



ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR: 1 January to 31 December 2017

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 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 2017 the DFS through the Deckchair Cinema:

- Screened 150 films at Deckchair Cinema and 24 at other venues (for Flix and during DIFF) films with a total attendance of 46,367 people and experienced 25 sold out nights
- Returned more than \$60,000.00 to fundraising organisations from ticket and dinner sales at their fundraising movie nights. \$60,000 after film hire fee.
- Screened 43 Australian films (incl Flix, DIFF and general Deckchair program)
- Held Flix In The Wet, screening nine films, three being Australian with a total attendance of 3237 (record-breaking attendance). Flix made about \$300 thanks to support of Living Water Smart and significant increase in attendance.
- Held the eighth annual Darwin International Film Festival, or DIFF, screening 34 films (twice that of 2016) and attracting over 10,000 people to various DIFF events including 360 Dome, Art Exhibitions, etc. Artistic Director in Tim Parish reengaged – even more ambitious program than 2016 (which was already a step forward) incl Virtual Reality Cinema, outdoor projections. DIFF lost \$50,000 (about Deckchair's budgeted profit margin) Largely because too ambitious too soon



2018 is a year of consolidation. Tim had fantastic ideas but in lieu of last year's financial loss plus general stress to small team deciding to enter consolidation phase and nurture some of the most promising ideas that arose during Tim's tenure, without 'gutting' the festival.

- 2017 was last year of \$70k pa for 2015-2017 funding for DIFF from Screen Territory and Festivals NT. 2018 **confirmed** funding is
 - Festivals NT (\$50k) - new
 - Screen Territory (\$35k) - new
 - Screen Australia (\$30k) - new
 - Darwin Waterfront (\$30k) - new
 - Jacana Energy (\$10k) - new
 - Darwin International Airport (\$5k) - new
- Developed and maintained strong relationships with: Travelling Film Festival, Screen Territory, Darwin Festival, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and national distributors
- Hosted a number of special guests including:
 - Matt Rubinstein, co-writer for Jo Cinque's *Consolation* (FLIX)
 - Ros Horin, Director, and women from The Baulkham Hills African Ladies' Troupe
 - Jack Thompson, star of *Breaker Morant*
 - Osamah Sami, star/director/writer for *ALI'S WEDDING*
 - Aahana Kumra, Mumbai-based actress and star of *LIPSTICK UNDER MY BURKHA* (DIFF) – *first international guest*
 - David Wenham, director of *ELLIPSIS* (DIFF)
 - Djalu Gurruwiwi, Ben Strunin, Baru Band for *WESTWIND* (DIFF)
 - Dorothy Gurruwiwi (G family and elder), Paul Williams (Director) Rob Collins (MC) for *GURRUMUL* (DIFF)
 - Petr Lom (director) for *BURMA STORYBOOK* (DIFF)
 - Naina Sen (director) for *THE SONG KEEPERS* (DIFF)
- Employed 1 fulltime manager, 1 full time operations manager and an average of 10 casual staff at Deckchair Cinema
- Supported local film industry with first SPARK film initiative (seed funding and guidance for 4 new short films premiered at DIFF) and engaged consultant and later project manager for NT Travelling Film Festival (to commence in 2018)
- Undertook a number of improvements around the venue's resources including:
 - Received a grant for Sunset Deck lighting
 - Grant for upgraded audio
- 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 Sydney
- Maintained strong membership base 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
- Vice Chair – John Schier
- Treasurer – Elizabeth Close (left in early 2018)
- 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 loss was \$7, 686

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 12 May 2018 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: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____

Signature: _____
Treasurer

Date: _____

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