

Archive report - CATHS year 1/7/22 to 30/6/23

After a couple of very interrupted years with irregular closures due to the Government Coronavirus restrictions I am pleased to report that Archive activities resumed normal functions during the past year. Our regular group of volunteers have continued their activities in researching, recording and filing the history of venues in Australia and New Zealand.

The main improvement to the archive this year has resulted from our success in obtaining a grant from the Public Records Office Victoria for the purchase of high speed scanning equipment to enable the scanning and digitising of our extensive holdings of images and documentation of Victorian cinemas and theatres. Mike Trickett has led this project, and Keith Gulliver has become a welcome addition to the archive team to assist Mike. The basis of the grant was for the digitisation of the Victorian records, and that has just been completed. We are now moving on to the New South Wales records.

The archive has continued to be a valuable resource for members and the public for research. I have detailed these visits in my reports to the general meetings so I will not repeat them here but we have good reciprocal arrangements with other Historical societies.

Also detailed at the general meetings has been the number of donations of records and memorabilia to the archive. We are very grateful for these donations and pleased for this to continue as it helps us build our files for all venues. Items surplus to our requirements are sold and that assists in defraying the costs of running the archive. This year's Cinefair was particularly successful and books have also been sold through our participation in the Prahran Mechanic's Institute (PMI) book sales, and directly to visitors to the archive.

I would again like to record my appreciation of our relationship with the staff and board of the PMI in enabling us to operate in such a pleasant environment. It is very reassuring to have such a safe and secure place in which to house our records and collection.

I would also like to record my appreciation of the participation of our happy group of volunteers who attend the archive on a regular basis. Thanks to Tony, Neal, Keith and Keith, and Mike of course, - their participation and friendship is valued. If any other members would like to join us on a regular basis they are always welcome.

I get a great amount of pleasure from my involvement with CATHS and the archive and I again thank the members for giving me that opportunity.

RoyceHarris,
Archivist,CATHS