President's Report. CATHS year 2024-2025

I am very pleased to present the President's Report for the year 2024-2025.

Thanks

I must firstly thank Mike Trickett for his invalue support again this year. CATHS would find it difficult to function at this high level without Mike's knowledge and experience, which he freely shares. His knowledge of our computer system is also very much appreciated by all who use it.

Mike, with Richard Twentyman, also edits our esteemed quarterly magazine, CinemaRecord. They are both to be congratulated on maintaining the high standard of the magazine, which is one of the main reasons that we retain our loyal membership. Thanks also to Richard for his many other behind the scene duties, such as acting as membership secretary and his work on mailouts and CinemaRecord distribution.

Thanks also to our Treasurer, Cameron Hall, for his very efficient work in looking after our finances.

Our committee members, Keith Gulliver (Vice-President,) Ian Smith, Keith Stevens and Rod Cook must also be thanked for their assistance and ideas which all contribute to the effective running of CATHS. Thanks also to Ian Smith for acting as chairman of our very busy research group.

Thanks to our long time patron, Pete Smith, for his diligence in attending our meetings and for always promoting CATHS when the occasion arises. His friendship and support is much appreciated.

Thanks also to Mike Smith of the Sun Theatre. His long time support of CATHS cannot be under-estimated. We greatly appreciate his ongoing offer of the use of the iconic Sun for our meetings, and the cooperation of his staff on meeting days with provision of the projection room and morning tea facilities. We are always made to feel most welcome.

Thanks also to all at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute for continually providing us with a great place to house our archive. We enjoy the friendly interaction with them and our contributions to their activities.

Thanks also to Golden Days Radio, where we enjoy a reciprocal sponsorship arrangement. We sponsor their weekly program "Madeleine at the Movies" and receive much on air publicity in return.

Activities

CATHS was pleased to participate in the 100th anniversary activities at Melbourne's Capitol Theatre in November. We provided a display of articles from our archive, including original programs and advertising from the cinema's early years. This was displayed in a cabinet in a foyer and proved a talking point for guests over the four days of activities. Thanks to Keith Stevens, we participated in the centenary celebrations on the Sunday afternoon. This included in depth tours of the cinema specifically for members of CATHS and Cinema Pioneers. That was followed by a screening of The Lost City of Melbourne, incorporating a question and answer session with David Kilderry and the filmmaker, Gus Berger.

A further event at the Capitol in April, also in conjunction with Cinema Pioneers, was a screening of The Sound of Music, preceded by a live presentation of 1920s hits by the Capitol orchestra.

We have collaborated with PMI in two presentations. Last August I presented a talk on Melbourne's Art Deco Cinemas of the Late 1930s, and in February Mike presented Reel History - a journey through Victoria's past. Both were very well received by capacity audiences. I was asked to present again at the Art Deco Society annual general meeting, which resulted in further exposure for CATHS. Although not in the year under review, David Kilderry presented again this August, a talk on The Lost Suburban Cinemas of Melbourne, again to a very appreciative capacity audience.

Also in conjunction with PMI we have participated in two book sales in our Car Park. This gives us a chance to sell surplus donated items to a wider audience. Sale of donated books, DVDs and films this year has totalled \$778, which assists with archive over ads.

Cinema inspections

This used to be a feature of the CATHS program in our earlier years but they have not been as well supported lately, due to a variety of reasons. One is our ageing membership, and others include the smaller number of appropriate venues, and the difficulty in obtaining access to Melbourne's largest live theatres, which are rarely vacant for long between shows.

In addition to the very successful instation of the Capitol, as already mentioned, we conducted two other visits. The first was to the recently opened FOMO in East Brunswick, in October, and the second to the Pentridge cinemas in Coburg, in May. A lot of work goes into arranging these visits, which are enjoyed by those attending. I thank all members for their assistance, particularly Ian Smith.

Frank Van Straten's bequest

Our late member and patron, Frank Van Straten, left a generous bequest of \$30,000 to CATHS. We have had considerable discussion as to how we best utilise the funds. To date we have donated \$5,000 to PMI to assist with upgrading our computer server, and have purchased four new computers to update the obsolete computers in the archive. We are also investigating the purchase of a display case for the archive, which will bear a plaque in appreciation of Frank's contribution to CATHS. Frank was always a big supporter of CATHS and was a keen and active member of our research group.

Facebook

Our Facebook site was started in April 2023 to increase awareness of CATHS and to provide members with an avenue for discussion. These aims have been met and our number of followers has increased to 440 (from 350 last year.) Members comments and 'likes' to our posts are very much appreciated. Facebook has broadened our reach and has been responsible for several new members.

I wish to record my appreciation for the continued support of members for the work done by your committee.

Royce Harris President