

SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE

(No. 78 October/November 2020)

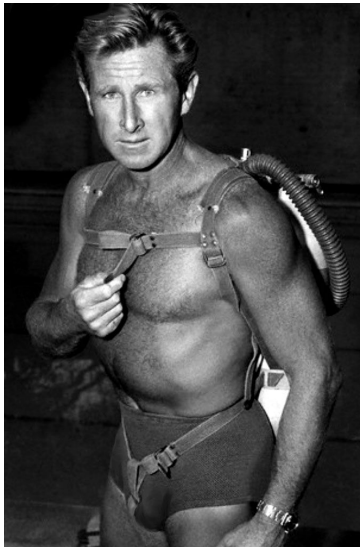
OUR MUSEUM

Sunset is making good use of the red curtains that were used in last year's Picture Palaces of Perth exhibition at Wireless Hill. The drapes are now being hung in the main hall in preparation for a new exhibition.

Thanks to John Quicke for his work on the installation.



TV HISTORY



Sea Hunt was the second programme that aired on opening night on Channel Seven.

It was an American action adventure series that aired in syndication from 1958 to 1961 and was popular for decades afterwards. The series originally aired for four seasons, with 155 episodes produced. It starred Lloyd Bridges as former Navy diver Mike Nelson, and was produced by Ivan Tors.

Ivan Tors conceived the idea for Sea Hunt while working on the 1958 film Underwater Warrior. He tried in vain to sell the series to all three major networks. He then teamed up with Ziv Television Programs and sold it into the first-run syndication market.

Sea Hunt was filmed with a single 35mm camera in black and white. Underwater sequences were shot in California, Florida and the Bahamas. On-land location shots were filmed throughout Los Angeles, Central Florida, Nassau and on a sound stage.

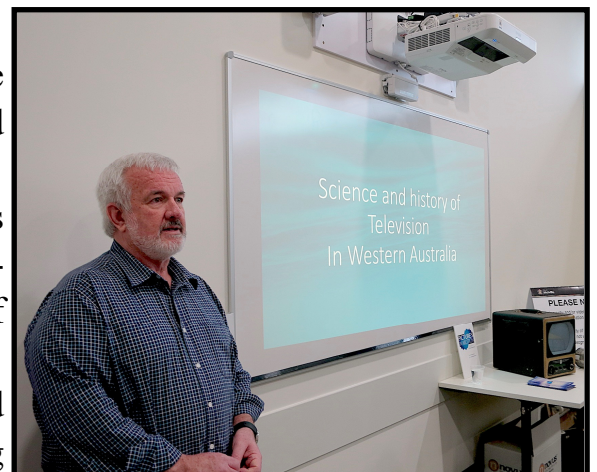
REMEMBER THE DATE

The final In-Focus meeting for 2020 is a repeat of the Science & History of TV, presented by our Registrar and former TVW7 Station Manager, Tim O'Dea.

The talk will focus on the evolution of television, from its earliest days through to the present, tracking the technology right up to the widescreen high definition screens of today.

The meeting is on Wednesday 18th November at the Fred Bell RSL Hall, Fred Bell Parade, St James, commencing at 7:30 PM

This promises to be a most interesting evening.

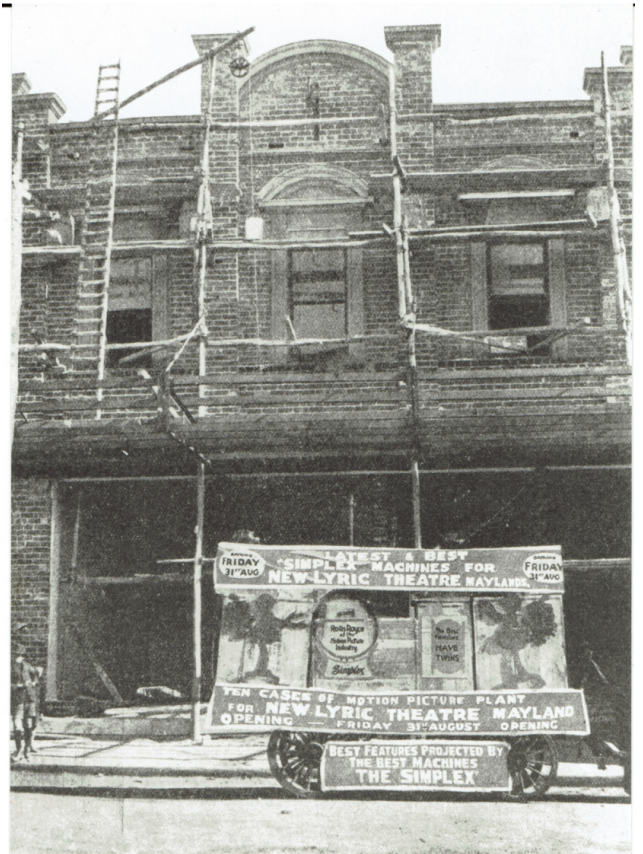


Above: Tim O'Dea conducting his presentation at the AH Bracks Library in Melville back in August

LYRIC—SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Further to the article in SSU #75, Cinema Historian and Author, Max Bell recently donated the photo on the right to AMMPT's publication library. Pictured is The Lyric Theatre Maylands under construction. Rather than a modern automobile at the curb, notice the "bandwagon advertising" on the cart, promoting the soon to be installed Simplex projector plant. The most noticeable difference, however, is the drastic modification to the top of the building façade, somewhat diminishing its original features.



VINTAGE OUTDOOR FILM NIGHT

On Saturday 21st November 2020, the Wireless Hill Museum will be presenting "The General", one of the most revered comedies of the silent era.

This 1926 classic film finds hapless Southern railroad engineer Johnny Gray (Buster Keaton) facing off against Union soldiers during the American Civil War. When Johnny's fiancée, Annabelle Lee (Marion Mack), is accidentally taken away while on a train stolen by Northern forces, Gray pursues the soldiers, using various modes of transportation in comic action scenes that highlight Keaton's boundless wit and dexterity.

At the time of its initial release, *The General*, an action-adventure-comedy made toward the end of the silent era, was not well received by critics and audiences, resulting in mediocre box office returns (about half a million dollars domestically, and approximately one million worldwide). Because of its then-huge budget (\$750,000 supplied by Metro chief Joseph Schenck) and failure to turn a significant profit, Keaton lost his independence as a filmmaker and was forced into a restrictive deal with MGM. In 1954 the film entered the public domain (in the USA), owing to the claimant's failure to renew its copyright registration in the 28th year after publication.

The General has since been reevaluated, and is now often ranked among the greatest American films ever made.

