**1995**

National President – Les Woods, lessee of the Stanmore Cinema Centre. Over 50 years in exhibition.

State Presidents:

NSW Ron McEwen

Victoria Garth Eva

Queensland Bill Palmer

South Australia Neil Patterson

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Paul Hodgman

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year George Ruttle (since RKO Radio Pictures 1934, foundation member of Victorian Pioneers)

State Pioneers of the Year Des Adams (Qld)

Anniversary Dinner Tattersalls Club, $35, 220 guests

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Cecil Holmes, Ron Hannam

Pioneers News: The June 1995 edition of “Kino News” published a detailed history of Australian Cinema Pioneers. Copies were available from The Australian Theatre Historical Society. This year the honour of “Film Man of the Year” became “National Cinema Pioneer of the Year”.

Industry News: The top 10 movie releases included FORREST GUMP, DIE HARD, BRAVEHEART AND **BABE**

**1996**

National President – Bill Palmer – controller of cinemas, Birch Carroll and Coyle, Greater Union. Manager of Greater Union NSW when the Sydney Film Festival was first held at the State Theatre Sydney.

State President:

NSW Ron McEwan

Victoria Graeme Hodges

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Neil Patterson

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Paul Hodgman

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – David Hannay, producer. Films included STONE, THE MAN FROM HONG KONG, EMMA’S WAR

State Pioneers of the Year – Monty White, Queensland

Anniversary Dinner – Tattersalls Club, $40.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Former National Presidents Les Woods and David Joel, also Tom Gurr, Bill Gardiner, Peter Dimond

Pioneers News – No significant changes.

Industry News:

* Releases included INDEPENDENCE DAY, MISSION IMPOSSIBLE, TOY STORY, JUMANJI, **SHINE,** GOLDENEYE, TRAINSPOTTING.
* DVD technology released.
* Significant growth in multi-plexes.

**1997**

National President – Norm Sheedy – Hoyts theatre manager, theatre supervisor, then Sydney Entertainment Centre

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria David Aalders

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Robert Ryan

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Richard J Parton – Roadshow Distributors; general manager Birch Carroll and Coyle; general manager Greater Union Film Division.

State Pioneers of the Year – Pauline Parker, Queensland

Anniversary Dinner – Tattersalls Club, $35 (due to “exceptional support from our Industry”).

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Former South Australian Branch President Neil Patterson.

Pioneers News – First “Cinema Pioneer of the Century” – Len Cameron turned 100 years old, 65 of them in the cinema industry. Discount holidays at Mt Victoria offered to members.

Industry News – Releases included MEN IN BLACK, THE FULL MONTY, JERRY MAGUIRE, THE ENGLISH PATIENT, **THE CASTLE**, TITANIC, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S ROMEO AND JULIET (Baz Luhrmann).

**1998**

National President – Alan Rydge – Greater Union, Birch Carroll & Coyle. On the death of his father Sir Norman Rydge was appointed chairman of Amalgamated Holdings with extensive interests in Australian and international cinemas, Cinesound Movietone Newsreels and various entertainment and hospitality venues.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Kevin Warry

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Robert Ryan

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Bill Carty – Australasian Films; Cinesound; war correspondent/newsreel cameraman 1942-1945; five years in Japan as Bureau Chief for five newsreel companies; Cinesound again, shooting award-winning documentaries.

State Pioneers of the Year – Ronald Burton, Queensland

Anniversary Dinner – Tattersalls Club, $35.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Keith Moremon (Managing Director Greater Union; Chairman IMAX), Monty Wight, Clifford Searle, Margaret Cardin.

Pioneers News – No major changes.

Industry News:

* Releases included THERE’S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, SAVING PRIVATE RYAN, THE TRUMAN SHOW (Peter Weir), **BABE: PIG IN THE CITY.**
* Big screen (Imax) pioneered in Australia.
* Netflix starts as a rental service.
* Fox Studios Australia opens.
* Australian Film Corporation (AFC) established.

