

Annual General Meeting 25 August 2024

Secretary's Report for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

It is pleasing to be able to report that attendances at our meetings are slowly returning to what we considered normal prior to the COVID restrictions. It has been a long, slow return to normality, with Sunday morning public transport restrictions being the latest problem to present itself.

The CATHS website has been increased in size and coverage, with easier, direct links to our most accessed pages. The website has been extended to include an expanded version of our venues and magazinesearches. As well, we now have the first 110 issues of CinemaRecord available online. I should add that the magazines available on line will always be more than two years old, as current issues are available to members only.

Our website continues to attract a good number of views each week. The web tracker program accessible at the bottom of the screen, shows that we average around 250 visits per month, and since we added the tracker about five years ago, we have had over 38,000 visitors to our website. It is interesting to look at the origins of those visitors. As you would expect, the majority are from Australia, but we also get a good many visits from people in the US, UK and such unlikely places as China and Russia.

Last year, we launched a CATHS Facebook page. Our President Royce Harris keeps the pages looking fresh, with regular uploads of pictures and information. The page currently has around 350 "followers" and is growing steadily.

Of course the main benefit of membership is our quarterly magazine, CinemaRecord. The magazine is edited and compiled by Richard Twentyman and myself. It is a task that we enjoy, and hopefully the members enjoy reading. We are fortunate to have a few regular contributors who provide articles for us, but it must be said that we are always looking for more, and don't have very many in hand. You don't have to be a whiz with a keyboard, as the editors are only too happy to assist or finalise articles. We have a wealth of material, both as text and pictures in the archive that can be used to compliment an article. So, how about seeing if you can put an article together – you will see your name in 'lights'.

This is the time of the year which generates a lot of work and frustration for the small team who handle membership renewals. Despite trying several ways to reduce the work load, hoping members would renew without having to be sent formal notices, as of today there are still a number of now former members who have not renewed their membership. To assist members in keeping track of their membership status, we added the line "*Your membership is current until ...*" at the bottom of the CinemaRecord address sleeve some time back. We have also mentioned renewal time in our newsletters, sent a renewal notice with payment details to each member, and finally a personally addressed letter by postal mail. Of course all of this takes time and adds to the cost of administration.

I would like to thank Michael Smith and the staff here at the Sun. I would like to say a special thank you to Amy Stevenson, the Sun's head of projection, for the work she does for us. The film program that you see at each meeting is delivered to her the Thursday before our meeting, Amy loads it into the Sun's server, ready for us to screen on the Sunday morning.

Finally, to all members who have contributed to CATHS during the year, whether your contribution has been as a committee member, a volunteer, writing for our magazine, making the morning coffee or just supporting CATHS as a financial member- thank you.

Mike Trickett
Secretary 2023-2024