



# **ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

## **FINANCIAL YEAR: *1 January to 31 December 2014***

### **DARWIN FILM SOCIETY INCORPORATED**

---

#### **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 see this being 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 2014 the DFS through the Deckchair Cinema:

- Screened 153 (including Flix and DIFF) films with a total attendance of 41,918 people
- Donated more than \$40,000.00 to fundraising organisations through 27 fundraiser film nights
- Screened 38 Australian films including three Australian film festivals like the National, Film and Sound Archive's touring Bigscreen Festival and 23 Australian films that were not shown elsewhere in Darwin. This also include 22 films screened during Flix in the Wet and the Darwin International Film Festival, none of which screened elsewhere in Darwin
- Held Flix In The Wet, screening nine films, three being Australian with a total attendance of 1,317
- Held the fifth annual Darwin International Film Festival, or DIFF, screening 13 films and hosting seven industry workshops/events, with a total of 2,032 people attending



- Developed and maintained strong relationships with: Travelling Film Festival, Screen Territory, Darwin Festival, and national distributors
- Hosted a number of Q&A events including with Rolf de Heer, director of Charlie's Country
- Employed 1 fulltime manager, 1 full time operations manager and an average of 10 casual staff
- Supported local film industry by providing \$3,545 prize money for the 2013 Fist Full of Films Festival and underpinning the festival to the tune of around \$11,000 to meet grant shortfall below expected
- Supported local filmmakers by screening NT-made shorts from the Fist Full of Films archive, the Foundation of Young Australians Propellor shorts project, Charles Darwin University, and other sources
- Undertook a number of improvements around the venue's resources including:
  - Automated projection processes to minimise manual labour required on the night and assist with smooth operations at the kiosk
  - Upgraded the Cinema's website making it mobile enabled, and improving its look and feel / user-friendliness
  - Paved the centre aisle – a great advance for safety and access to the venue
  - Installed a front gate with the local sculpture, which will also serve as an emergency exit gate
  - Installed a container at rear of the cinema for storage and to allow increases to future capacity of the venue
  - Upgraded a number of computer hardware and software resources including the projection computer to enable short film conversion for the digital projector
- 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 of Australia conference in Sydney
- Maintained a strong membership base of approx., 650 members.

## **Names of Committee Members**

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

- Chair – Harry Abrahams: after more than 10 years of service as Chair John Schier retired from this position, and remains a key member of the Committee
- Vice Chair – Di Koser remains
- Treasurer – Elizabeth Close: Vicky Coleman retired from the position in December
- Secretary – Victoria Eastwood: after the retirement of Vicky Long
- Public Officer – Sarah Wilkie
- Member – Stephanie Mattas
- Member – Jeff Coulter
- Member – Phil Hickey: following Mary Noble's resignation.

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.

It is noted that Sarah Wilkie is not standing for re-election this year given her maintained residence in Alice Springs.

## **Details of disclosures of interest**

- Nil

## Details of Net Profit or Loss

- Net operating profit was \$52,617.

## 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 18 May 2014 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)*