
**A HEARTFELT INVITATION
TO OUR FELLOW QUEENSLANDERS**

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY APRIL 14 2012 IN BRISBANE
FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE**



Date: Saturday April 14 2012

Time: Doors open 3 PM. Formal meeting **starts 4 PM**. Ends by **6 PM**. (Then we party on.)

Location: 9 Burwana Place, Wellington Point, Queensland 4160 (Home of Kerry McKinnon)

Google Map: <http://g.co/maps/tqg5p>

Contact/RSVP: Info@QueenslandFilmSocieties.org.au Phone: 0421 492 743

QLD film societies who have already confirmed:

- **Kerry McKinnon** representing Brisbane Film Study Group
- **Christine Zimmer** representing Gold Coast Film Study Group
- **Bill (William) White** representing Townsville Cinema Group

Also attending:

- **Prodos S N Marinakis** (Secretary of ACOFS: Australian Council of Film Societies, President of the FiSMoTron: Institute for the Study & Advancement of the Film Society Movement) who has agreed to Chair this meeting.
- **Barboo A H Marinakis** (Secretary of the FiSMoTron: Institute for the Study & Advancement of the Film Society Movement) who has agreed to be Minutes Secretary for this meeting.

AGENDA

- Doors open at 3 PM
- Formal Start: **4 PM**. Introduction & Welcome. Confirmation of film societies in attendance and who is representing each.
- Brief background on the Film Society Movement of Australia, its history, present state, and the vital role of Queensland in its future.
- Why Queenslanders need to have their own independent Federation. The many benefits of doing so. The inappropriateness, limitations and problems of the current practice of subsuming Queensland film societies under the NSW Federation.
- The "One4One" principle (The principle of "A federation in each state, and only one state represented by each Federation"). How the One4One promotes a healthy, diverse, decentralised, democratic, and thriving Film Society Movement, fostering both competition and cooperation between the states and territories.
- What about the Northern Territory?
- The value of joining ACOFS (The Australian Council of Film Societies) which represents the independent Federations nationally and the Australian Film Society Movement internationally.
- Proposed name, Constitution, logo, motto, website, newsletter, fees & financial matters, etc.
- Formation of Inaugural Executive Committee: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, Committee members. Other positions and roles?
- Notifying ACOFS of the new Federation and applying for membership to ACOFS and our intention to participate at the forthcoming AGM
- Nomination of Delegate(s) for May 10/11 ACOFS meeting in Canberra
- Notifying the NSW and VIC Federations about the new QLD Federation.
- Other matters
- End of meeting **by 6 PM**



1859 map of Queensland at time of Separation from New South Wales.

A few things to consider

There has never, ever been a *Federation of Queensland Film Societies*.

Western Australia has its own Federation. Tasmania has one. Victoria has one. New South Wales has one. South Australia used to have one. But Queensland? Nope. Never.

There are currently 3 Queensland film societies who are members of the *NSW Federation*. And there are 2 who are members of the *Victorian Federation*. Most Queensland film societies are not members of *any* kind of Federation.

If you're involved in a self-funded, non-profit, volunteer-run group dedicated to the screening, appreciation, and study of film, we would love to meet with you on **April 14**. Join us in the historic founding of the very first **Federation of Queensland Film Societies**.

As a Federation, here's what we can do across the great state of Queensland:

- Encourage and support those who want to start up and run their own film societies, clubs, study groups, etc.
- Run our own website, listing and promoting all of Queensland's film societies, their activities, websites, contact details, etc.
- Run our own newsletter, dedicated to sharing knowledge, experience, valuable resources, ideas, and opportunities across Queensland.
- Have our own Constitution and democratic processes.
- Offer any other kinds of "services" that come to mind and which any of our members are interested in championing. Who knows what these might be? Who knows what unused, unappreciated talents and skills we'll discover among our members?
- Have our own delegate(s) and voting rights at ACOFS, the Australian Council of Film Societies.
- Help promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and serious study of film

in all its glorious and often eccentric diversity. Hollywood classics, foreign films, Arthouse, short films, Australian films, documentaries, student productions, and more!

If any of these possibilities strike you as worthwhile: We want you on board! Please support this worthy endeavour. Join our new Federation.

There are many, many good reasons to have our own Federation, run *by* Queenslanders *for* Queenslanders.

- Queensland has its own history, laws, traditions.
- Queensland has its own character and style.
- Queensland has its own needs, markets, preferences, demographics.
- Queensland has its own film industry, filmmakers, screen culture and artistic/cultural/educational institutions.

Traditionally, Queensland film societies have been represented by the NSW-centred *Federation of NSW & Associated Film Societies*.

But it stands to reason that we simply can not be as effectively or efficiently represented or promoted by a Federation that is not focused *primarily* on Queensland as we would be by our own Federation. Our own Federation is there to put Queenslanders *first*. No other Federation can or ever will do that.



1859. Robert Herbert reads out Queen Victoria's proclamation establishing Queensland's separation from New South Wales.

It's time for Queenslanders to strike out on our own!