**1999**

National President – Allen Myers – United Artists; MGM; Paramount; C.I.C; United International Pictures National Sales Manager.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Geoff Morton

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Robert Ryan

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Roy Tuohy – Announced on his 90th birthday. Bell-ringer for travelling picture shows at nine and a half years old; pushbike film courier; projectionist; cinema manager; cinema owner and hotelier. Awards for publicity releasing STATE FAIR, BLUE SKIES, THE PALEFACE and SHOWBOAT.

State Pioneers of the Year – Margaret Murphy, Queensland

Anniversary Dinner – Tattersalls Club, $35.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Joan Long AM, Roy Mumford

Pioneers News – Members offered discount tickets to 60th Anniversary release of GONE WITH THE WIND at the Capitol Theatre, Sydney.

Industry News:

* Releases included THE SIXTH SENSE, THE MATRIX, NOTTING HILL, SAVING PRIVATE RYAN, **TWO HANDS.**
* George Lucas included footage filmed with high-definition digital cameras in [STAR WARS: EPISODE I – THE PHANTOM MENACE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Wars:_Episode_I_%E2%80%93_The_Phantom_Menace). The first use of digital cameras in a mainstream film.

**2000**

National President – Wendy Paterson – Warner Brothers; United Artists; Greater Union; Fox Columbia in distribution. Greater Union in exhibition.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Greg Lynch

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Robert Ryan

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Graeme Hodges – From a backyard cinema to uniformed pageboy. Then Hoyts for exciting years of great films and visiting movie stars for glamorous premieres, culminating in BURKE AND WILLS, in the presence of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, and the position of National Operations Manager. Left Hoyts to become a cinema owner/operator.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Norman Pelling, Queensland

Bob Parr, South Australia

Anniversary Dinner – Tattersalls Club, $35.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Brian Alder, Phillip Cross, Keith Parslow, Peter Walton

Pioneers News – Members reminded that the Cinema ID card is a privilege, not a right.

Industry News:

* Releases included GLADIATOR, **THE DISH, THE WOG BOY, LOOKING FOR ALIBRANDI, CHOPPER.**
* Multi-cinema complexes grew throughout Australia.

**2001**

National President – Anthony Buckley AM – Lab assistant then editor Cinesound; editor AGE OF CONSENT; lobbyist; documentary producer – FORGOTTEN CINEMA, PALACE OF DREAMS, CELLULOID HEROES; feature film producer – CADDIE, THE IRISHMAN, THE NIGHT THE PROWLER, THE KILLING OF ANGEL ST, BLISS, BEDEVIL; television producer THE HARP IN THE SOUTH, POOR MAN’S ORANGE, THE POTATO FACTORY, MY HUSBAND MY KILLER. Received the Raymond Longford Award and the Ken G. Hall award.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Rick Wynne-Yorke

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Robert Ryan

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Murray Forrest – Briefly in motion picture supplies, and then moved to Colorfilm and appointed Managing Director, pioneering the company’s international development including long-term contracts with the major Hollywood studios. Held executive and board positions for a number of significant film industry bodies.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Ron Atkinson, Queensland

Ken Thompson, South Australia

Western Australia – Ray Pride

Anniversary Dinner – The Wentworth Hotel, $45.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Tony Azzopardi, Frank Brown, Joy Kennedy, Dick Lawless, John Walters, Frank Wood.

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News –Releases included SHREK, HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER’S STONE, **MOULIN ROUGE**, BRIDGET JONES’ DIARY, LORD OF THE RINGS – FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING, **LANTANA, THE MAN WHO SUED GOD.**

**2002**

National President – Richard Parton – Ten years as an independent film distributor then joined Greater Union/Birch Carroll & Coyle organisation in Queensland with Roadshow Films; Film buyer and Programming Manager; General Manager for Queensland; General Manager in Sydney for the Group’s Film Division; President of the Australian International Movie Conventions held in Queensland.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Glen Jenkins

