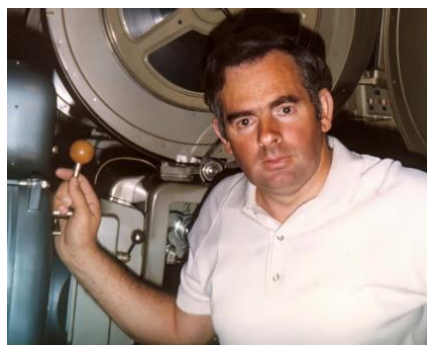
Sue Parish



Peter Yiannoudes



Barry Hall



Cliff Williamson



Graham Andrew

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

1934	GEORGE CLEMENTS	1984	FRED CROUCH
1935	STANLEY WRIGHT	1985	LAURIE RUSSELL
1936	BILL SZARKA	1986	DAVID JOEL
1937	GUS MCINTYRE	1987	JOHN MERRIN
1938	ALAN WILLIAMSON	1988	STANLEY FITZ-ALAN
1939	CHARLIE MUNRO	1989	MERVYN JONES
1940	ALF BESZANT	1990	JOHN W. SMITH
1941	DAN CARROLL	1991	MURRAY FORREST
1942	ARTHUR GREGORY	1992	BRUCE HAWKINS
1943	MONTE SIMMONS	1993	JOHN REID
1944	ARCHER WHITFORD	1994	KEITH MOREMON
1945	CLAY REID	1995	RON McEWAN
1946	JOHN FULLER	1996	LES WOODS
1947	TOMMY GREAVES	1997	BILL PALMER
1948	STAN CRICK	1998	NORMAN SHEEDY
1949	HERC MCINTYRE	1999	ALAN RYDGE AM
1950	TED JOHNSON	2000	ALLEN MYERS
1957	GORDON ELLIS	2001	WENDY PATERSON
1958	DAN CASEY	2002	ANTHONY BUCKLEY AM
1960	MEL LAWTON	2003	RICHARD PARTON
1961	DOUG LOTHERINGTON	2004	NOEL COLLIER
1962	FRANK BARRETT	2005	IAN SANDS
1964	COLIN H.C. JONES	2006	PAUL JOHNSON
1966	HORRIE NAGEL	2007	TOM JEFFREY AM
1967	TOM CADWALLADER	2008	JOHN ROCHESTER
1968	PHIL JONES	2009	ALAN RYDGE AM
1969	KEN G. HALL OBE	2010	ROSS ENTWISTLE
1970	HERB HAYWARD MBE	2011	JOHN KIRBY AM
1971	KEITH MOREMON	2012	ALAN FINNEY OAM
1972	RON MICHAELS	2013	SUE MILLIKEN AO
1973	ROB MCLEISH	2014	MIKE BAARD
1974	PHIL BUDDEN OBE	2015	MIKE SELWYN
1975	DARBY C. JEWELL	2016	ROBERT SLAVIERO
1976	BILLY MOLONEY	2017	TIM READ
1977	JOHN P O'CALLAGHAN	2018	TIM READ
1978	WES LONEY	2019	TIM READ
1979	DAVID WILLIAMS AM	2020	RUSSELL ANDERSON
1980	WAL GRANGER	2021	RUSSELL ANDERSON
1981	ALLAN LEWIS	2022	GREG DENNING
1982	ROD GURR	2023	GREG DENNING
1983	JOHN NEAL	2024	LORI FLEKSER
		2025	LORI FLEKSER



Some memories from our 91st ANNIVERSARY DINNER
Friday 29th November 2024

swissôtel
SYDNEY



SAVE THE DATE!

The 92nd Cinema Pioneers Anniversary Dinner will be held at the
Swissôtel, Market Street Sydney
on Thursday 27th November 2025
Full details in our August Bulletin.

swissôtel
SYDNEY

The Cinema Pioneers Dinner 2025



Advance reservations of Tables of 10 are now open – round up your work colleagues and friends and secure yours now. Email Secretary Ross Barnard to reserve your organisation's table: barnard_ross@yahoo.com.au
(It's a great way to reward your staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year).



