



# The Australian Museum of Motion Picture Technology (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

Edition Fifteen

December 2007

## A long time between drinks

Some of our interstate and country Members could be excused for wondering if AMMPT still exists. Apart from those on email who are being advised of activities on the West coast, they have not received newsletters for the past four months, nor have any other Members. The Committee is very much aware of the need to keep all Members enthused about the future direction of our organisation, especially those living away from Perth. However our priority has been to ensure we have a fully functional branch established, with policies and procedures refined from the original draft concept, to a point where we can use it as a proven model on which other branches can emulate. Most of the original problem areas have been identified with the appreciated constructive criticism and input from Members and other interested parties waiting on the sidelines around Australia.

The downside to getting our own house in order is that with so much happening in Perth there has been very little time, without a dedicated Newsletter editor, to write up and distribute the information. In some ways, this is a good situation to be in, as evidenced at the recent AGM with more volunteers for 2008 Committee positions that places legally available.

From comments made by interstate museum and industry personnel, what we have achieved over the past three years should have been started two or three decades ago near the mother lode of industry information and memorabilia – on the east coast. With the potential still existing, it is hoped at AMMPT Members in these areas will realise it CAN be done and will garner the support of their colleagues to establish a regional branch. It will be almost impossible to generate and maintain the necessary local enthusiasm from the other side of the continent.

Copies of our Constitution, policies and procedures will always be available to those wishing to establish a branch. This would be an autonomous locally incorporated body, responsible for its own collection and Membership, operating under the procedures of the parent Nationally registered body, the policies of which are established by consensus of all branches.

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## Change of Focus

Charles Darwin's theory on evolution can probably be applied to AMMPT as it continues to adapt to the realities of life, identifying problems and objectives and formulating strategies to reach its goals.

Originally conceived as a local Motion Picture Preservation Trust by a group of mainly film projectionists, it was soon apparent the cinema related motion picture was part of a continually evolving process of moving image technology. To ignore the now dominant electronic formats and other non commercial applications of the process would spell suicide for our project. The number of funerals being attended of cinema industry colleagues reinforced this view.

Another factor considered was the perception held by many interstate that it was the intention to centralise all activity in Perth, with any significant items located be transported to there for its collection and display. This was never the intent but recognised as a valid concern. With these issues in mind, a Special Motion was passed on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2006 to change the organisational structure, with a revised National Constitution, and another one for the newly created and Incorporated AMMPT Western Region branch.

With the success of the exhibition in the Perth Town Hall last year commemorating 50 years of Australian television, membership from those working in or retired from the local electronic media industry has increased. With the escalating pace of technology evolution in that industry, it was obvious urgent action needed to be taken if examples of the pioneering days including photos and the stories of the people, the companies and all those involved, be preserved for posterity and eventually put on public exhibition.

Thankfully many private collectors had managed to save some of the early pieces of equipment from being sent to the tip, with many significant items donated to AMMPT's collection. It is these people we hope will become closer involved in AMMPT's activities and provide them with an opportunity to display their collections of our industry's heritage.

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## 2008 Committees

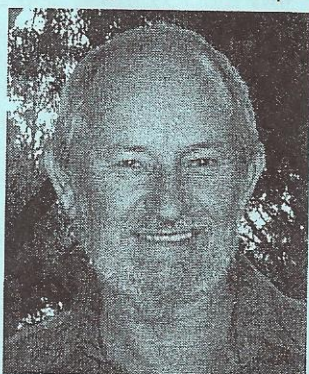
In what was one of the best attended AGM's to date, and with notified apologies from most of those unable to attend, the signs looked promising.

With specific tasks and projects beginning to develop within our organisation, representation of each group on the Committee was evident with more nominations received than positions legally available under the Constitution. Rather than exclude anyone who wished to contribute, the meeting opted to appoint the required number, but co-opt the others to attend Committee meetings with their input.

The **Western Region Branch** Committee for 2008 is;

- President: Daryl Binning
- Vice President: Richard Ashton
- Secretary: John Napier-Winch
- Treasurer: Peter Foyster
- Committee: Ian Stimson, Ken McKay, Clive Woodward, John Richmond-Scott and Eddie Mills.
- Co-opted to assist Committee: Paul Trimboli, George Robinson, Harry Smith and Graham Lacey.

New Regional Secretary John Napier-Winch brings



with him his extensive experience collecting local historical film & video material plus researching, restoring and transferring some otherwise discarded images. He is also President of the Historical Film & Video Preservation Society, some Members of whom are considering

becoming a special project group within the AMMPT organisation.

