

Annual General Meeting 31 August 2025

Secretary's Report for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

It is pleasing to be able to report that attendances at our meetings have returned to pretty much what they were prior to the COVID restrictions being introduced. But, as I reported this time last year, Sunday morning public transport restrictions in Melbourne and time table issues remain a problem for many of our members.

As of writing this report, there are 16 members who have not renewed their subscription, and now must officially be classified as ex-members. It is sad to see them leave us, as some were long-time members, but it's understandable as people's interests and allegiances change in time. However, we are pleased to report that 11 new members have joined us since this time last year. Many of these new memberships can be attributed the interest generated by the CATHS Facebook page, which is administered by our President Royce Harris. Royce keeps the page looking fresh with new material added weekly. The page currently has close to 500 "followers" and is growing steadily.

Our website is another asset for CATHS, it generates a number of queries and comments, and even donations of material for our archive. The number of online pages has been increased again in the past year. The venues and magazine searches are regularly accessed and frequently generate further enquiries. Both our Facebook and internet presence lift our public profile, and show there is an organization dedicated to preserving our rich cinema history.

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 both enjoy, and hopefully the members enjoy reading it. Ninety per cent of the articles we print are written by our members, which in itself is a great achievement. However, it must be said that we are always looking for more articles, especially on interstate venues.

I must thank Richard Twentyman, who as our Membership Manager has taken that load off me. Richard is now handling all membership matters and is doing a great job at keeping the database up to date and our bulk email system functioning.

The task of administering the Society, complying with the legislation under which we are incorporated, and ensuring the smooth functioning of meetings, presentations, etc. is usually down to a handful of people. An aspect of the administration that has become a major frustration over the years is the need to prepare and send renewal notices each year, despite the mailer with each copy of CinemaRecord displaying the membership expiry date, very few members take the initiative and renew without the need for a notice. To then to find that some often repeat offenders need to have reminders and copy invoices sent, is a frustration and a time wasting exercise for those who give their time freely to administer our Society.

I would like to thank the other committee members for the time and dedication, they have put into CATHS this past year, especially our president, Royce Harris. Members who have not been to our archive at the PMI Victorian History Library would not appreciate the time and dedication Royce puts into that important aspect of our Historical Society.

However, with the mention of the committee, I feel obligated to make a comment about the current situation. At the time of writing this report, the only nominations we have in hand are for the existing committee members to be reelected. Although it is pleasing that members are showing they have faith in the current committee, looking at the long term prospects for CATHS, that is not a good situation. Most of the committee are in the upper age group and at some time, new, younger people will need to take the reins. A term as a committee member, to "learn the ropes" before taking on the onerous task of administration as one of the office holders would be a good start.

Then there is our archive. It contains the largest collection of cinema related material in Australia. We have built up a collection of over 10,000 pictures and many more documents and clippings over many years from donations, acquisitions and bequests. A great deal of work has gone into creating an extensive computer database containing details on over 6000 past and present cinemas and theatres. A recent upgrade of the archive equipment now means we have a first class archive. Additional volunteers are needed, even if only on occasional basis.

To our supporters and affiliates, I would like to sincerely thank you for your support over the years. Our regular spots on Golden Days Radio, no doubt put our organization out there in public view. The PMI Victorian History Library, the home of the CATHS archive and a never ending source of help and publicity for our organization. By no means last, Michael Smith and his staff here at the Sun Theatre for the use of the wonderful theatre for our Sunday morning meetings. I would like to include a personal thank you to Amy Stevenson, the Sun's head of projection. Amy is responsible for uploading our film program into the Sun's digital system after I deliver it prior to each meeting.

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, donations to the archive, making the morning coffee or just supporting CATHS as a financial member- thank you.

Mike Trickett
Secretary
31-08-2025