AROUND THE BRANCHES...

A look at past events and future plans, and the people who put them together...

NEW SOUTH WALES/ACT

The largest branch of the Society has 1,550 members - 27 in the ACT and 1,523 in NSW. Branch President is Mike Selwyn, Secretary/Treasurer Ross Barnard and committee members Jenny Ward and Alex Brown. Ross is also the National Secretary/Treasurer of Cinema Pioneers and the Motion Picture Industry Benevolent Society. Jenny and Alex are also on the Council of the MPIBS.

The NSW Branch holds a mid-year luncheon each year, which traditionally attracts 80-100 members. As the National Anniversary Dinner takes place in Sydney in November, there is no NSW Branch end-of-year function. See details next page of a special screening to be hosted by the Branch in March.



A special screening proudly brought to you by the NSW/ACT BRANCH of CINEMA PIONEERS.
Members and guests are invited to a rare theatrical screening of



(1979) Directed by Tom Jeffrey. Produced by Sue Milliken.

MONDAY 17th MARCH - RANDWICK RITZ, 6pm

The film will be introduced by Tom Jeffrey, followed by a Q&A with members of the cast and crew.
The National Film & Sound Archive restored the movie in 2016.
This DCP will be shown at this screening.

To cover various incidental costs of holding this screening, we are asking just \$5 for all tickets –
members and others - bookings essential, capacity limited.

Ticket sales now open – payment via transfer to the NSW Branch Account:
SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN CINEMA PIONEERS

BSB: 032-014

Account #: 901 535

\$5 per ticket



We hope to present more retrospective screenings of Australian classics later in the year –
please support this initiative of the NSW Branch.

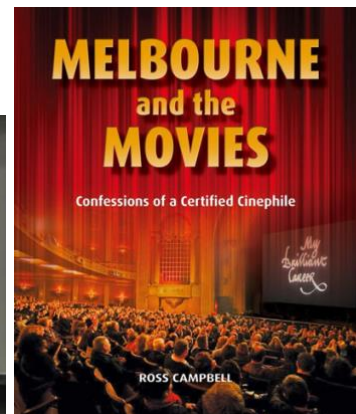
VICTORIA

The Victorian Committee comprises: Keith Stevens (President), Richard Fear (Vice-President), Derek Screen (Secretary), Sharon Tapner (Acting Treasurer), and Committee members Kevin Adams, David Kilderry, Greg Lynch, Kevin Janner and Thea McLeod.

The Victorian Branch has 700 members, and boy, do they like to party!

Functions and get-togethers are arranged every couple of months in Melbourne – see the 2025 line-up of planned activities below. Full details of events are sent to all Victorian members in bi-monthly newsletters.

Some images from the VICTORIAN BRANCH November 2024 Dinner...



OTHER UPCOMING DATES FOR 2025

March 19: Wednesday night Dinner Function - Details will be in the **February 2025 Newsletter**

May 20: Tuesday Ten Pin Bowling Night - Details will be in the **April 2025 Newsletter**

July 16: Wednesday Luncheon - Details will be in the **June 2025 Newsletter**.

September 17: Wednesday Meal&Movie day - Details will be in the **August 2025 Newsletter**

November 19: Wednesday night Dinner Function - Details will be in the **October 2025 Newsletter**

QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Branch has 500 members. The Queensland Branch Committee comprises Christine Pitcher (President), Jodi Hancox (Secretary), Kerry Westwood (Treasurer) and committee members Tony Burke, Cameron Mitchell and Helen Kenna.

When not performing Cinema Pioneers duties, Christine may be seen shamelessly addressing the needs of Facebook Superstar and Canine Influencer RUSTY the wonder dog, a regular moocher at Sunshine Coast food outlets...