Following the branch meeting, the AGM of the **AMMPT National** parent body was convened. With only one local branch operational at the moment, this meeting was more of a formality rather than a detailed discussion on events. The following officers were elected:

- |                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| President:      | Daryl Binning                    |
| Vice President: | Richard Ashton                   |
| Secretary:      | Eddie Mills                      |
| Treasurer:      | Peter Foyster                    |
| Committee:      | John Napier-Winch<br>& Ken McKay |

The **Ancillary Gift Fund Trustees** were also re-appointed. The Minutes of both meetings are available to Members for inspection.

## Regional Secretary Profile

From the late 1950's to the early 1960's John Napier-Winch started using his fathers still and movie cameras. He has continued this hobby ever since, buying his own cameras in the 1960's and eventually taking 1000's of photos and 100's of rolls of movie film.

In 1978 he made his first documentary film for the W.A. Karate Association, repeating work of a similar nature for them in the 1980's on film and video.

In 1980 John in partnership with John Finney made a video production using old film footage covering motor racing in Western Australia. In 1982 John purchased Finney's film and photo collection with the copyright. The films covered the years 1928 to 1960s, mainly of Perth and country towns. 1984 saw John making another video production covering motor racing in W.A.

In the mid 1980s John arranged for some of Finney's films to be handed to the State film archives.

In the years that followed he has tracked down more of John Finney's films that had been lent to other people, and many early films by other photographers covering Western Australia from 1928 to the 1960s. The films include those made by

William Owen(1920s & 30s), Stuart Gore (1920s & 30s), Donald Kilpatrick (1930s), Arthur Nielsen (1930s), Graham Nielsen (1950s & 60s), Ernest Ward (1940s & 50s) and Lionel Hart (1950s& 60s). The purchase of all these films has been financed by John and donated to the society.

In 1984 He made a video production using old films for the City of Wanneroo. It covered the arrival in 1834 of the Duke of Gloucester and was prepared for the Governor Prof. Reid and the reopening of the Cabaret Cave at Yanchep. John also filmed these celebrations at Yanchep.

Since his retirement John has been involved in the Historical Film & Video Preservation Society (inc). He is the current President and head archivist. John has lent the society a 16mm single frame scanning unit to copy film to digital, where each frame is scanned one at a time taking over a second to copy. Each frame can be edited individually if required. After the first edit, all frames are grouped and run at the correct frame speed for the film. The result is no flicker and a sharper film with better colour depth. Working this way means old film can be copied safely. We have copied film that had shrunk, buckled and turning to powder.

John's future plans are to tour the State and educate people about the importance of saving film from destruction or being thrown away.



## A visit to the National Film and Sound Archive.

by Richard Ashton October 2007

Despite the arrival of two tour coaches which had arrived with schools visitors at the National Film and Sound Archive and who had filled the foyer, my visit was not wasted. AMMPT contact, Mr. Graham Shirley apologised for being unavailable but had arranged for Librarian Jan Thurling to assist. Jan gave me a rundown of the library which holds much material not available on the web site or was yet to be fully catalogued. She arranged for me to visit their huge restoration and storage section which is situated at an outer suburb and meet with archivist Christine Law who would show me around. This would include being able to see the Cummings & Wilson tool box and the lately accessioned C&W model G projectors.

With a Canberra road map I managed to navigate to 10 Baillieu Court Mitchell in the outer northern suburb. Accompanied by my brother Bruce, we were greeted and shown through to the huge storage area at the rear of the complex. On the way we were shown the large environmentally controlled film storage section, all held at the correct temperature and humidity.

In the main storage area the two model G machines were fork lifted in to place for me to examine. Because they have now been accessioned, under the rules I had to don white gloves. I suspect it would be the first time those machines would have been handled with such delicacy. The projectors have now been fixed on to two special purpose made frames to make for easy transportation.

I opened and closed the doors, gates and examined the framing and other aspects including turning over the movement by the Raycophone sound head flywheel they are mounted on. They moved very easily and seemed to be in very good condition. Seeing the model G's in the flesh was certainly a highlight of the visit and I took a few pictures and recorded the numbers. By now, my white gloves had distinctly changed colour.