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Robert Ryan

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Pat Lovell MBE AM – Began as an actor, program presenter and journalist in radio, then television; Producer on many films including PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK, GALLIPOLI, BREAK OF DAY, SUMMERFIELD, MONKEY GRIP. Commissioner with the Australian Film Commission, member of the Advisory Committee of the National Film and Sound Archive, Head of Producing at Australian Film Television and Radio School.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Ken Kirkley, Queensland

John Cronin, South Australia

John Polmear, Western Australia –

Anniversary Dinner – The Merchant Court Hotel, $45.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Doug Allsop, Wal Barlow, Bill Billson, Albert Buckingham, Robert Clark, Gerald Conaghan, Claude Downs, Bill Dunn, David Eastman, Bob Feeney, Alison Grant, Rod Gurr, Norm Hughes, Bill Humphries, John Jennings, Len Jensen, Ray Kelleway, Len Lochran, Tony Loricco, Wendy Mealey, Lyall Mumford, Bert North, Lee Oldmeadow, Fred Perrie, George Scarlett, John Scott, Jack Stone, Roy Tuohy, Bill Watson, Max Weinert, Don Willmott.

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News –Releases included STAR WARS: EPISODE II – ATTACK OF THE CLONES; LORD OF THE RINGS: FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING; SPIDER-MAN; **CRACKERJACK**; **RABBIT-PROOF FENCE**; AMELIE; **DIRTY DEEDS**; A BEAUTIFUL MIND.

**2003**

National President – Noel Collier - Film Programmer at Birch Carroll & Coyle in Queensland; National Programming Manager for Hoyts Distribution; National Programming Manager with Hoyts Theatres.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Michael Densley

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Allan Stiles – Began in Advertising Department of the Grand Theatre Group in Western Australia, then in promotions and marketing, and later General Manager of the Group; Manager of Seven Keys Film and Distribution Company in Sydney; involved in setting up multiplex cinemas in Western Australia; President of the West Australia Motion Picture Exhibitors Association.

State Pioneers of the Year:

George Till, Queensland

Meg Thomas, South Australia

Vic Basham, Western Australia

Anniversary Dinner – Rydges Jamison Hotel, $50.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Dennis Chance, Alan Crew, Frank Dick, Tom Dowd, Joyce Dowling-Smith, Alf Elboz, Ron Farmer, Noel Fitzsimmons, Keith Gillies, Peter Haynes, Ann Holt, Neil Howe, Mervyn Jones, Maurice Konz, Gordon Landsdowne, Arthur Lombe, Richard Mason, Jack Morton, Ken Neck, Tom Nurse, Max Rogers, Eric Saunders, Dick Schinkle, Jack Schuberth, John Sevier, Betty Smith, David Stone, Robert Tydeman, Peter Willard, Howard Williamson, Florence Young.

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News –Releases included FINDING NEMO; PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN; **NED KELLY**; WHALE RIDER; LOVE ACTUALLY; MASTER AND COMMANDER.

**2004**

National President – Ian Sands – Began as an Assistant Booker at 20th Century Fox in Melbourne; worked at Village, then Programming Manager; Managing Director then Chairman at Roadshow Films; General Manager Special Projects at Village Roadshow Ltd.; Director of Operations at Reading Entertainment Australia.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Dianne Moret

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur A. Stiles

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Russell Boyd Began as a trainee at Cinesound in Melbourne; cameraman at Seven TV Network then relocated to Sydney; cinematographer on short films and then Director of Photography on BETWEEN WARS; cinematographer on many features including PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK, THE LAST WAVE, GALLIPOLI, THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY; STARSTRUCK, MRS SOFFEL, HIGH TIDE, TENDER MERCIES, CROCODILE DUNDEE.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Keith Smith, Queensland