QUEENSLAND BRANCH Cinema Pioneers at their Christmas Lunch, November 2024



The Queensland Branch mid-year lunch will be on June 19th – details in Branch Newsletter

SOUTH AUSTRALIA/NORTHERN TERRITORY

The South Australia Branch (which also looks after our 7 members residing in the Northern Territory) has 255 members. The SA Branch Committee comprises Glyn Berry (President), Joel Sprigg (Vice-President), Rita Sammut (Secretary/Treasurer) and committee members Phillip Branford and Gavin Stock.

Some pics of the 2024 SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH Christmas Lunch



South Australian Branch President Glyn Berry and Deanna Wallis from Wallis Cinemas at the *WICKED* Premiere in Sydney, December 2024



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

There are 175 members in WA. The WA Branch Committee currently comprises Allan Stiles (President) and Kathy Sharp (Secretary/Treasurer).

The Branch celebrated Joanne McDonald being chosen as WA Cinema Pioneer of the Year at their November Lunch...



Traditionally, the WA Branch holds an end-of-year function in November where the Branch Pioneer of the Year is honoured.

TASMANIA

There are 39 Cinema Pioneers in the Tasmanian Branch. Yurik Czyz is President, Adrian Jacobson Vice-President, Alexis Speed Secretary/Treasurer and Angela Rattray is also on the committee.

An announcement from the TASMANIAN BRANCH...

Time for Tasmanian Cinema Pioneers to congregate and catch up at our biennial trip to the north of the state for our lunch function. Yes, it's on again, so we look forward to your support.

LUNCH EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE BEAUTIFUL PEPPERS SILO HOTEL at their "GRAIN of the Silos" Restaurant located at 89 Lindsay St, Invermay, Launceston. THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH AT 12.30 PM



To reserve your lunch booking please contact Yurik Czyz at email yurik@bigpond.net.au or phone (03) 62310360 no later than TUESDAY, MARCH 11th.



Memories of our past visit to the north of the State...a most successful lunch gathering at Evandale in October 2018, attended by 27 members and guests.

*The Society of Australian Cinema Pioneers congratulates
MURRAY FORREST AM for his recognition in the Australia Day Honours...*



It's the latest honour in an already decorated career for Forrest, who was recognised for significant services to the film and television industry.

The former head of film processing labs Atlab and Colorfilm, Forrest has chaired charitable organisation Motion Picture Benevolent Society since 1996, becoming a life member in 2020.

His other industry roles include serving as the founding chair of Ausfilm (1994), the director of Screen Producers Australia (1982-1996), chair of the US Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (1982-1985), president of The Society of Australian Cinema Pioneers (1991), and Federation of Producers of Asia director (1978-1984).

In 2008, the National Association of Cinema Operators established the Murray Forrest Award for Achievement in Film Craft in his honour, with previous winners including Gillian Armstrong, George Miller, and John Seale.

Forrest is also the inaugural recipient of the Society of Australian Cinema Pioneers' inaugural Humanitarian Award for his long commitment to the Motion Picture Industry Benevolent Society (MPIBS).

Speaking to IF, the industry veteran said being named a member of the order held special significance, given that he emigrated to Australia from Scotland on January 26 61 years ago.

"For obvious reasons, 61 years ago I didn't set out to become a recipient of any award – far from it," he said.

"When I arrived here, I set out to do a good job of everything that was ahead of me and started in the film industry. The AM is something I really never dreamt of but one I'm very happy, privileged, and honoured to receive."

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

*Some interesting ephemera from Australian Cinema History,
kindly shared by members and friends of Cinema Pioneers*



Cinema Pioneer Noel Cowan shares images from his original hard copy 20th Century Fox Film Distributors catalogue from 1956. This is how the new, improved Cinemascope 55 process was being pitched to Australian Exhibitors – a major improvement on Fox’s original Cinemascope first revealed in 1953 with the release of *THE ROBE* - and an enticement to lure patrons into the cinema and away from the looming threat of television which was introduced into Australia in September 1956.



GORDON MacRAE



SHIRLEY JONES



YUL BRYNNER



DEBORAH KERR

Here is our 1956 Programme...