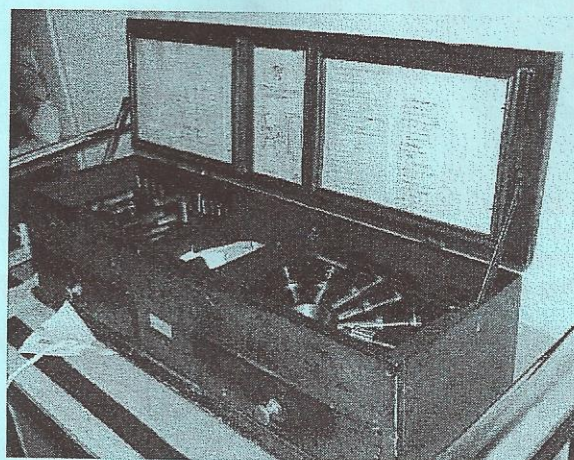
For interest, the Cummings and Wilson labels on the projectors showed that they were series TS's and had consecutive numbers 54044 and 54043. There seems to be an opinion that the first two numbers of the model G's may well indicate the year of manufacture. 54 = 1954. TS stands for twin shutter. It is understood that these projectors were built especially for Drive-In theatre use.

One could not help but glance around in the facility of the rest of the storage area to see what other treasures were in the shelves. Amongst what appeared to be heavily wrapped up Victoria 8's and amongst other projectors I spied was a large LP disc cutting lathe. My eyes stopped on an early

Model C&W senior sitting quietly packed away. I pulled some of the wrapping to see that was a Model E series 2 No.196.

Now it was on to see the C&W tool box, which was housed in another warehouse in the Mitchell area. Passing through the vast storage area we noticed plenty of spaces for future acquisitions, then on to a rear section which houses smaller items of equipment. Examples of 16mm 8mm and 35mm projector heads and arc lamps were could be seen. A quick glance at the adjacent shelves spaces revealed a treasure trove of many other items of interest including, Powers projector heads and a very interesting Hans-Goetz projector which was seemingly in mint condition.

It was gloves on again for examination of the various jigs, cutters and instruments in the tool box. They were carefully examined right down to the minute boring tools and other items used in the making of the famous Cummings and Wilson intermittent sprocket and movements. There were many spare parts and examples of sprockets in the various stages of manufacture, turning and shaping the blanks. I must admit more time would have been needed to make a complete examination but one is always mindful of the kindness and time that had already been shown to us, and I reluctantly closed the lid.



*Richard's coveted C&W toolbox*

But now it was time to finish up the visit, back to the first warehouse, back through the rows of preserved films sitting happily in their air conditioned surroundings, all neatly stacked. Then to the office where we expressed our appreciation of the Archive's hospitality and finally said goodbye.

### *Ed's note:*

*Richard went on to visit the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, again developing our relationship with kindred organisations. Treasurer Peter Foyster had also visited the NFSA the previous month and received a similarly warm welcome. Of special interest was the Archive's ARC cinema. More from Peter in the next edition.*

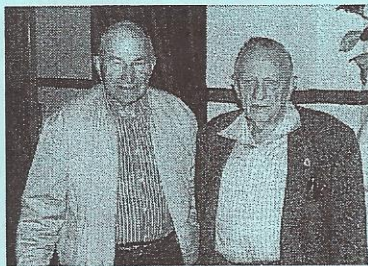


## Cinema dividends

Financial rewards are starting to flow from the efforts of the team who have arranged the *Classics of the Silver Screen* programme at the Cygnet. With the 2007 season completed, it has been decided to run them monthly in 2008 from February to December. The full programme is included loose leaf in this newsletter. Please make copies and distribute them to others.

With the support of local community radio stations, particularly the presenters on Capital Community Radio, currently transmitting on 90.5FM, the word is getting out and patronage steadily increasing. Also the footwork of **Graham Lacey** who has hand delivered thousands of handbills to letter boxes in the Como area, and AMMPT Social Club Secretary, **John Richmond-Scott** who keeps its Members informed by regular mail-outs.

**Vic Basham** and his wife Gloria make a two hour drive to and from their home in Wongan Hills to see each show. Also a regular patron is new Member, **Arthur Hayward**, previously WA television service engineer for Kriesler Australasia, once acknowledged as the nation's leading manufacturer of quality television receivers – now all a part of this country's moving image heritage.



