

Archive report. June 2026

The archive remains a hive of activity on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, with our happy band of volunteers continuing with the recording and filing to ensure that our records are kept up to date. We have noted an increasing amount of action on our web site so it is important that information there remains up to date. With the absence of cinema advertising in the daily papers, which are now increasingly read online, it is difficult to keep up to date, particularly with openings and closings. If any members read or hear of any changes please let us know so that our files can be amended.

Undoubtedly my highlight for this month at the archive was a visit from John Semmens. John was a foundation member of CATHS, joining in 1989. He now lives in Ballarat and does not attend many meetings. He has generously donated to the archive a collection of more than 50 publications which he has collected over many years. They all date from the 1920s and 1930s and include programs from the State and Capitol theatres and Metro News. There are also single items, such as a program for a season of Charlie Chaplins "The Circus" at the Melbourne Town Hall in 1928, and a Theatre Royal program of Gladys Moncrieff in Maid of The Mountains for January 1921. These have all found a good home in the CATHS archive and we look forward to sharing some of them in CinemaRecord and on our Facebook site.

Other recent donations to the archive:

Harvey Hutcheson - 3 volumes of research including Cinerama and Imax memorabilia.

John Saul - 2 books for the library

Alan Bell - article on the Regent table

Craig Blencoe - Newspapers from 1960s to 1980s

Ross Campbell - books for sale and retention in the library.

We have continued to provide information to members and others who are writing books. Very pleased to see that Scott Smith's book on South Australian cinemas and drive-ins was successfully launched in Adelaide this month. We were also happy to assist Steve Gaunson with research for his Podcasts, and to welcome him as a member.

As usual, I will mention that the Archive is open on most Wednesday and Thursday mornings, but we would appreciate an email or phone call first to ensure that someone will be there. Contact details are in CinemaRecord.

Royce Harris
Archivist