On this and following pages, it is my proud privilege to list pictures which we know will go before the Cinemascope cameras for 20th Century Fox in the ensuing twelve months.

Never in the history of distribution has any one company possessed a galaxy of story properties of the calibre it is my pleasure to list for your information.

Every exhibitor in Australia knows of the unparalleled box office records built by 20th Century Fox pictures since the introduction of Cinemascope.

With a production budget of over 100 million dollars (including print costs), 1956 will witness not just one of the greatest years in 20th Fox Film's history, BUT THE GREATEST, because good pictures are doing more at the box office to-day than ever they did before.

Fantastic though it may seem, I confidently predict that records in terms of length of season and box office business – even those recently established by great pictures such as "A Man Called Peter", "Carmen Jones", "The Seven Year Itch", "Woman's World", and others from this company – will be bettered again and again by the even greater properties we will possess for release in 1956.

20th Century-Fox attractions in Cinemascope 55mm

20th Century-Fox proudly presents
RODGERS and HAMMERSTEIN'S
"CAROUSEL"
COLOR BY DELUXE
IN THE NEW CINEMASCOPE 55mm

All of the Rodgers and Hammerstein magic... All of the Wonderful Music... The very last word in entertainment pleasure. (Releasing in Cinemascope 35mm reduced from Cinemascope 55mm.)

RODGERS and HAMMERSTEIN'S
"THE KING AND I"
COLOR BY DE LUXE
IN THE NEW CINEMASCOPE 55mm

Scintillating Cast headed by
DEBORAH KERR and YUL BRYNNER
(who originated the King's role in the original New York stage production and played it for several years on Broadway and on the road.)

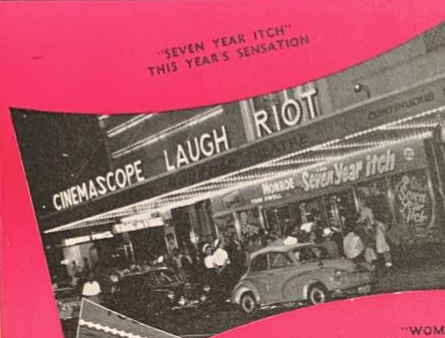
SYDNEY J. ALBRIGHT
MANAGING DIRECTOR
TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LIMITED



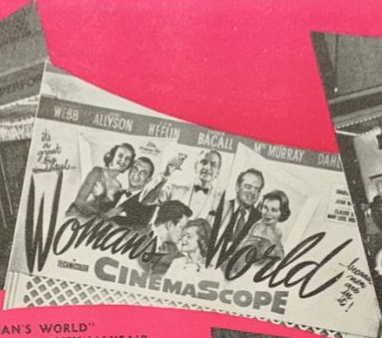
The "Ultimate" **CINEMASCOPE** 55m-To-35m Technique