*Arthur (left) with Vic. Both worked as a team in the heydays of local TV, with Vic installing and servicing Arthur's Kriesler TVs in Wongan Hills and nearby areas.*

*Arthur has provided AMMPT with a list of over 80 brands of mostly Australian manufactured radios which were trading in the 1940's and 50's – now all but memories.*



*Nostalgia on display in foyer.*



*Barry Goldman prepares for the show, under the watchful eye of screening team leader, George Robinson.*

## Members on the mend

We were pleased to see both Peter Thomson and Arthur Stiles at Cinema City as they had not been traveling too well lately. Also saluting the flag was Hedley Sims, who despite continuing to undergo some heavy medical treatment, was one of the main speakers. Hedley detailed his technical involvement with the complex during his days with City Theatres. Another Member who wanted to be at the event, but is not too flash at the moment, is John Porter. When over the current medical situation, John intends to assist with the cataloguing of our archival photo collection and public displays.



*Peter Thomson at Cinema City*

## Historical Film Collection

During recent times we have been given several donations of film, some professionally produced and a lot of amateur material, most containing scenes of historical significance. These have been accepted without us having any formal infrastructure to deal with it. We have only been involved in cataloguing our library of donated films, such as the silent classics of Chaplin, Keaton, Laurel and Hardy etc. Fortunately we have in our collection professional editing and viewing machines which are invaluable for looking at everything from 35mm to 8mm. Video material is also now being offered which will create its own special inspection and preservation needs.

AMMPT has been aware of the existence and activities of another kindred local entity, the Historical Film & Video Preservation Society, headed by John Napier-Winch. They have been actively seeking out and preserving archival films for a number of years. Discussions have been held with them on the advantage of joining forces, operating as a specialised group within the AMMPT organisation. As John is now our regional Secretary, discussions have taken place on this matter and a decision is expected soon.

Over recent years there has been a reluctance in some areas to surrender films or other items of State or national significance to government entities such as the NFSA. Unfortunately the delay in allowing these items to receive professional restoration treatment can mean they deteriorate beyond retrieval. We are attempting to establish a system with the NFSA and the Battye library which will enable selected material to be transferred to the custody of the appropriate entity, but will also ensure a copy is available to the Regional branch for use in exhibitions to generate local interest in our activities. Progress is being made toward this objective.



## Farewell to Cinema City

The largest collection of local film and television pioneers in Perth at one event occurred on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 when the industry commemorated the closure of the city's last operating purpose built CBD cinema complex – Cinema City.



Arthur and Irene above,  
Allan below, and Colin, right.



The Perth cinema pioneering Stiles families were well represented.



Richard Ashton (right) after spending a 24 hour stint on Telethon calls in and chats with Ken McKay

The film selected for the event, the Australian production "Hercules Returns" was appropriate, being a send-up of some sectors in the cinema industry during the 70's and 80's. The print belonged to the NFSA and was supplied free of charge, as was the freight costs involved. The MC for the event, Terry Spence, paid tribute to the Archive for their support of our activities.



Various speakers talked about the history of the local cinema industry, with Sir James Cruthers, previously Chairman of TVW Enterprises, explaining why his company decided to build the complex and buy City Theatres.

Apart from the great social atmosphere of old colleagues getting together, it was an opportunity to exhibit some of the early photographs of Perth's early cinemas and other industry memorabilia. Ivan King Curator of the Museum of Performing Arts, previously the only recipient of any cinema related memorabilia, loaned a number of items for the exhibition.



Ivan King, (right), shows Richard Ashton an "illuminated address" signed by all of Hoyts WA staff on the departure of the resident Perth Manager, John Watts, Feb. 13th 1930.



AMMPT member and retired State Film Archivist Jack Honniball discusses with Ian Stimson (left) and Lyn Huxtable some of AMMPT's photo collection of Perth's old cinemas.

Members (L-R)  
Jerry Voutsinas  
Hedley Sims  
Graham Lacey  
And Allan Beer



Left: Lyn Huxtable & Lindsay Morris



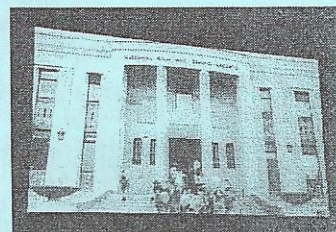
Valerie and Ron Frank

AMMPT Members L-R  
John Napier- Winch  
Norman Robins  
Enid Besant  
and  
Tony Smith

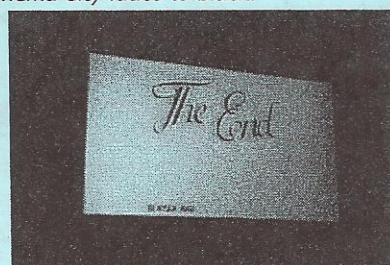


Terry Spence (left) with Allan Stiles

Australia's Last Newsreel hits the screen.



... and Cinema City fades to black!



