

In April 2017 we attempted to hold an AGM. Unfortunately, due to an issue with personnel the meeting was unable to go ahead. After the meeting as a committee we regrouped and listened to the feedback from the community. The key talking points were: The importance of the weekly screening of films, the importance of producing independently audited financial documents and the continued independence of the drive-in from commercial and political interests.

I am pleased to say that in the months since last April we have tightened up our procedures and continued to screen films each week, with a short break over summer, completed our financial audits, and remained independent.

New priorities include producing a business plan to ensure the long term continued viability of the drive-in, with an emphasis on continued support of the local community; The renovations of the canteen space to ensure that volunteers can experience the movie; exploring options to add some character to the field, as well as better signage and promotion of our facility.

I would like to thank Nigel Wayne and David Hartley for committing to screening the AFL. This is a unique part of what we can do at the drive-in and for them to organise the screenings and BBQ has been a great benefit. I'd also like to thank Wayne Borrett for his generous donation of a BBQ to use on film nights moving forward.

Since April 2017 we have been featured on ABC Me, been a feature of the Blackscreen Film Festival and received coverage in SA Life Magazine. We appreciate the opportunities that we are given to showcase our magnificent facility, and look forward to continuing to share our little piece of Coober Pedy in the future.

We appreciate the support of DCCP in allowing us use of the land and buildings, as well as their commitment to the maintenance of their space. We have entered discussions about putting a new gate on Hutchinson Street to provide easier access to the drive-in. The Council also agreed unanimously to have an independent business plan created for the drive-in. We look forward to developing this business, with a key focus on remaining a cheap, accessible, sustainable part of everyday life in Coober Pedy.

I have included the report I presented in 2016/2017 in full, as the information in it is pertinent and accurate. Finally, a huge thank you to Sue Britt, for showing up each and every week and ensuring that the canteen remains operational.

Cheers

Matthew Key (Chairperson)

I am excited to present the 2016/2017 chairperson's report. This has been my first year as the chairperson of the drive-in and I have found the opportunities which this great facility presents to be both rewarding and challenging. I have had the great opportunity to advocate for the drive-in to a variety of vendors including Tourism SA, *Vogue Magazine*, *Going Attractions* and ABC Radio with Peter Goers and Sonya Feldhoff. I have been lucky as the Media Teacher at CPAS to showcase short films and advertisements made by students, and our recent relationship with the Local Business Association will only highlight this further. In the past 12 months, we have screened over 50 films, admitted over 1300 cars with an estimated audience of 4000 people. Our social media presence has been strong with each of our posts seen by an average of 1200 – 1400 people each week. This compounded with 250 unique visitors to our webpage and 500 page views each week give us immense value in the online realm. Responsible use of online media can be attributed to our success in this area.

The value of the drive-in to the Coober Pedy community is obvious, about 30% of our audience is made of tourists, many of whom choose to stay extra time in Coober Pedy to have the unique experience of seeing a movie in the outback under the stars. We provide a place for young people to go, and students regularly talk to me and request films which they would like to see– there are rarely other options for entertainment for young people on a Saturday night and the drive-in provides a safe and fun venue for families looking for something to do. Not to mention the simple fact that having one of the last drive-in's in Australia located in such a remote location is just incredibly cool, and I know the community recognises that.



The most rewarding part of being a part of the drive-in has been working with our wonderful volunteers and the community of Coober Pedy who have shown unending support for the drive-in, despite slow progress on the building developments. Our committee: Sue Britt, Sue Radeka, Nigel Wayne, Grant Maxwell, Margaret Mackay, Kylie-Anne Child and Michelle Provatidis have shown immense grit and determination in ensuring that our facility remains open and accessible to the Coober Pedy Community. Their patience in waiting

on council processes and their flexibility and adjustment to change is a testament to the importance of this facility and the dedication of our committee.

Volunteers have also been integral to the weekly films shown and without people such as Pearl Driver, Tracey Piggott, Anna Bootle and Jesse Fairfull, Renata Wayne, Monish Ulugad, Daniel Botten, Sally Martin, Harinder Garcha, Tarun Garcha, Alan Dawson, Lauren Palmer, Daniel O'Conner, Edward Radeka, Ainsley Smith, Lucy Cogan, Christel Hauri, Kim Key, David Hartley and the many other volunteers

who have supported us over the past 12 months there is no way that the drive-in would be able to continue to open its gates every Saturday night.

A special thanks to our friends in the council, Nigel Wayne, Kyle Hay, Paul Reynolds, Ian Crombie and Mayor Michelle Provatidis. Their advocacy for the importance of this project cannot be understated and during a time of much change their unwavering support to the drive-in has been vital. Nigel's work in the projection booth with Alan Dawson has ensured many screenings have gone forward and his support on the AFL screenings last year with integral to those events going ahead. Michelle has been a dedicated volunteer on our gate and her assistance in welcoming people to the drive-in on those nights is warmly appreciated.

Dusty Radio, Carter's IGA, The Miner's Store, The Coober Pedy Community Library and the Coober Pedy Regional Times have provided the drive-in with advertising time and space on a consistent basis. Without the ability to communicate our message to tourists we would be unable to attract an audience and I offer a deep and sincere thankyou to Bob Pryce, Margaret Mackay, Michael Chan, Tim Carter, Leanne Marijanovic, Judy Griffiths, Maria Brellas and Duncan McLaren for ensuring that our films are promoted around Coober Pedy. Tracey Piggott and the Catacomb Church did a wonderful job of promoting the special interest film Lion, and because of her hard campaigning we will be expanding the genres of film the drive-in will play in the future (*Hidden Figures* coming soon!)

Thanks also to Steve Staines, Tina Boyd, Tanya Lauder, George Russell, Trevor Gotte and all previous committee members for your advice, information and support during this transitional year for the drive-in.