Mac Degenhardt, South Australia

Edd Wheeler, Western Australia

Tom Minear, Victoria

Anniversary Dinner – Rydges Jamison Hotel, $50.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Jim Ashby, Peter Balderston, June Bardsley-Smith, Cec Bryant, Keith Cason, Ray Claridge, Colin Cox, John Curran, Harry Dearness, Reg Felton, Vic Forsyth, Brian Fowler, Ray Hedges, Keith Houlahan, George Kimlin, Jack Lees, Aubrey Lewis, Mary Masters, Hugh McInnes, James McManus, Warren Mearns, Eric Minns, Frank Mobilia, William (Bill) Montier, Lionel Pye, Stan Raft, Robert Raymond, Laurie Russell, Agness Sharp, Jack Tauchert, Ed Wheeler, Frank White, Bill Wood, Lloyd Worland.

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News:

* Releases included TROY, THE INCREDIBLES, THE POLAR EXPRESS, THE NOTEBOOK, UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN.
* Docklands Studios Melbourne opened.

**2005**

National President – Paul Johnson – Began as a Financial Accountant at Hoyts; was involved in the development of Multiplex cinemas; Chief Operating Officer at Hoyts; Chief Financial Officer at Hoyts US; Chief Operating Officer of Hoyts USA’s 900 screen cinema circuit; Chief Operating Officer for Hoyts Worldwide Operations.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Richard Rule

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur A Stiles

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – John Reid – Began as an Office Junior at Columbia Pictures, then worked in all areas of film distribution; Western Australian Branch Manager, NSW branch Manager and General Sales Manager of Columbia Pictures in Sydney, General Manager of United Artists then Managing Director; General Manager and Chief Executive of Greater Union Film Distributors; co-owned Reid and Puskar Pty Ltd; formed his own company Classic 99 Pty Ltd film distribution.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Ken Robbins, Queensland

Bob Wallis, South Australia

Ron Jones, Western Australia

Len Webb, New South Wales

Gil Whelan, Victoria

Anniversary Dinner – Rydges Jamison Hotel, $50.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Ronald Andrews, Ray Atkinson, June Bardsley-Smith, Bob Booker, Lionel Brahm, Colin Brassington, Cyril Branley, Ron Burton, Cecil Clark, Ken Cronin, Denys Day, David Fisher, Paul Heath, Paul Herbert, Jack Lee, Malcolm Leech, Lynnette McEncroe, Stewart McKenzie, Ken O’Mara, Dorothy Penson, William Potts, Bill Rokes, Brenton Rusby, Steven Walsh, Andrew Watson, Ingrid Whitely.

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News –Releases included KING KONG; Million Dollar Baby; **WOLF CREEK**.

**2006**

National President – Tom Jeffrey AM – Director – THE REMOVALISTS, WEEKEND OF SHADOWS, THE ODD ANGRY SHOT. Producer, Co-producer – WEEKEND OF SHADOWS, THE ODD ANGRY SHOT, FIGHTING BACK, THE BEST OF FRIENDS, GOING SANE. Substantial contributions to associated societies – Chairman of the Australian Film Television and Radio School, Arts Training NSW, CREATE Australia, Innovation and Business Industry Skills Council (IBSA); President of the Screen Producers Association of Australia (SPAA)

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Robert Ward

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia Arthur Stiles

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Bob Mason – Started working at Barclay Cinema with George and Sue Needs. Opened The Lake Cinema in 1974 from an old run down hall. Transformed the cinema into a successful independent operation.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Nance Dunshea, NSW

Emilie McDonaugh, Queensland

Rod Altschwager, South Australia

Ted Burne, Tasmania

Anniversary Dinner – November 16, Whiteley Ballroom, $55.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Ron Atkinson, Jack Geran, William J Gray, Patricia Jennings, Barbi Taylor, Maurice Martin.

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News –Releases included CASINO ROYALE, CARS, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA, **HAPPY FEET**, THE DEPARTED, MONSTER HOUSE, **KENNY**, BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN, NANNY MCPHEE, INSIDE MAN.