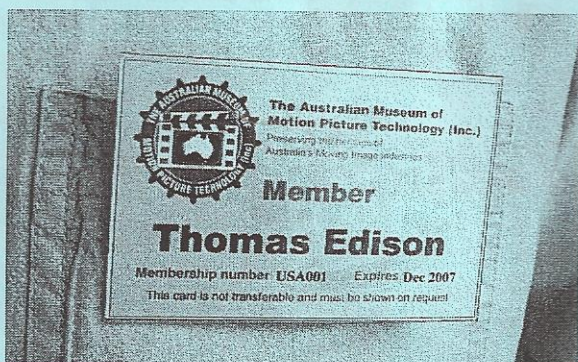
All photographs taken by AMMPT Members – Thanks. The Ed.



## Who's Who?

With the increase in Membership from all areas of the moving image industry, it is obvious that many would have not have met each other before. Getting to know new Members has always been difficult for many, especially as most in our industry are the timid, shy and retiring types (??) who are loath to introduce themselves to others. As our events are attracting increasing attendance, an effort should be made to get to know our fellow Members.

To facilitate familiarity, our new Membership cards have been designed to indicate both a Member's current annual subscription status, and also to be worn as a name tag badge at all AMMPT meetings and events. Plastic card holders are available from the Secretary in case you do not have your own. If these were kept in the car, they would always be available to be pinned on at each event. Don't continue to be incognito. Expose yourself to the masses!

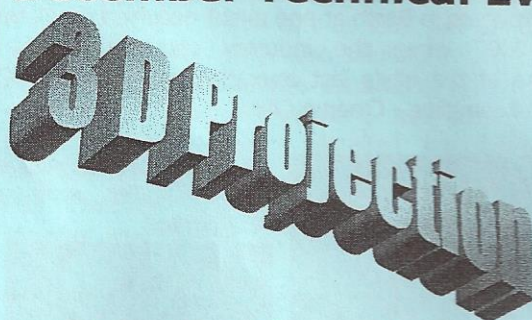


## Lotterywest Grant approved

A cheque for the amount of \$9,055.00 was received from Lotterywest to obtain and set up a professional collections cataloging system. AMMPT has now purchased the MOSAIC cataloging software, which is the choice of over 300 other community based museums. Licencing arrangements have been obtained to include the future regional branches in the network. Included in the package is a three day training session for Members destined to be involved with the system in the future. This course will be conducted over three days in the weekends in January and February. Members interested in being involved are asked to contact Registrar Richard Ashton. There are only a limited number of places available. The grant also includes the purchase of appropriate hardware including laptops to be used for field work.

Treasurer Peter Foyster is currently designing an integrated administrative data base to be used by all office bearers in the course of their duties, and which hopefully can be run in conjunction with the MOSAIC programme.

## December Technical Event



Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup>  
GU Innaloo Megaplex

See the latest 3D projection equipment  
from *Real D* company in action.  
Learn about the *D CINEMA* projector  
and server from the people who run it.

Event facilitated by GU State Manager Stephen Lamb,  
and tour arranged by Senior projectionist Steve Head

Assemble at front entrance portico before 8.30.

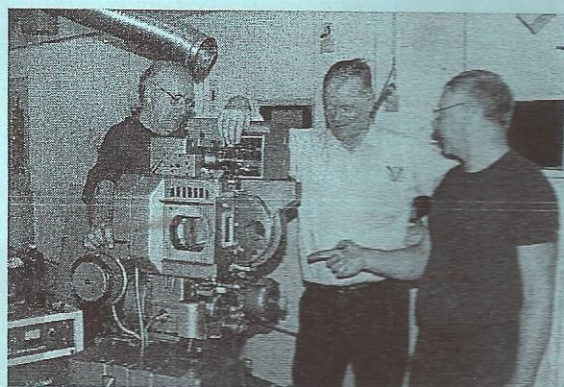
Tour starts prompt at 8.30 till 10am

This event is for MEMBERS ONLY

There will be no late admissions to cinema complex

## Hoyts donation

The Committee were pleased to receive advice from Hoyts National Facilities Manager, James Connolly that the company had agreed to donate a Cinemeccanica Victoria 8 70/35mm projector which was being removed from the now closed Cinema City complex in Perth. Other items of memorabilia including the film star wall murals, a composite wall carpet mural, and the etched glass panels from the ticket box were also gratefully received and signed across into our collection.



AMMPT Member Graham Lacey (left) with Hoyts Senior Technician David Johnson and local Hoyts projectionist Dennis Froggett (left) dismantle the Vic 8.



