

CATHS NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2024

NEXT MEETING:

The first meeting for the year will be held at the Sun Theatre, Yarraville on **Sunday 25 February**, commencing at 9.30. See attached Notice of Meeting.

CINEMA INDUSTRY NEWS

THE RIVOLI CAMBERWELL

It was good to read newspaper coverage of the old style World Premiere of the new Australian movie 'The Dry 2' where star Eric Bana 'walked the Rivoli red carpet with his costars'.

It was reminiscent of a similar premiere of Baz Luhrmann's 'Moulin Rouge' in 2001 when Nicole Kidman brought old style Hollywood glamour to Camberwell.

Since its spectacular 2000 Art Deco makeover the Rivoli is an ideal venue for such events. Even Harrison Ford attended in 2006, and it was the scene of the Victorian premiere of the Barbie movie.

It's not easy to get newspaper coverage since cinemas stopped their newspaper advertising. The new Moonee Ponds Palace Penny Lane 11 complex did manage a photo and story when it opened in December.

FORUM THEATRE MELBOURNE

The owner of Melbourne's iconic Forum Theatre (former State Theatre) has been advised to urgently repair the ornate facade after a report found there was a high risk that part s of the building could fall off or collapse.

Heritage Victoria last year issued Marriner Group, which bought the near century-old theatre in 1996, a show cause notice noting concerns about the crumbling facade.

But Marriner Group head Jason Marriner yesterday denied the building on Flinders and Russell streets was at "a critical stage" and said it was safe to walk past.

A separate condition report from September also highlighted damage to the building's awning - which has been hit by trucks - and said the water proofing membrane had entirely deteriorated on the balconies, turrets and tower, allowing water "into the structure".
Source: *The Age* 20-01-2024

VERONA CINEMA PADDINGTON

Paddington's Verona Cinema Is closing in February. The good news? Its owners have plans to reopen a historic cinema nearby.

The owners Palace Cinemas have announced they're closing the venue in February, as the building's current owners are turning the property into a six-storey development.

Palace will be taking over the former Paris in nearby Moore Park.
<https://concreteplayground.com/>

MAJESTIC CINEMAS

Australian cinema operator **Majestic Cinemas** has gone into voluntary administration in an attempt to stay afloat in the post-pandemic environment.

The chain has nine locations across regional New South Wales and Queensland, including the Ritz in Port Macquarie and other theatres in Nambour, Inverell, Nambucca, Rose Point, Wynnum, Kempsey, Singleton, and Nelson Bay.

CEO Kieren Dell is optimistic the chain will survive, and all cinemas remain open as usual. "This process of administration is about restructuring the business, making it sustainable going forward."

Despite the success of blockbusters like Barbie and Oppenheimer, last year proved particularly difficult as the months-long actors and writers strikes led to fewer releases, while the cost of living crisis made it more difficult for households to afford a trip to the cinema.
<https://amp.abc.net.au/article/103419986>

Contributors: Allan Webb, Neil Austin, Royce Harris, Les Tod. Unfortunately, these items arrived too late for inclusion in the News-reel section of CinemaRecord.

Member Request:

I'm putting together a video presentation on the **Valhalla Cinema** (Melbourne) and would like to contact anyone who has information on it, or who was a patron, that may have stories about it to contact me. If they agree, I would like to interview them. Please get in touch with me via my email stevens@dcsi.net.au

Thanks
Keith Stevens

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SUNDAY APRIL 14 - Mark your diary!

