

Federation of Victorian Film Societies Inc

INFORMATION SHEET 00 Version 6



ABOUT THE FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN FILM SOCIETIES

Who Are We?

The Federation of Victorian Film Societies (FVFS) is the support organisation for film societies, community film festivals and community cinemas primarily in Victoria and SA. For a brief period in 2010 we were also known as Community Film Societies (CFS).

The FVFS is a member of ACOFS (The Australian Council of Film Societies) who in turn is a member of the IFFS (International Federation of Film Societies)

The FVFS was established in 1949 and quickly grew to over 50 member groups. It has seen many changes in technology and regulation since then, and now has over 65 member groups in several States and includes many community cinemas and community film festivals.

Our Vision

We are a forward thinking and helpful organisation which operates to meet present and future needs of member groups.

Our Mission

We are responsible for the development, support and representation of member groups in Victoria, SA and where appropriate, in other States of Australia.

Tag Line

Your image is Our Focus

What Do We Do?

1. Provide status and credibility to member groups through registration.
2. Ensure ready availability of reasonable film and DVD rentals, screening rights, equipment and insurance.
3. Supply up-to-date information and advice on film and DVD and its presentation in an atmosphere of shared enjoyment.
4. Encourage and facilitate cross fertilization between film societies.
5. Represent the interests of film societies at ACOFS, business and all levels of government.
6. Support the interests of all organisations engaged in the delivery of community cinema.
7. Ensure the FVFS is sufficiently resourced and appropriately structured to meet its objectives.

Activities

1. Provide hands-on support and advice to groups wishing to form a film society, community cinema or community film festival.
2. Provide advice and support covering all aspects of film society, community cinema and community film festival operation.

3. Provide emergency support for member groups struggling to survive.
4. Offer a one-to-one help and advice service.
5. Maintain a visible presence by regular visits to member groups.
6. Work with other organisations as appropriate on behalf of member groups.
7. Provide training, conference and networking opportunities.
8. Publish informational and educational material.
9. Develop and maintain links with film and DVD supply organisations to enhance film and DVD availability and rights agreements to benefit member groups.
10. Publish a regular newsletter of material relevant to the running of film societies, community cinemas and community film festivals.
11. Maintain an up-to-date website with relevant information.
12. Manage a film loss and damage insurance policy for member groups.
13. Manage a public liability and general insurance policy for member groups at special rates.
14. Under some circumstances, provide financial assistance to member groups.
15. Develop and provide technical, legal and operational advice to member groups.
16. Manage DVD screening rights agreements.

Our Customers

Our customers are organisers of film societies, community cinemas and community film festivals particularly in Victoria and SA and those wanting to start or join such groups.

What Is Our Image?

We are a responsive and knowledgeable organisation willing and able to help member groups with advice and support.

What Do Our Customers Need, Want and Expect?

Our customers expect to see a one-stop shop for all matters relating to the running of a film society, community cinema or a community film festival.

History of the FVFS and CFS

The FVFS was started in 1949 by the Melbourne Film Society, MUFS (Melbourne University Film Society) and the Realist Film Group. They were quickly joined in the same year, when the FVFS became a legal entity, by The Australian Religious Film Society, Surrey Hills Film Society and The Balwyn-Deepdene Film Society.

The Olinda Film Festival, which took place in 1952, later grew to become the FVFS-owned Melbourne Film Festival and was wholly organised by the film society movement. This festival became independent in 1982 and changed its name to the Melbourne International Film Festival.

The Australian Film Institute (AFI) is another body which had its genesis in the FVFS and then became an influential body in its own right.

The peak number of FVFS member societies was around 70 in the mid 70's when "Art-house" films were rarely screened in the cinemas, but by 2006 this number had dropped to 45 societies, possibly due to the fact that many cinemas began to screen quality films, and perhaps also due to the increasing difficulty of getting suitable movies on 16mm film – the mainstay of the film society until that time. Since 2004, when video projection became technically and economically feasible, more and more societies began to screen their films from DVD, and these societies began to expand as their programs improved because virtually any movie is available on DVD.

FVFS Governance

Member groups of the FVFS are represented by their delegates at FVFS meetings. There are approximately 100 delegates in total from the 65 (approx) member groups.

An executive committee of up to 12 members is drawn from eligible delegates to control the business of the FVFS for the year of their nomination.

The FVFS and its executive is fully voluntary with no physical office. The mail address is usually a PO box and the phone directed to a private address. The email addresses are likewise, redirected to relevant people.

The executive committee operates in the manner of any normal committee. It comprises:-

- President,
- Secretary,
- Treasurer,
- 2 Vice-Presidents and
- Up to 7 committee members.

Portfolios are allocated according to current needs and interests and may include:-

- Film Festivals
- Programming
- ReelNews (our regular newsletter)
- Society and Industry Liaison
- Web Site
- Appraisals
- Marketing
- Technical support
- Technical Development and Support
- Delegates to ACOFS (Australian Council of Film Societies)
- DVD/Film Library

Any person who would like to become involved, whether from a member group or not, would be most welcome. The work is interesting and new skills can be learned.

Film Society Members of the FVFS

Any non-profit organisation with defined members and which has appropriate aims and rules (or constitution) may join the FVFS as an affiliated member group. (For details of requirements for membership, see Information sheet 03).

Community Cinema Members of the FVFS

A Community Cinema may become an affiliated member of the FVFS in its own right provided it is a non-profit organisation and has appropriate aims and rules acceptable to the FVFS. The size of a community cinema for membership purposes, is determined by average attendances throughout the year rather than a count of membership.

Film Festival members of the FVFS

Most Community Film Festivals are run as a dependent sub-committee of a member film society.

An independent Community Film Festival may become an affiliated member of the FVFS in its own right provided it is a non-profit organisation and has appropriate aims and rules acceptable to the FVFS.

The size of a film festival for membership purposes, is determined by average attendances rather than annual membership.

The other crucial difference is that film festivals are active for only a few consecutive days each year rather than the 10 or 11 months that film societies usually operate.

Further Information

Other information sheets are available which expand on many of the items mentioned in this information sheet.

Call (03) 9873 1369 or write to Federation of Victorian Film Societies at PO Box 125 Mitcham 3132, or email to admin@fvfs.org.au.

Check out our web page at www.fvfs.org.au.

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