

CATHS NEWSLETTER



October 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2021 AGM was scheduled to be held on Sunday 29 August at the Sun Theatre but, because of the imposed Covid restrictions, it has been postponed.

Because of the legal requirement to hold it within the time frame specified, it will now be held via Zoom on 31 October. The official notice is included with this mail out.

CATHS CINE COLLECTORS' FAIR

Another cancellation: The Fair was to be on Sunday 10 October, but again it had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. The Committee decided to defer it until May 2022, which puts it back to the time of the year it has been held in the past. Hopefully we will have some freedom to associate by then.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS

All Committee positions become vacant at the Annual General Meeting. The efficient operation of your Society is dependent on the Committee of Management, and you are invited to become part of that team. If you feel you could contribute to the running of the Society, why not nominate for a Committee position. Nomination forms are part of this mail out.

MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Archive volunteer Tony Tibballs will be presenting an illustrated talk entitled "The History of Theatres in the Leafy Eastern Suburbs" at the Art Deco & Modernism Society's Annual General Meeting, and again for the University of the Third Age (Hawthorn) on Zoom in October.

This will be Tony's third presentation of this popular talk, having also presented it in June for the Camberwell Historical Society.

DENDY ORGAN FINDS NEW HOME

Because of changes in the Dendy Cinema in Brighton (Vic), it has become necessary for the iconic Wurlitzer organ to be removed.

The owners, the MTO, have reached an agreement with the RMIT University, the custodians of the Capitol Theatre, for its return.

The target date for it to sound again is November 2024, which is also the centenary of the Capitol Theatre.

Source: VOX Magazine
Oct. 2021



NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Amanda Watson (Melbourne)
Wade Kelly (Melbourne)
Graeme Kroot (Sydney)
Alix Jeffree (Adelaide)
Mary Kenneally (Melbourne)

DECEASED MEMBER

It is with sadness that we advise the death of one of our South Australian members, Fred Lomman of Millswood. Fred had been a member since 2008, and although not able to attend meetings, was a keen reader of our CinemaRecord magazine.

HELPFUL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

After the editorial in the last issue of CinemaRecord regarding unhelpful historical societies, it is pleasing to report that we have received good cooperation from a number of Societies in the past few months.

During the lock down, the archive team have not been idle. The master database has been continually updated and uploaded to the CATHS website where a full search for details of venues is possible.

We were pleased to agree to the Coolangatta / Tweed Twin Towns Historical Society's request to republish the article "A Cinematic Tale of Twin Towns" in CR #111 in their newsletter. Their assistance with research and pictures for the article was greatly appreciated by its author, Tony Tibballs.

OUR SPONSORS AND AFFILIATES



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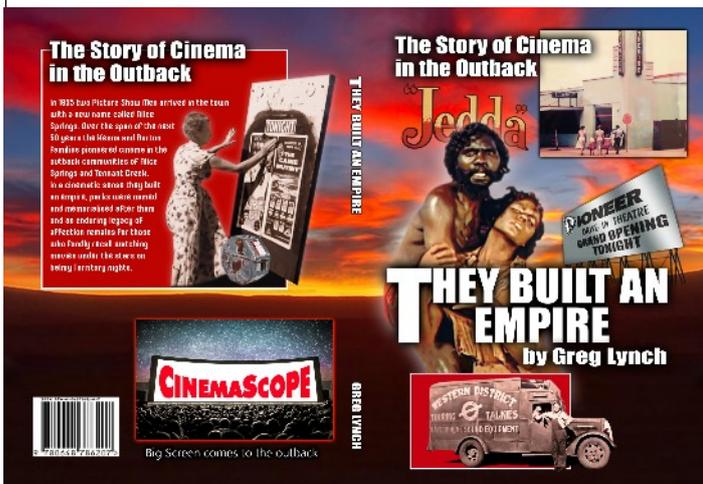
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GOLDEN DAYS RADIO

