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## **ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **FINANCIAL YEAR: *1 January to 31 December 2016***

### **DARWIN FILM SOCIETY INCORPORATED**

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#### **Principal Activities** (including any significant changes)

The Darwin Film Society (DFS) operates the Deckchair Cinema at Jervois Rd, Waterfront Precinct, Darwin. The DFS' Vision is 'to enhance the diverse cultural experiences available to the Darwin of the community by providing a unique and alternative film experience to mainstream cinema.'

The mission statement promotes the following achieved by the DFS:

- Exhibiting films, which are responsive to client needs
- Providing an outdoor atmosphere in keeping with the community lifestyle
- Promoting the Deckchair Cinema and programs that appeal to visitors to the region
- Provide a facility and experience which is accessible and affordable
- Supporting local filmmakers
- Sound business and financial management
- Continuous improvement and an open mind to new ideas and technologies
- Facilitating opportunities for community events and fundraisers
- Being good corporate citizens.

In 2016 the DFS through the Deckchair Cinema:

- Screened 156 (including Flix and DIFF) films with a total attendance of 42,909 people and 26 sold out nights
- Returned more than \$48,000.00 to fundraising organisations from ticket sales at their fundraising movie nights. After film hire fee.
- Screened 36 Australian films. 1 at Flix in the Wet and 3 at Darwin International Film Festival.
- Held Flix In The Wet, screening nine films, three being Australian with a total attendance of 2282. Flix broke even in 2016 thanks to support of Living Water Smart and significant increase in attendance.
- Held the seventh annual Darwin International Film Festival, or DIFF, screening 16 films attracting over 3,600 people. First Artistic Director in Tim Parish – much more ambitious program incl Virtual Reality Cinema, outdoor projections. DIFF broke even thanks to attendance and community support. Also triannual funding from Screen Territory (20k) and Festivals NT (50k). For 2016 also City of Darwin (5K) and



Corporate sponsorship (30k). Taking into account \$50k worth of in-kind sponsorship (One Mile, Airnorth, CDU Business School and Darwin Waterfront), DIFF 2016 was a \$200,000 festival.

- 2016 was 2<sup>nd</sup> year of \$70k pa funding for DIFF from Screen Territory and Festivals NT. This year (2017) is the last year.
- Developed and maintained strong relationships with: Travelling Film Festival, Screen Territory, Darwin Festival, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and national distributors
- Hosted a number of Q&A events including with Hunter Page-Lochard, star of SPEAR. Also invited Warwick Thornton (director and cinematographer) and Damien Walshe-Howling (actor) for DIFF Opening Night. Also Stingray Sisters Alice, Noni, Grace and Helen Eather for DIFF screening. Both events sold out. Also Ben Walsh (award-winning musician) for live music score to film.
- Darwin Pride Festival launch at Deckchair during DIFF.
- Employed 1 fulltime manager, 1 full time operations manager and an average of 10 casual staff
- Supported local film industry with first Capricornia Film Awards – recognising excellence in local film industry – success. – very impressed with quality of films coming out of NT.
- Supported local filmmakers by screening NT-made shorts on Sundays at Deckchair
- Undertook a number of improvements around the venue's resources including:
  - Sunset Deck – great success for post-film Q&As and pre-film functions. People come down to Deckie earlier to enjoy sunset and a meal
  - Kiosk extension – twice as long, assist with queues for tickets and drinks/snacks
  - Fence – better looking view toward harbour and incl exit gate next to deck
  - Old film projector moved out of projector room so people can share the experience, nice bit of Deckie history out for people to enjoy
- Recognised the importance of both Committee and staff development and allocated funds accordingly, such as for the General Manager to attend the Independent Cinema Association conference in Melbourne
- Increased a strong membership base to crack a 1,000 active members.
- Hotel – tied in with community wish to save Jervois Park from being developed into hotel. Keep the green space for the public, and avoid threat to Deckie

## **Names of Committee Members**

There has been a number of changes to the Committee membership over the last year including:

- Chair – Jeff Coulter after 5 years on the committee
- Vice Chair – John Schier
- Treasurer – Elizabeth Close
- Secretary – Lee Upton
- Public Officer – Lex Sylvester
- Member – Di Koser
- Member – Harry Abrahams
- Member – Phil Hickey
- Member – Laura Berta

It is recognised that significant effort is required to induct new members onto the Committee. Plus the efforts of retiring members of the Committee are recognised.

## Details of disclosures of interest

- Nil

## Details of Net Profit or Loss

- Net operating profit was \$75, 557

## Statement

In our opinion –

- The accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the DFS as at 27 May 2017 and the results of the DFS for the year ended on that date;
- The accounts of the DFS have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the DFS; and
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that the DFS will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

## DFS Signatures - Chairperson & Treasurer

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairperson

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Treasurer

*(Signed at the Deckchair Cinema, Jervois Road, Darwin Waterfront Precinct)*