CONSIDER THESE UNPRECEDENTED CINEMASCOPE SUCCESSES

"SEVEN YEAR ITCH"
THIS YEAR'S SENSATION

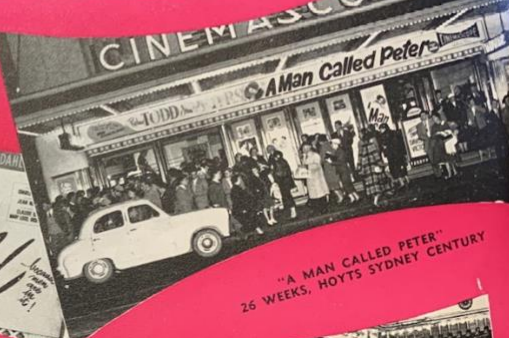


LAUGH RIOT



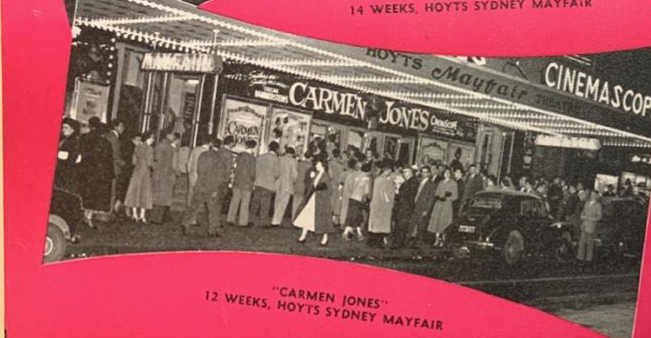
WOMAN'S WORLD

14 WEEKS, HOYTS SYDNEY MAYFAIR



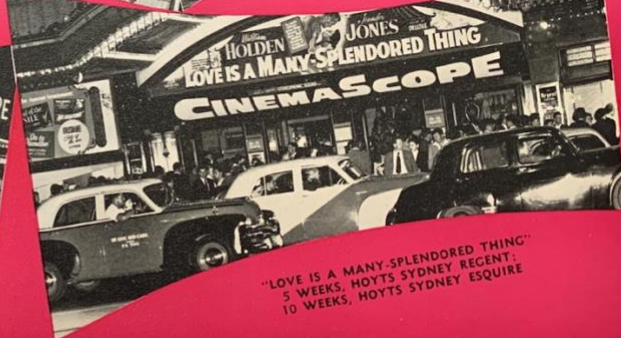
A Man Called Peter

26 WEEKS, HOYTS SYDNEY CENTURY



CARMEN JONES

12 WEEKS, HOYTS SYDNEY MAYFAIR



LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING

5 WEEKS, HOYTS SYDNEY REGENT;
10 WEEKS, HOYTS SYDNEY ESQUIRE

ONLY 20th CENTURY FOX CINEMASCOPE PIONEERS PROGRESS PAYING OFF AT THE BOX OFFICE

DEEPER! RICHER! CLEARER!

CINEMASCOPE

55



AS USUAL

YOU can always depend on 20th CENTURY FOX

WEEK IN WEEK OUT, YEAR IN YEAR OUT, IT'S A PLEASURE TO DO BUSINESS WITH 20th

CINEMASCOPE

PRINTED BY THE BERRY PRINTING CO. 20th CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD. DESIGNED AND COMPILED BY R. STEWART CODDIE PRODUCTION CO., KEITH PARSONAGE.



MORE THAN YOUR EYES HAVE EVER SEEN

RODGERS and HAMMERSTEIN'S **"CAROUSEL"**

ALL OF THE RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN MAGIC!
ALL OF THE WONDERFUL MUSIC!... ALL
PRESENTED IN THE NEVER-ENDING WONDERS OF...

CINEMASCOPE

55

MORE THAN YOUR EYES HAVE EVER SEEN

NO CHANGES REQUIRED IN THE BOOTH FOR THEATRES EQUIPPED FOR STEREOPHONIC SOUND!

LOVELY MUSIC: ORIGINAL LYRICS AND CLEVER BALLETS!



RODGERS and HAMMERSTEIN'S **"The King and I"**

SECOND MOTION PICTURE IN CINEMASCOPE 55

For more pages from this catalogue, including some fascinating technical information on Cinemascope 55, please visit the Cinema Pioneers National and NSW Facebook pages, where you will soon be able to click on the images and enlarge to an easily readable size.

Support the Cinema Industry's own Charity



WHAT IS THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY BENEVOLENT SOCIETY? www.mpibs.org.au

The MPIBS is quite separate from Australian Cinema Pioneers, though obviously there are links, as both Societies serve past and present cinema industry personnel in different ways. The MPIBS is a registered NSW-based charity offering tax-deductibility for donations and is the Cinema Industry's primary benevolent society. Founded in 1931 by people working in the motion picture industry, the Society provides financial and emotional support to retired, or in some cases erratically employed, members of our industry – exhibition, distribution, production or post-production – who have fallen on difficult times and have a genuine need. Though based in Sydney, it supports production and post-production workers Australia-wide.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

The Society relies on donations from industry enterprises and individuals, particularly those who make regular yearly donations. However, as generous as these contributions are, the current level of annual donations needs to increase to meet the continuing call on the Society's funds.