**2007**

National President – John Rochester – General Manager – Theatre Operations; Hoyts, Corporate Development; The Greater Union Organisation, later Chief General Manager. Rejoined Hoyts in 1987 as the President and Chief Executive Officer in the USA. Made significant contributions to the reconstruction of IMAX theatres throughout Australia. Consultant for the Cinema Industry and assist with operations with development plans.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Robert Ward

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia John Polmear

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Alan Rydge – Started work at the Greater Union Organisation (GUO) later moving around the divisions including Village Roadshow and all facets of cinema exhibition business. Appointed Chairman of Amalgamated Holding Ltd. Was awarded the “Ken G. Hall Award” for contribution to the preservation of Australia’s film heritage.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Paul Dravet, NSW

Sonny Schattling, Queensland

Albert Horsley, Western Australia

Greg Lynch, Victoria

Claudine Grant, South Australia

Anniversary Dinner – November 29, Whiteley Ballroom, $55.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Roy Denison, Max Burpee, Brindley De Gruchy, Syd Hayden

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News:

Releases included THE SIMPSONS MOVIE, TRANSFORMERS, NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM, HAIRSPRAY, RATATOUILLE, 300, HOT FUZZ, SUPERBAD.

* Netflix transitioned to streaming.
* Blockbuster sold its entire Australian network to Video Ezy.

**2008**

National President – Alan Rydge – Started work at the Greater Union Organisation (GUO) later moving around the divisions including Village Roadshow and all facets of cinema exhibition business. Appointed Chairman of Amalgamated Holding Ltd. Was awarded the “Ken G. Hall Award” for contribution to the preservation of Australia’s film heritage.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Graham McGhee

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia John Polmear

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Robert Ward – Established one of Australia’s first Art House Cinemas. Contributed heavily to the change in policy of Dendy Cinemas to Art House leading to it becoming Victoria’s leading Art House Cinema. Battled with film censors in the 1970s to introduce the “R” Certificate, bringing JOE, LANGUAGE OF LOVE and LOVING AND LAUGHING to be among the first R rated films in Australia.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Ray Edmonson, NSW

Bill Palmer, Queensland

Alice McAleer, Western Australia

Rick Wynne-Yorke, Victoria

Ted Winter, South Australia

Brian Spriggs, Tasmania

Anniversary Dinner – November 27, The Grand Ballroom at Rydges World Square Hotel, $55.

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News:

* Releases included THE DARK KNIGHT, MAMA MIA, **AUSTRALIA**, IRON MAN, 27 DRESSES, TWILIGHT, JUNO, BURN AFTER READING, TAKEN, WALL-E.
* Screen Australia was established under the Screen Australia Act **2008** and from 1 July **2008** took over the functions and appropriations of its predecessor agencies, the Australian Film Commission (AFC), the Film Finance Corporation Australia (FFC) and Film Australia Limited. The Producer Offset was initiated.

**2009**

National President – Ross Entwistle – Working in film marketing, organising trailer to programming regional cinemas and devising ad spends. Later joined Village Roadshow in the Exhibition Marketing Department. Upon promotion to the Marketing Manager role, he oversaw the National campaigns for THE MASK, DUMB AND DUMBER, DIE HARD 3, LIGHTNING JACK, THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION AND TRUE ROMANCE. Managing Director of Sony Pictures’ Australia in from 2001-2006.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Robin Copping

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia John Polmear

Tasmania Robert Ryan

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Bob Parr – Manager of multiple Greater Union Cinemas including the Vogue, Kingswood, Hindmarsh, Woodville, Semaphore, Norwood and Goodwood. Later managed Hoyts Marryatville later Advertising Manager Wallis then Film Booker.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Tom Omaye, NSW

Glenn Jenkins, Victoria

Yurik Czyz, Tasmania

Geoff Stock, South Australia

Coral Wake, Western Australia

Barry “Sid” Hendy, Queensland

Anniversary Dinner – November 24, Blaxland Ballroom Swissotel Sydney, $55.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Bob Allen, Albert Collins, John Cutler, Basil Wye, Stuart Thomson, Tex Foote, Bern Kent

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News:

* Releases included UP, THE HANGOVER, AVATAR, SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE, GRAN TORINO, STAR TREK, **MAO’S LAST DANCER**, INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS, THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON, **KNOWING (AUSTRALIA/US)**, JULIE & JULIA.
* At the Movie Convention, AVATAR was screened in 3D.

