

Ms Gabrielle Trainor
Chair of the Board
National Film & Sound Archive
McCoy Circuit
ACTON, ACT

Dear Ms Trainor

We the undersigned are writing to express our concern at the management and other changes currently being undertaken by the National Film and Sound Archive.

These changes have resulted from the implementation of a Business Review conducted by the Director and which have, it is claimed, been endorsed by the Board of the NFSA, the Department of the Arts and the Minister for the Arts, Senator George Brandis.

Regrettably the Business Review document has been kept secret from all but a handful of people and thus those with professional and other interests in the work of the NFSA have had no opportunity to examine, review and contest any of the findings of the Review. We do not believe that this is an appropriate way to deal with matters of such significance which involve major changes to the organisation's activities, focus and management as well as continuing use of taxpayer funding.

Among those changes are a proposal to reduce staff by over 10% of those working for the NFSA which shortly will lead to the sacking of some of the NFSA's most experienced managers, administrators and industry-trained professionals.

We therefore request the following:

1. Immediate public release of the Loebenstein NFSA Business Review to enable its contents to be analysed, discussed and where necessary contested by those inside and outside the NFSA affected by its decisions; and
2. Your agreement that the NFSA will at the earliest possible opportunity convene a properly publicised open forum or series of fora in the major capitals to enable a full public discussion of these matters wherein those proposing the changes, and in the case of the Board, supporting their implementation, publicly defend and explain them. Such discussion should take place before final decisions on terminations, sackings and personnel restructures come into effect.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours sincerely

Geoff Gardner

Cc Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, Minister for the Arts (senator.brandis@aph.gov.au)
The Hon Mark Dreyfus, Opposition Spokesman for the Arts (mark.dreyfus.mp@aph.gov.au)
Senator Christine Milne, Leader of The Greens (senator.milne@aph.gov.au)

Signatories supporting this letter:

Martha Ansara, Founding Convenor FBIOHG, member The Archive Forum

Philip Adams

Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Jacka, formerly at UTS, co-author of *The Screening of Australia*

Sue Milliken AO - producer of "Paradise Road", "Sirens", "The Odd Angry Shot", "My Brother Jack", former Chair of the Australian Film Commission, author of recently published memoir on the film industry, "Selective Memory"

Alice Ansara, committee member FBIOHG

Tina Kaufman, Writer on film, media and communication issues for various publications. Editor, Filmnews. Honorary Life Member of the Sydney Film Festival and of the Film Critics' Circle of Australia.

Ben Cho, film-maker & cinephile

Tom Dickson, Retired international TV program specialist

John Turner, Treasurer, Australian Council of Film Societies

Frank Heimans, Cinetel Productions, filmmaker and member of the FBIOHG

Georgia Wallace-Crabbe, producer/director

Gregory Miller, producer/director, Film Projects Pty Ltd

Michael Angus, Producer/Director, Jerrycan Films

Tom Ryan, Film critic, former member of advisory board to the NFL re the NFSA

Debi Enker, TV critic, Fairfax, the ABC

Dominic Case, Consultant, former Board member and Development Manager, NFSA

Julie Rigg, Broadcaster and Film Critic

Barrie Pattison, Film-maker, Archivist and Writer

Rod Bishop, Film Producer, former CEO of the Australian Film, Radio & Television School, Critic and Consultant

Juanita Kwok, Post-Graduate Student

Ian Taylor, Film Reviewer, moviereview.com.au

Anne Demy-Geroe, Film Scholar, Festival Director and Interim NFSA Councillor

Gary Andrews, Cinephile

Alex Kelly, Film-maker

Rosalind Gillespie, Silver Films

Dr Trevor Graham, Yarra Bank Films

Jane Castle, Film-maker

Fabio Cavadini, Director/Producer, Frontyard Films

Amanda King, Founding member of OzDox, member of ADG, Director/Producer Frontyard Films

David Bordwell, Film Historian and Critic, co-author with Kristin Thompson of *FILM ART: AN INTRODUCTION* and *FILM HISTORY: AN INTRODUCTION* and author of many books

Megan McMurchy, Independent Producer, Suitcase Films

Adrienne McKibbins, Executive Officer/Awards Manager, Film Critics Circle of Australia (FCCA)

Helen Yeates, Adjunct Professor, Film, Screen and Animation, Creative Industries Faculty, QUT, Brisbane

Dr Barrett Hodsdon, Initiator of NL Film Study Collection 1974/75

Frances Bonner, Honorary Associate Professor, English, Media Studies and Art History, University of Queensland

Carole Kostanich, Film-maker, Rose Street Films

Peter Hourigan, Teacher, Critic and Historian

Sylvia Lawson, Film Critic, Writer on cultural history, fiction, essays and critical journalism.