We received more national and international exposure this year than in any other period. A Coober Pedy Area School student, Krystin Mance, submitted an entry to ABC's *Heywire* which was selected as a winner. Her piece, which can be found online ([abc.net.au/heywire](http://abc.net.au/heywire)) is a love letter to the drive-in and the memories of the facility and the way in which the town united to ensure the sustainability of the drive-in's future. We were featured in a Japanese documentary starring the lead actor in *Godzilla*, Hiroki Hasegawa, which was aired in a primetime slot on Japanese television. I have been interviewed by ABC radio on several occasions, most recently to discuss the short-term closure of the Gepps Cross Drive-In. We have also partnered with the local business association to

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*This is one of the things I love about living in a remote town. We all pull together, like a family, when we need to achieve something great for the town.*  
*Krystin Mance - Heywire*

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acquire drone footage of our town, including a special shot of the drive-in. We have also been featured in *National Geographic Online* with a beautiful image of our drive-in.



*2016 National Geographic*

We have had many people donate money to the drive-in, often by putting extra money in when attending films and through bottle and can donations, and I feel that it's important to mention one individual specifically by name. Colin Kruger has been our biggest and most consistent donor and supporter and in the past three years he has donated over \$1400 worth of bottles and cans.

I am sure I have missed many names, and to those of you whose names do not appear, I do apologise. The Drive-In feels to me like a big part of the heart of Coober Pedy and without all those patrons who regularly attend week after week it would not exist. Thanks to the whole community of Coober Pedy for remaining enthusiastic about our exciting and very unique facility. Despite this long list of names, it is important to ensure that we have a large and consistent group of volunteers in order to remain sustainable, and I ask for anyone who is interested to drop me a line and have a go at helping out if possible.

We have held a number of special screenings throughout the year for events such as The Community Health Day, Opal Festival, Blackscreen (in partnership with AFSS and Country Arts SA), Historical Society Screenings, School Reward Screening, Bollywood Night for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration as well as Live Friday Night AFL, which has proven to be popular. We have recently trialled multiple films on one night, which presents new challenges, and I look forward to analysing their success as the trial continues.

The key challenge for the Drive-In committee over the past several years has been the construction of a formal agreement, in writing, between the council and the drive-in outlining the nature of the relationship. With the constant changing of key personnel in the council, particularly in the areas of Works Manager and CEO progress on the development of this agreement has been regularly reset and the plans developed by the Project Management Team of Steve Staines, Damien Clarke, Sue Radeka, Tina Boyd, Sandy Williams, Sue Britt and Jan van der Merwe in 2014 have been left by the wayside effectively halting the process of installing the new canteen and the development of a storage and historical walk through display. The committee will require the continued support of the council as the land owners and owners of the drive-in's equipment to ensure the project is compliant and completed

in a sustainable and satisfactory manner. The new CEO, Fiona Hogan, and Works Manager, Rodney Philips, have been supportive of the continued operation of the drive-in and have ensured that we have been able to continue to operate whilst the long process of developing a new agreement is undertaken. We will continue to work closely with the councillors and administration to ensure that an agreement can be put in place that will be of mutual benefit to the drive-in, council, and most importantly, the community.



On March 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, Counsellor Nigel Wayne introduced a motion to have the drive-in site surveyed, which is essential if a Lease Agreement is to be developed for the Drive-In land. At present the boundaries of the drive-in site are different from what has been submitted to SAILIS as much of the original drive-in block was taken over by the council's works department with initial approval from the drive-in committee many years ago. For the council to offer the Drive-In committee a lease, it is vital that the agreement specifies the land that is being leased; this can only be done after the site is surveyed. The motion was initially moved by Cr. Hay and seconded by Cr. Reynolds, however after a discussion the motion was then lost. We now will need to work with council on creating a

Memorandum of Understanding in regards to the site which outlines

the responsibilities of both council and the committee in the operation and use of the drive-in site. This will be a key priority in 2017 and must be completed before any works can commence in regards to the canteen upgrade. We currently operate with a small financial burden on the council, and the ability to open the canteen and receive additional revenue through food sales will hopefully allow us to make a larger contribution and lessen our cost of operation to the council.

There is a plan developed for the canteen upgrade which has been costed by a local builder. We initially went out to a tender process in 2016, but were unsuccessful in receiving any applications. The plan outlines a new location for the canteen, in the front storage room of the main building, and this would also allow volunteers to watch and experience the films shown at the drive-in whilst manning the canteen. The Doorways to Construction students under supervision of Michael Beelitz have removed the old equipment from this space to ensure it is prepped for any future work. I am excited for the formal agreement with council to be made, so we can continue to make progress with this important upgrade for the drive-in. We also have costed options of building another custom container to house the new canteen if the need arises.

**PATRONS  
EXPLOSIVES**

**ARE NOT TO BE BROUGHT  
INTO THIS THEATRE**

CPDTA

THE MANAGER

Sue Britt, Nigel Wayne, Grant Maxwell, Edward Radeka and myself have also been working intently on updating our Rules of Association to meet the current needs of the drive-in and provide clarifications to the committee roles and responsibilities. The updates ROA can be found on the website.

I have very recently been in talks with the Local Business Association who have been very keen to provide support to the drive-in and offer expert assistance in designing and ensuring all compliances of the new canteen. I am excited to develop this relationship between the drive-in and LBA and the sharing of resources and knowledge that can be gained from the business experts in Coober Pedy.

There is still much work to be done, but we now have a clear path moving forward. After a big year of getting the pieces in place we now have the opportunity to work with a new stable council administration, and with the support of the LBA, council and community I am excited about the developments that will occur at the drive-in over the next 12 months.