**2010**

National President – John Kirby – born into a cinema family, John was a lolly boy at the age of six. Employed in every aspect of the family’s cinema and expanded into the Village Drive-in circuit. Joined Roadshow as an accountant, then in sales. Moving into the Village corporate area he was involved in expansion overseas, the development of Movie World and the listing of the company on the Stock Exchange. He became Chairman of Village Roadshow on Roc Kirby’s retirement.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria David Wayside

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Mac Degenhart

Western Australia John Polmear

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – John Daniell AM – starting at Cinesound, he became a war correspondent and in 1945 filmed the signing of the Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri. Returning to Australia he worked in advertising, and later became a production manager: AGE OF CONSENT, ADAM’S WOMAN, SQUEEZE A FLOWER, NED KELLY, WAKE IN FRIGHT. He carried out significant work as a lobbyist and joined the newly formed AFC

State Pioneers of the Year:

Richard Rufus, NSW

Graham McGhee, Victoria

Adrian Jacobson, Tasmania

Bruce Hawkins, Queensland

Maria Denison, South Australia

Allan Stiles, Western Australia

Anniversary Dinner – Blaxland Ballroom, Swissotel, $55.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

David Bilcock, Christine Gordon, Arthur Stiles, Mark Turnbull, Len Webb OAM

Pioneers News – No significant changes

Industry News:

* Releases included AVATAR, INCEPTION, **TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN,** EAT PRAY LOVE, **BRAN NUE DAY.**

**2011**

National President – Alan Finney OAM – starting in theatre at La Mama, he joined Roadshow Film Distributors and was involved in STORK, ALVIN PURPLE, ALVIN RIDES AGAIN, PETERSEN, END PLAY and ELIZA FRASER. Becoming Managing Director of Roadshow Film Distribution he supervised the release of MAD MAX, BREAKER MORANT, PROOF, ROMPER STOMPER, BAD BOY BUBBY, THE PIANO, MURIEL’S WEDDING and PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT. THE CASTLE and THE CRAIC. As Managing Director of Buena Vista International (Australia and New Zealand), now Disney he oversaw the release of THE SIXTH SENSE, PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN, CHICAGO, THE MAN WHO SUED GOD, FINDING NEMO and WHALERIDER.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria David Kilderry

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Max Beck

Western Australia John Polmear

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Joint Cinema Pioneers of the Year – `Theo and Margaret Goumas – It all began when Theo and Margaret had a coffee bar in a Sydney city newsreel cinema called The Roma. When television news led to the demise of newsreels, they took over The Roma as a cinema. They then moved to Newcastle again taking over a closed newsreel cinema and also naming it The Roma. It screened a diverse slate of films, many of them “Continental” including BEDROOM MAZURKA which screened for 42 weeks. They then opened The Kensington and The Lyrique, and ceased operation only when fire compliance became prohibitive.

State Pioneers of the Year:

John Hartman, NSW

Rob Copping ACS, Victoria

Kath Henriksen, Queensland

David Condon, South Australia

Hedley Sims, Western Australia

Anniversary Dinner – Blaxland Ballroom, Swissotel, $85. Special Guest – John Michael Howson.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Peter Brock, Carmen Coutts, Cyril Keir, Margaret Murphy, Hedley Simms, Ken Spicer, Meg Thomas.

Pioneers News –

* At the Annual Dinner a leather-bound volume of the application forms of the original Pioneers was presented to the Mitchell Library of the State Library of NSW, along with the private papers of Sir Norman Rydge. The membership forms included founder Stanley W Wright, Franklyn Barrett and Raymond Longford.
* The old paper membership Cards were replaced by the Photo ID Membership Card.
* The first website was set up.