Professor Chris Berry, Department of Film Studies, King's College, London

Anthony Buckley, AM, Producer of *Caddie*, *Bliss*, *Oyster Farmer* and the mini-series *The Harp in the South*, *Poor Man's Orange*, *The Heroes*, *Bryce Courtenay's The Potato Factory* and *Jessica*. Film Editor and re-discoverer of *Wake in Fright*.

Associate Professor Jane Mills, School of the Arts & Media, UNSW

Judith Crombie, First Film Australia archivist, First Film Librarian at the SAFC responsible for depositing feature film and documentary materials at the NFSA, Director of Marketing and Development at Film Queensland (now Screen Queensland). Deputy chair of the Queensland chapter for the Centenary of Australian Cinema, former CEO of Ausfilm, former CEO of South Australian Film Corporation

Donald Crombie, Film Director whose work is held at NFSA. Former President Australian Directors' Guild and current Board member

Sharon Connolly, Film-maker, Former CEO, Film Australia

Daniela Torsh, Retired journalist and filmmaker

Pat Fiske, Documentary Filmmaker, Bower Bird Films / Paradigm Pictures

Russell Edwards, Film critic & film-maker

Dr Adrian Danks, Co-editor, *Senses of Cinema*, co-curator of the Melbourne Cinematheque, Director of Higher Degree Research, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University

Dr Wendy Keys, Griffith University

H.J.Prideaux, Secretary, Wollongong WEA Film Society

Trish FitzSimons, Griffith University

Jane Oehr, Film-maker

Ray Thomas, Screen Editor, Member Australian Society of Editors

Louise Sheedy, Program Coordinator & President, Melbourne Cinematheque

Wayne Coles-Janess, Producer/ Director

Tom Zubrycki, Producer/director

Curtis Levy, Film-maker and NFSA user for over thirty years

Nicolette Boaz, Composer for documentary

Michael Campi, Cinephile, Festival Consultant

Werner Meyer, Producer/director, Mort Bay Films

John Duigan, Film Director, double AFI Award Winner

Anna Grieve, Film Producer

Associate Professor Adrian Martin, Film Critic, Film and Television Studies
Co-Director Research Unit in Film Culture and Theory, Monash University

Ron Johanson, OAM ACS, National President, Australian Cinematographers Society

Amanda Brown, Screen Composer

Greg Reading, Former Film Australia documentary maker

Margot Nash, Film-maker, As If Productions

Murray Forrest, Former managing director Atlab, National Executive member, The Society of
Australian Film Pioneers.

Madeleine Hetherington - Director/Producer - Media Stockade

Michael Koller, Executive Programmer, Melbourne Cinémathèque

Deb Verhoeven, Archive Forum

Bruce Hodsdon, Film Critic, Historian, Programmer

David Bradbury, Documentary Film-maker, Five Time AFI Award Winner, Twice nominated for an
Academy Award

Barbara A Chobocky, Producer/Director

Peter Thompson, Producer/Director, Critic & Presenter, Former Board Member of the NFSA

Storry Walton AM, writer, director, producer, formerly Director Australian Film and Television
School, Chair Academic Board NIDA, Executive Director International Cultural Corporation of
Australia

Magritte Gillies, Cinephile

Bruce Hulbert, Cinephile

Richard Brennan, Film Producer, Former General Manager of the Australian Film Institute

David Stratton, Film critic, author, Presenter ABC-TV At the Movies

Margaret Pomeranz, Film Critic, Presenter ABC-TV At the Movies

Krizia Cook, Communications Student, University of Notre Dame

Elaina Neville, Publicity Officer, Orange Film Society

John Olson, Audio engineer and Oral Historian

Simon Taaffe, Cinephile

Louis Irving

Prof. David MacDougall, Film Maker, Research School of Humanities & the Arts, the Australian
National University