The *Federation of NSW & Associated Film Societies* sees itself as providing (according to its constitution): "... *united representation for film societies in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Northern Territory ...*"

Yet every other Federation in Australia is focused first and foremost on directly representing and promoting the interests of the film societies within its own state.

Even the Victorian Federation (the *Federation of Victorian Film Societies*) --- although it does currently accept members from outside Victoria (especially from South Australia) --- does so as a temporary measure and does not, in its Constitution, explicitly set out to represent non-Victorians.

In contrast, the *NSW Federation* has an entrenched perception of itself as a "multi-state" Federation. Comment: Notwithstanding this, the NSW Fed states it does not oppose formation of a QLD Fed & on several occasions, many years ago, supported efforts to form one. These proved unsuccessful.

FACT 1: Did you know that at the ACOFS (*Australian Council of Film Societies*) AGM of 2011, there were no Queenslanders represented?

With our own Federation, that will never happen again. Queensland will always be represented. Queensland will always have its own say and its own vote whenever the national body meets. We can never be ignored. We can never be sidelined. We can never be treated as an afterthought --- even accidentally.

If you're wondering: Well, perhaps we can just *insist* on the *NSW Federation* (which currently sees itself as also representing QLD) "asking us" or "inviting" us to have a say, that's not the point. The point is that with our *own* Federation we don't *need* to "ask" anyone.

With our own Federation, we will be *entitled* to ACOFS representation as our *right*.

With our own Federation we will *always* have a say. We'll do things our way, according to the interests of Queenslanders. We'll deal with other Federations as equals and we'll deal with ACOFS on our own terms.

If, for instance, the *NSW Federation* goes down a path we don't approve of, we are protected from that.

And if they --- or anyone else for that matter --- does something we do approve of or agree with, we can cooperate with them and support them. Either way, we deal with them --- and they must always deal with us --- as equals.

FACT 2: Did you know that at the ACOFS AGM of 2011, 3 of the 5 *NSW Federation's* delegates were Victorians? (On top of that, the *Victorian Federation* had its own 8 Victorian Delegates!) No Queenslanders were represented, yet there were 3 Victorians and 2 New South Walers supposedly providing, on behalf of the Federation of NSW and Associated Film Societies, "*united representation for film societies in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Northern Territory.*" (Notice that this list does not include Victorians?) Bizarre?

In contrast, our Federation will *always* represent Queensland Film Societies. Our delegates will be Queenslanders. We will run our Federation in a straightforward, simple, logical manner.

FACT 3: Did you know that key people in the *NSW Federation* have consistently and actively advocated and promoted the dissolution of all independent state Federations and the implementation of a single "top-down" national body to administer matters relating to the Australian Film Society Movement?

In contrast, the new *Federation of Queensland Film Societies* supports the One4One principle:

- That there be an independent Federation in each state & territory.
- That each Federation represent the film societies within a single state or territory.

We will never support a centralised, top-down arrangement. Autocratic models for creative institutions are impractical, wrong, and ridiculous. They've never worked in the past, and will never work in the future.

FACT 4: Did you know that at the recent AGM of the *NSW Federation*, it was proposed that the *NSW Federation* "merge" with the Victorian Federation?

A tiny handful of individuals --- acting without any broad consultation with members --- voted to pursue this destructive course. We want no part of it.

As Queenslanders we will run our own, independent Federation and we will promote and defend an open, friendly, democratic, decentralised structure across the Film Society Movement of Australia.

FACT 5: There are currently 3 Queensland film societies in the NSW Federation. Yet there are at least 20 film societies across QLD.

Most Queensland film societies are not part of the NSW Federation --- or of *any* Federation for that matter. Why? For many, it's because they rightly refuse to be subsumed under another state's organisation (after all, hadn't we fought and gained our independence from NSW over 150 years ago --- back in 1859?)

Yet, by not having our own Federation we miss out on the many advantages and opportunities that can come from cooperation and sharing, including the exchange of ideas and knowledge, and the chance to learn from each other.

Without our own Federation we are essentially disconnected from the Film Society Movement as a whole.

So, join us now and *let's* connect with the Film Society Movement across Australia and internationally. Let's become active participants and contributors, and in the process let us always ensure that the interests of Queenslanders are represented, defended, and promoted at every turn.

In Conclusion

As one of Australia's longest serving veterans of the Film Society Movement, historian, John Turner, said in a recent interview: "The Film Society Movement is about individuals."

Ain't it the Truth? Things happen when we each, with our individual initiative, step forward to *make* them happen.

We reckon it's time to make the film society movement of Queensland start happening!

And that's why we're writing to you. We've done a lot of the ground work. Now we're ready to roll.

We invite you to join us on April 14 in Brisbane to make history -- be a part of it -- as we launch the first ever *Federation of Queensland Film Societies*.

We'll democratically represent, enthusiastically promote, and fiercely defend the interests of Queensland film societies at all times.

We're ready, willing, and able.

"How about it?"



Kerry McKinnon
Brisbane Film Study Group

Christine Zimmer
Gold Coast Film Study Group

When: 4PM, April 14 2012

Where: 9 Burwana Place, Wellington Point, Queensland 4160

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