Industry News –Releases included THE TWILIGHT SAGA – BREAKING DAWN, THE KING’S SPEECH, TANGLED, **RED DOG,** THOR, TRUE GRIT.

**2012**

National President – Sue Milliken AO – starting as a production assistant on SKIPPY AND THE INTRUDERS, Sue joined the ABC as continuity, and then became freelance as a production manager on features RIDE A WILD PONY and THE PICTURE SHOW MAN. With Tom Jeffrey and Matt Carroll she produced THE ODD ANGRY SHOT. She set up the Australian arm of the completion guarantor Film Finances, continuing in that role for 30 years. During that period she was also producer or co-producer on FIGHTING BACK, THE FRINGE DWELLERS, BLACK ROBE, DATING THE ENEMY, the Imax documentary SYDNEY STORY OF A CITY, PARADISE ROAD and LADIES IN BLACK.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Peter Wallace

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Max Beck

Western Australia John Polmear

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Natalie Miller OAM – Melbourne based, a distributor, Sharmill Films, since 1967 and exhibitor since 1984, establishing the Longford Theatre which closed in 2001. Natalie then set up Cinema Nova and joining forces with Palace Cinemas to enlarge to 11 screens and expand into Adelaide for a period. Sharmill Films continues to distribute and pioneered the digital screening of opera and live theatre productions in Australia.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Andrew Pike, NSW

Michael Densley, Victoria

Damien Farrell, Queensland

Barry Loane, South Australia

Colin Reale, Western Australia

Wayne Doran, Tasmania

Anniversary Dinner – Blaxland Ballroom, Swissotel, $85..

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Margaret Goumas, Philip Hearnshaw, Ann Lyons, Mark Sarfarty, Ron Taylor, Philp Virgona

Pioneers News – No major changes.

Industry News:

* Releases included THE HUNGER GAMES, THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL, THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN, BRAVE, **THE SAPPHIRES.**
* Suburban multiplex cinemas proliferate, with 56% of screen in the suburbs, 40% in the country and 4% in city locations.
* Cinemas start to screen “alternative content”, ie live opera, dance, theatre, music and sport.

**2013**

National President – Mike Baard – the teenage Mike started his career when a video rental store opened in his neighbourhood and this gave him an early appreciation of the relationship between film and consumers. Straight from university he joined South Africa’s Nu Metro Entertainment and progressed up the ladder to Sales and Marketing Director, with an annual slate of more than 300 annual releases. Joining the Acquisitions team he negotiated the rights to over 800 films and also oversaw the games and franchise activities. He became Managing Director in 1999 and held seat on the Board of Nu Metro Entertainment, operating 240 screens at 27 multiplexes and other entertainment businesses. Having moved to Australia, he was approached by Universal Pictures International to launch their Australian operations and supervised the release of over 200 films. He established strong relationships with other entertainment partners including Matchbox Pictures,

State Presidents:

               NSW                                    Wendy Paterson

               Victoria                               Keith Stevens

               Queensland                       Tony Burke

South Australia                  Max Beck

Western Australia             John Polmear

Tasmania                            Yurik Czyz

 Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Jill Robb AM – Production office clerk then production co-ordinator THEY’RE A WEIRD MOB; continuity at the ABC; casting director WAKE IN FRIGHT; the SAFC’s first marketing and distribution manager oversaw the release of SUNDAY TOO FAR AWAY, STORM BOY, PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK; first chief executive of FILM AUSTRALIA; producer CAREFUL HE MIGHT HEAR YOU, THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER television series.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Bruce Bath, NSW

Garth Eva, Victoria

Ron West, Queensland

Murray Matthews, South Australia

Walter (Wally) Holden, Western Australia

80th Anniversary Dinner – Blaxland Ballroom, Swissotel Sydney - $60. This dinner celebrated the 80th Anniversary of Cinema Pioneers, 1933-2013. The Annual Bulletin contained a photo montage of all the founding members, and clips from significant early films were screened at the Dinner.