Beverly Duncan, Orange Film Society

Ken Wallin, Cinephile

Ray Argall, Film-maker, Cinematographer, President, Australian Directors Guild

Geoff Burton ACS, Director/Cinematographer, Kurrajong Films

Tim Waygood, Retired, Former General Manager, Colorfilm Laboratories, Supervised Restorations for NSFA, The War Memorial, Cinesound, Movietone, The Last Film Search. Company designed and installed the B&W lab at NSFA.

Dr Janet Merewether, Director, Producer, Media Academic

Jane Hinton, Cinephile

Nigel Giles, Oral historian

Bob Connolly, Documentary Film-maker, Academy Award Nominee, 5 times winner AFI (AACTA) Award for Best Feature Documentary

Ruari Elkington, PhD Candidate, Media, Entertainment and Creative Arts, Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Gil Scrine, Antidote Films

Dr Anne Whitehead, Writer/Director, Winner of AWGIE, Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Documentary Script

Tim Read, Film Producer and former Director Film Development, Australian Film Commission

Paul Coulter, Festival Programmer, Cinema Entrepreneur

Mee Wun Lee, A concerned member of the tax-paying public

Eddie Cockrell, Film Critic, Writer, Artistic Director, The Big Picture Film Festival

Jane Keneally, Film Producer, Associate, The Big Picture Film Festival

Michael O'Rourke, Cinephile

Ross Tzannes, AM, Former President, Sydney Film Festival

Leth Maitland, Secretary, WEA Sydney Film Society, Vice-president, Australian Council of Film Societies

David Donaldson, Founding Director, Sydney Film Festival

David Parker, Producer/Writer/Director/Cinematographer, Cascade Films

Armin Miladi, Co-Director, Iranian Film Festival in Australia

Herman van Eyken, Head, Griffith Film School

Max Berghouse, Cinephile

Peter Tammer, Film-maker

Meg Stewart, Filmmaker and author

Kiki Fung, Brisbane International Film Festival

Patricia Rubie, CEO, Top Technicians Management

Dr Stephen Gaunson, Head of Cinema Studies, RMIT University

Dr Richard James Allen and Dr Karen Pearlman, Filmmakers, Educators at Sydney Film School and Macquarie University, Artistic Directors of The Physical TV Company

Frank Moorhouse, Novelist and screen writer of *Between Wars* and *The Coca-Cola Kid*

Dr. Gino Moliterno, Head, Film and New Media Studies, School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, ANU

Dr. Roger Hillman, Fellow, Academy of Humanities of Australia, Emeritus Fellow
School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, ANU

Dr Vincent O'Donnell , School of Media & Communication, RMIT

Lee Whitmore, Animator

James McCarthy, Active Media

Jack Thompson, Actor

Rod Quantock, Actor

Mary Keneally, Actor

Billy Pinnell, Radio programmer/presenter, writer, NFSA Interviewer

Paul Harris, Oral Historian, Director, St. Kilda Film Festival

Don Harley, Formerly of Film Australia

June Thody, Actress

Sophia Turkiewicz, Film Director, AFI Award Nominee

Gabrielle Haumesser, Eastside Radio

Jake Wilson, Film Reviewer, The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald

Lynette Rutherford, Canberra Cinephile

Mandy Stefanakis, Director of Music at Christ Church Grammar School, Life Member of the
Association of Music Educators

Wendy Stapleton, Oral Historian, Musician

Steve Blume, CEO, NoCarbon Pty Ltd

Dr Mark Stiles, documentary film-maker and occasional screenwriter

Lisa French, Deputy Dean, Media, School of Media & Communication, RMIT University

Kristin Otto, Oral Historian

Debra Annear, Independent Producer and Freelance Technician

Nick Parsons - stage and screenwriter, Chairman and Screen Studies Editor, Currency Press

Prodos S N Marinakis, Chairman, Institute for the Study & Advancement of the Film Society
Movement (FiSMoTron), Secretary of Australian Council of Film Societies