## Oral History programme

With a new enthusiastic Committee, a start has been made on re-commencing our oral history programme which was started two years ago but placed on the back burner due to other priorities. We will now have two teams, one led by Ken McKay and focusing on the television industry, and the other by Ian Stimson who will concentrate on the motion picture industry. If any member wishes to be part of what promises to be a very interesting project, please contact Ken or Ian.

## ABC TV Studio tour

Members were treated to an in-depth tour of the new ABC TV studios in East Perth on September 12<sup>th</sup>, arranged by Ken McKay and Michael Jackson at the ABC. The latest robotic studio cameras were explained as well as all the latest gear available to today's broadcasters.



Members watch Senior Audio Engineer, Kim Lord demonstrate the abilities of his new hi-tech mixing and dubbing console.

## Donations

Members are reminded that AMMPT is registered by the ATO as a Charity, enabling donors to claim any amount over \$2 off their taxable income. Please ensure when making a donation you arrange with the Treasurer to be issued with a receipt from our Ancillary Gift Fund.

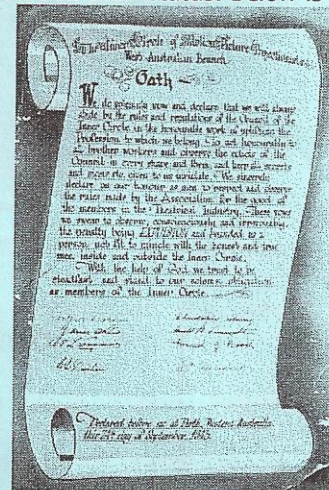
## Web Page

By Ken McKay

The Museum's web page [www.ammpt.asn.au](http://www.ammpt.asn.au) is now being enhanced to include a number of new features. These include an expanded photo section, an area for videos, the CinemaWeb database of cinemas in Western Australia and a Forums area where members can contribute to discussions. Next year we anticipate recording the anecdotes and reminiscences of people who are, or have been engaged in the various allied industries. This content will then be made available on our web site for download as podcast audio files. In addition, many of our events will be recorded on video and made available for viewing. Next year we also anticipate producing a number of DVDs containing much of this material, and the videos we made during 2007. More details in next edition.

## My Oath

One of the delights in uncovering items of interest for display is that it reminds you how things once were. Nothing could be more sobering than to reflect on the serious manner in which the projectionists regarded their craft and jealously guarded their status. Below is the Oath of Members of *The Inner Circle of Motion Picture Projectionists, Western Australian Branch*, September 1943 and carries the signatures of Arthur Carlson, Chris Spivey, Ken Booth, Leith Goodall, Bill Wehrstedt, B. Quinlan, Harry Connaughton and others. It makes fascinating reading, and if possible, the full text will be printed in the next edition.



## New Members

We welcome; **Jason McKay, Arthur Hayward, Allan Stiles, Vilma Spence and Edith Voigt.**



AMMPT Contact details:

**The Australian Museum of Motion Picture Technology ( Inc.)**

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and

**AMMPT Western Region ( Inc.)**

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THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURE TECHNOLOGY (INC.)

presents



# Classics of the Silver Screen

Showing on the third Sunday of each month from Feb. to Nov. & Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

## 2008 Film Programme

February 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS</b>	Judy Garland
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SINGING IN THE RAIN</b>	Debbie Reynolds
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>42<sup>nd</sup> STREET</b>	Dick Powell
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON</b>	Doris Day
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>DAMES</b>	Dick Powell
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SOME LIKE IT HOT</b>	Marilyn Monroe
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THAT'S DANCING</b>	MGM Compilation
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>MODERN TIMES</b>	Charlie Chaplin
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE JAZZ SINGER</b>	Al Jolson
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CALAMITY JANE</b>	Doris Day
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HIGH SOCIETY</b>	Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly Louis Armstrong & Frank Sinatra

at the **CYGNET Cinema, Preston St., Como**

Sessions commence 10.30 am

Entertainment includes live music and old newsreels etc.

### ADMISSION PRICES:

**AMMPT Members \$ 5.00. Seniors Card Holders \$ 8.00. Public \$10.00**

Membership and Seniors Cards must be shown

For further information phone; 9458 4227 or 9310 3377 or Email [ammpt@iinet.net.au](mailto:ammpt@iinet.net.au)

All profits from the screenings used to further the Association's objectives  
Preserving the heritage of Australia's Moving Image industries