VALE – Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Don Connolly, Penne Hackworth-Jones, Patricia Lovell, Ron Taylor

Industry News:

* Releases included THE HUNGER GAMES, LIFE OF PI, **THE GREAT GATSBY,** THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED STORY, GRAVITY, THE WOLVERINE, THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG, SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK, FROZEN, DJANGO UNCHAINED, LES MISERABLES.
* Digital cinemas begin to proliferate throughout Australia.

**2014**

National President – Michael Selwyn – Joined the Cinema International Corporation (CIC) later filling in as Chief Accountant in Paris France. Corporate Controller for South Africa, Australia and the Far East. General Manager of UIP in Belgium and Luxemburg. Became Managing Director of Paramount Pictures Australia distributing films such as SAMSON AND DELILAH, THE KINGS SPEECH, QUARTET AND TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN.

State Presidents:

NSW Wendy Paterson

Victoria Jane Ballantyne

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Max Beck

Western Australia John Polmear

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – Bruce Leonard – Worked as an Assistant Account then Accountant for Hoyts Concessionaries. Writer and Producer on; DECORATING WITH DELUX. Laterhe joined the cinema advertising company Featured Theatre Ads as its NSW Manager. Became the Managing Director of David Koffel Australia. A member of the 47 Club later taking the role of Secretary / Treasurer. Made significant contributions to the National Film and Sound Archive to Produce AUSTRALIA’S RADIO FAVOURITES**.**

State Pioneers of the Year:

Jenny Ward, NSW

Bert Clements, Queensland

Ron Millard, South Australia

Angela, Rattray, Tasmania

Rob Copping, Victoria

Francesco Celisano, Western Australia

Anniversary Dinner – November 27, Blaxland Ballroom Swissotel Sydney, $60.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Greg Coote, David Hannay, Wendy Hughes, Andrew Plain, Arthur Cambridge

Pioneers News – No major changes.

Industry News –Releases included GONE GIRL, FURY, THE LEGO MOVIE, INTERSTELLAR, THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL, EDGE OF TOMORROW.

**2015**

National President – Robert Slaviero – Ad/Sales Department and later National Print Controller and NSW Branch Manager at United International Pictures (U.I.P). Took up the position of National Sales Manager of Hoyts Distribution. When Hoyts Distribution was acquired by STUDIOCANAL, Robert was appointed CEO of the Australia and New Zealand.

State Presidents:

NSW John Rochester

Victoria Kevin Adams

Queensland Tony Burke

South Australia Max Beck

Western Australia John Polmear

Tasmania Yurik Czyz

National Cinema Pioneer of the Year – John Polmear – Worked for Paramount Pictures as Despatch Assistant before progressing through to the Advertising Sales Department to eventually become Head Booker for theatres throughout Western Australia. After resigning from Paramount, he was approached to become the WA Branch Manager of C.I.C later U.I.P.

State Pioneers of the Year:

Wendy Paterson, NSW

Joy Strange, Queensland

Greg Harper, Western Australia

Graeme Hodges, Victoria

George Falvey, South Australia

Anniversary Dinner – November 19, Blaxland Ballroom Swissotel Sydney, $60.

Among those Pioneers who left us during the past year:

Irene Amee, Tom Hayes, Arthur Hollis, Frank Love, Alfred Abrahams, Ken Perrin, Joy Stanley

Pioneers News – No significant changes.

Industry News:

* Releases included JURASSIC WORLD, INSIDE OUT, MINIONS, **MAD MAX: FURY ROAD,** THE IMITATION GAME, **THE DRESSMAKER, ODDBALL, PAPER PLANES, LAST CAB TO DARWIN, THE WATER DIVINER.**
* Streaming content became more commonly available.
* Piracy became a major issue and Creative Content Australia commissioned research showing that 29% of Australians aged 18+ were illegally downloading or streaming movies and TV shows.