In 2023/2024, the MPIBS expended over \$200,000 supporting our Beneficiaries.

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE MPIBS?

There is no set yardstick or formula. It all depends on the circumstances of each individual. In addition to individual needs, the MPIBS provides annual "Winter Comfort" and "Christmas Cheer" payments to beneficiaries, and a small gift on their birthday.

HOW DOES THE SOCIETY ASSESS AND SUPPORT BENEFICIARIES?

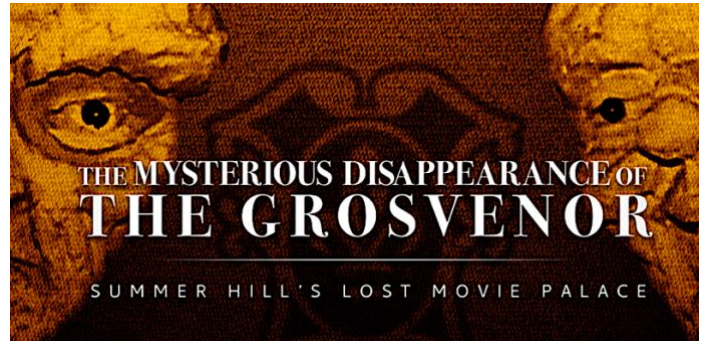
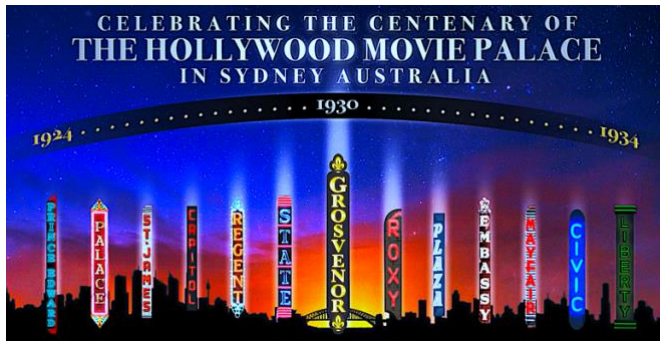
Assessments are undertaken in the strictest confidence by the MPIBS Chairman of Investigation & Relief, who recommends to the MPIBS Council a level of support appropriate to the particular needs of the individual. Financial assistance supplements government pensions and may include a quarterly subsidy for utilities and provide 'in kind' support by way of essential medical aids, such as wheelchairs or breathing apparatus, heaters or Vital Call alert buttons.

HOW LONG DOES THE ASSISTANCE LAST?

For as long as is needed. Beneficiaries are reviewed carefully and confidentially to ensure that there has not been any significant change to their circumstances. Depending on how they are going, their relief payments can be increased, decreased or left at existing levels.

There are other State-based Cinema Industry Benevolent Funds which may operate differently to the MPIBS – contact your State Branch President to enquire and support or go to the ACNC website to review their annual reports.

COMING SOON!
SPECIAL EVENTS OFFERING DISCOUNTS TO CINEMA PIONEERS



Paul Brennan and PTB Screen present TWO Sydney Theatre celebration events:

- *In April: the launch of the much-anticipated SUMMER HILL GROSVENOR book, featuring an on-screen presentation of the book and a 30-minute preview of the documentary THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF THE GROSVENOR (date, time, venue TBC)*
- *Sunday 18th May, Marrickville Town Hall – a salute to the 100th Anniversary celebration of the PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE: 1925 -1965/2025. Renowned theatre organist Margaret Hall will perform a concert featuring famous songs and tunes from classic Paramount movies that screened at the Prince Edward. The restored Prince Edward Theatre Organ now resides at the Marrickville Town Hall.*



Both the book and the Prince Edward Centenary Concert will be available to Cinema Pioneers at a discount price. Details will follow shortly.

Bulletin compiled and edited by Ross Barnard