NEW BOOK RELEASED BY MEMBER

NEW - They Built an Empire (The Story of Cinema in the Outback)

1935 - 1988



“They Built an Empire” follows the lives of Snowy Kenna & Bill Burton who pioneered cinema in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. This was a time of war, segregation and devastating nitrate fires. Along the way we meet Charles Chauvel who is casting for the role of Jedda. Here we become part of the audition process and witness the casting of Rosie Kunoth in the lead role, while Snowy Kenna is desperate to host the world premiere of *Jedda* at his theatre in Alice Springs, and goes into battle with Tom Harris of the Star theatre, Darwin, and Columbia Pictures for the privilege.

In the wake of *Jedda*, Chips Rafferty journeys to the outback to find investors for his latest project, *The Phantom Stockman*, while Peter Finch and Nevil Shute arrive in the Alice for the Australian premiere of *A Town Like Alice*. This is a frontier story, a story of picture show men who built and ran theatres and drive-ins in the outback for over a 50 year period, a saga that ends in the 80s, when television and video tape cause a disastrous drop in the available cinema going public. - Author Greg Lynch.

“They Built an Empire” - 89 pages with numerous photos. (Cover 300 gsm art-board) **Price \$35.00 with postage, handling & GST inclusive within Australia.** Payment method: Direct deposit / Cheque / Paypal - Contact Three Dimensional Productions P/L for information - 03 9758 8628 or mobile 0419 362 007 or Email : dimensional1@bigpond.com.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

A breakdown of our membership numbers since the August 2021 Newsletter, now that the membership renewal period is well past, shows the following:

Loss of member due to death - 1
Loss of members due to not renewing - 18
New members - 5
Total membership as at 8 October 2021 - 282

Contributions received from:

Barrie Wraith, Tony Tibballs, Royce Harris, Cameron Hall.

WESTGARTH THEATRE TURNS 100

This Northcote (Vic.) icon celebrates its 100th birthday on 20 October this year. Originally a 1700 seat single screen theatre, the venue has been multi-screened and is now operated by Palace Cinemas.



A special 10 page article on the history of the Westgarth Theatre by Cameron Hall, was featured in issue #32 of CinemaRecord. It can be read on the CATHS website at www.caths.org.au - just follow the “Our Publications” link.

CINEMA & THEATRE NEWS IN BRIEF

Bundaberg, Qld.

Bundaberg Council has announced that the former Wintergarden Theatre is to be redeveloped as part of their Civic and Cultural Arts Precinct. Since closure it has operated as a video store and gym.

South Yarra, Vic.

Developers have unveiled plans to rejuvenate the Jam Factory in South Yarra in a \$1.5bn development which includes retail, office and residential towers, and a luxury hotel. The plans include retaining and redeveloping the existing cinemas.

Stafford, Qld.

Developers have lodged an application for a proposed health services and RSL hub. The plans include demolition of the former Star/Tropic Theatre for a car park. A submission arguing that the cinema deserves heritage protection as the last old cinema building on Brisbane’s north side has been submitted. (ABC News 22/09/2021)

Caloundra, Qld.

Operators of Big Screen Cinemas Caloundra announced on Sept 9 that they will not be reopening their doors, after 25 years of operation.

Richmond, NSW.

The Regent Theatre in Richmond, built in 1935, has been advertised for sale as the owner is retiring after more than 30 years. The Real Estate marketing notes that it is heritage listed but they are still describing it as “a fantastic redevelopment site/project.”

Clifton, Qld.

Toowoomba cinema-goers celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the New Tivoli Picture theatre in Clifton. The Hungerford family purchased it in 1935 and still own the building, which operates on an irregular basis for the community. (7 News Toowoomba, Sep 14)

Roma, Qld.

The Cinema Roma complex has been sold three years after it ceased to operate. The new owners say the premises will be redeveloped into another type of business. The cinema was offered to the local council, who declined to purchase it on behalf of the community.