

CATHS RESEARCH WORKING GROUP
Annual Report 2022 - 23

BACKGROUND

Current PMI attendees are Peter Benn, Geoff Gunst, Cameron Hall, Royce Harris, David Kilderry, Ross King, Ian Smith, Tony Tibballs and Jim White. Corresponding members are Richard Twentyman, Mike Trickett, Frank Van Straten, Les Tod, Eric White, Phil O’Kane and Colin Flint.

This report covers the period 01 October 2022 – 18 August 2023. The Research meeting dates were changed at the Feb. 2023 meeting in order to separate by month Research meetings from CATHS’ General meetings. The Research dates are now September 2023, November, March 2024, May, and July etc. on the last Wednesday of those months. There was e-mail correspondence between times, some of which is summarised in the report.

PURPOSE

- (1) Develop a library of Oral Histories
- (2) Workshop stories for CinemaRecord
- (3) Assist CATHS’ members with their queries and
- (4) Share our passion by talking about theatres and theatre history to community groups.

OUTCOMES

Objective 1

Jim White continues his transcription from tape of his life in projection in England and Australia, then his move to the ABC. This interview was conducted by our Patron Frank Van Straten.

Objective 2

Collaborative writing for CinemaRecord is sometimes important for stories with many facets.

CR 115 Sept. 2022:

British Empire Films: A Long Way to the Top
Before the Silver Screen
Theatres of Bandina, Queensland

Geoff Gunst, David Kilderry and Ian Smith
Ross King and Ian Smith
Les Tod and Richard Twentyman

CR 116 Dec. 2022:

Gone and Forgotten: The Seddon Theatre

Ross King and Ian Smith

CR 117 March 23:

The Theatres of Bowen, Qld (Part 1)
The Warragul Theatre – Warragul Vic.
Kennedy)

Les Tod and Richard Twentyman
Mike Trickett (notes by the late Gerry

Stories by Research Group members requiring no collaboration:

Southport Queensland: A Family and its Interesting Cinema History
Theatres and the Chief Secretary’s Department
Star Newsreel Theatre

Tony Tibballs
Les Tod
Royce Harris

CR 116 Dec. 2022:

The Film Venues of Donald, Vic.
The Story of the Marlbro Theatre, Leichardt, NSW
Norwood, SA: Star Theatre/Odeon Star Theatre

Les Tod
Les Tod
Les Tod

CR 117 March 2023:

Otto Camphin “Czar of the Blue Mountains”
The Liberty Theatre Leura, NSW
The Casterton Theatre, Vic.
Victoria Hall, Colac
Opening of the Rivoli Theatre, Camberwell, Vic.

Mike Trickett
Les Tod
Les Tod
Richard Twentyman
Richard Twentyman

Music and the Movies

CR 118 JUNE 2023:

The Squire of Robe

The Cinemas of Nelson Bay, NSW

The Evolution of Cinema Air Conditioning

The Theatres of Bowen, Qld (Part 2)

Ross King

Les Tod

Royce Harris

Les Tod

Objective 3

Correspondence continued with author Vicki Shuttleworth; specifically to identify persons in photos for possible inclusion in her biography of Louise Lovely, (Louise Carbasse) who forged an early career in Hollywood, then returned to finance a film here.

Objective 4

Tony Tibballs spoke to the Fitzroy Historical Society in July 2023 about cinema history in the suburb.

OTHER

A selection from many items discussed:

- *Australians in Hollywood.*
Diminishing returns on this project means that for all intents and purposes it is complete. Several names were added during the year.
- Capitol Theatre Candelabra: Year of Installation.
The Curator of Performing Arts Centre turned up a Christies catalogue which listed the purchase of the item as post-1925. One further step in determining the date will be explored.
- Hoyts DeLuxe: Illuminated Sign.
Assisted a curator at Performing Arts with attempts to find a home. No home for the sign has been found.
- Theatre Gas-Lights? Michelle Walker sought confirmation that unusual lights with plaster faces were from a Sydney Theatre. Despite casting a wide net, no such assurance was possible.

Ian Smith

Convenor

25/08/2023