Archive Report - CATHS year 2024-2025

We have enjoyed another very productive year at the archive.

I have detailed donations to the archive in my general meeting reports throughout the year. We have been fortunate in receiving a large number of varied donations this year and these have added considerably to our collections. We have been kept busy scanning, recording and filing these items. Ours is not a static collection, filed away and forgotten. Where possible we like to display items for the enjoyment of all. An example was the display we provided at the Capitol theatre for their anniversary celebrations in November. We also show relevant items to illustrate our talks at PMI. Apart from being used for reference, we like to include items where appropriate to illustrate CinemaRecord articles, and regularly post a variety of photos and ephemera on our Facebook site.

Our largest project over the last two years has been the digitising of all material in our general files. We obtained a grant for a new scanner to enable this, and purchased a second scanner to ensure timely complication of the task. Both scanners are now utilised to record all donations to the archive.

I wish to record my gratitude to the staff and executive of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute (PMI) for the continual provision of the space to enable us to store and maintain our archive. We have a very happy working relationship with them. We have contributed to PMI functions during the year, including participation at their car park book sales, and providing speakers for two functions.

Thanks to our small band of volunteers who contribute to the running of the archive. Mike Trickett, in addition to all of his secretarial functions, puts in a lot of time at the archive. I especially appreciate his work on maintaining and upgrading our computer system. Keith Gulliver, Keith Lumley and Neal Elfick are also regular volunteers in the archive, and their contributions are much appreciated. Tony Tibballs was a very enthusiastic volunteer at the archive and we have been unable to find a regular replacement for him since he located to Queensland at the end of 2023. If any other members are able to contribute a few hours a week on a regular basis I would appreciate hearing from them.

Thanks again to our members for their confidence in allowing me to continue as Archivist, a role which gives me a great deal of pleasure.

Royce Harris Archivist