

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US:

The Redcliffe Picture Palace is a unique 'working museum' showing predominantly early Australian films, documentaries and newsreels, plus a variety of early American and English comedy, documentary and feature film material.

The project was conceived and implemented by an interested group of Redcliffe business people, intent on fostering tourism and an interest in Australia's National Heritage of early film.

It all started with the re-discovery of the long-closed and forgotten Pier Theatre Dress Circle in April 1995, found during building renovations in a shop housed in the old foyer of the building. Although attempts were made to utilise the old Pier Theatre premises for the project, it has not, for various reasons, been possible to do so.

A proposal was put together to utilise the rear portion of the present premises for the project, and although the owner is more than willing, the large capital outlay required is at present beyond our reach.

Undaunted, a group was formed in late December 1995, to ascertain the reaction of the public to our early film heritage.

During January 1996 several showings were held at the CWA Hall, Woody Point, and the Beachmere Progress Association Hall, Beachmere.

Although the results were encouraging, these shows were difficult to stage in the venues, and a move was made in late January 1996 to the present location, with the total co-operation and encouragement of the building's owner, Mr. R. Robinson.

With the help of the Queensland Fire Services' District Safety Officer, and the Redcliffe City Council Building Services Department, quick progress was made, and in less than two weeks the venue was staging several shows a week to a maximum of fifty persons per show.

Although the surroundings are not of world standard, the films being shown most certainly are, and most patrons who come once, return many times for other screenings of this important part of Australia's art heritage, where you can lounge back and take a long look at what life was like so many years ago.

The growth of the project is dependent upon the raising of funds for the acquisition of display items, film stock, seating and the million and one other necessary items that are generally forgotten about until they become a necessity. Although many improvements have been made over the past six years, and much film and equipment has been acquired, we are still some way off from reaching our goal.

The ultimate aim is to reproduce in the rear of these premises a duplicate of the original Redcliffe Pier Picture Palace which opened opposite the Redcliffe Pier in 1918. Commencement of this project is dependent upon raising the necessary funds.

During 1998 a display of early equipment was mounted in the foyer area and has attracted much attention from visitors. As more early equipment is procured, this display will form the basis of a movie museum, which is now well underway.

Our acquisition of early films has created a unique archive of material, particularly of early Australian features, and a large collection of film that is particularly significant to Queensland. This has recently been added to by our purchase of the life work of Queensland cinematographer Brian Benson. This unique collection of documentary work is of immense importance to Australia's film heritage, and we are privileged to be the receptors of such a unique collection of material.

All staffing of this project is done by volunteer labour, a labour of love to those who appreciate and wish to preserve and share some of our nation's precious film heritage with you.

The complete co-operation of the staff of the Australian National Film and Sound Archive, along with various copyright holders of some of the early films, has enabled this project to emerge from a pipe-dream of the co-ordinator, Peter Goed, to the reality of a working museum.

We hope that you will visit us time and again to savour some early history that is unique to Australia.

The Redcliffe Picture Palace is available for special screenings of most types of film for the purposes of fundraising for charitable organisations, clubs, or any specific type of function, including dinner dances, for up to fifty (50) people. An electric organ and piano are available for the use of function groups.

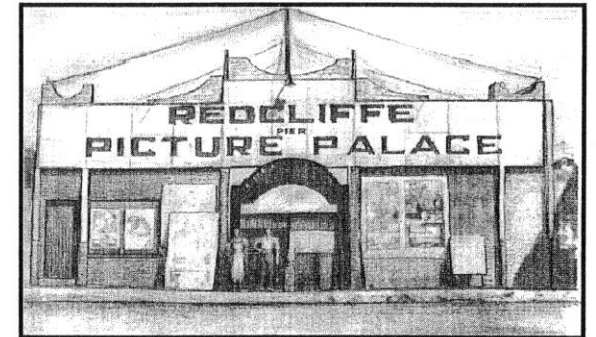
Talk to Peter on 3889 3011 during business hours to arrange an inspection of our facilities.

There is no provision for wheelchair access to the venue at this stage, and one flight of stairs (21 easy treads) needs to be negotiated to reach the venue.

Vintage Aussie Movies

Proudly
Presented by the

REDCLIFFE PICTURE PALACE



REAR 151 SUTTON STREET, REDCLIFFE, QLD. 4020
(ENTRANCE IN MALL WALKWAY, OFF FISHER DRIVE)

Phone: 3889 3011 for enquiries and bookings
After Hours Telephone: 3880 1136
Website - <http://members.optushome.com.au/picturepalace>
Email: picturepalace@optushome.com.au

Designed as an ideal outing for groups of 20 to 50 people, the Redcliffe Picture Palace is an enjoyable experience for young and old alike, with showings tailor-made for groups of all persuasions, particularly Senior Citizens.

Showing predominantly early Australian film, this unique venue will leave you with many pleasant memories, taking you back to an era that has long since gone, but is not forgotten.

You will laugh with George Wallace, Laurel and Hardy, and W. C. Fields, revel in the memories that the early newsreels will awaken in you, and be pleasantly surprised by the quality of our own early feature films and documentaries.

**Talk to your tour organiser today to arrange a visit.
A GREAT EXPERIENCE NOT TO BE MISSED.**

For those who have not visited before, our suggestion is to take our standard first-time program, which is specifically designed to work with all first-time groups.

Our program comprises a 9.30am, 10.00am or 1.00pm start, approximately 35 minutes of newsreel and short films, a ½ hour break for tea of coffee, ending with a feature film in good time for lunch or your return journey home.

For those who have visited before, for your return we can offer you a tailor-made program from our huge archival holdings. We have documentary film covering nearly every subject, as well as a large selection of early feature films, including many Australian classics, with stars such as George Wallace, Peter Finch and Chips Rafferty, and an extensive holding of comedy shorts such as Laurel and Hardy, W. C. Fields, Charlie Chaplin.

To tailor a film show for your requirements you will need to allow a two and a half to three hour period (depending on the length of the feature film chosen), for a presentation of short films, morning/afternoon tea, and a feature film. Our suggestion is a 9.30am, or 10.00 am arrival, or for an afternoon session, a 1.00 pm start

If you wish, we can organise your whole day's outing to Redcliffe, including lunch at a range of eateries, visits to various other venues, or a boat trip. Just ask us for our experienced help in choosing what to do in Redcliffe on your days outing.

Over the past several years we have endeavoured to keep our prices as reasonable as possible, but escalating costs are, unfortunately hitting all businesses.

As from June of 2005 we will be implementing a new pricing structure, which unfortunately affects smaller groups, but is the only way we can continue to put on quality shows of unique early films for your enjoyment.

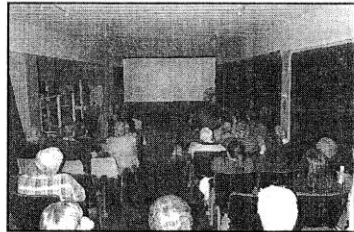
- Groups of 41 and over - \$8.00 per person.
- Groups of 31 to 40 - \$9.00 per person.
- Groups of 21 to 30 - \$10.00 per person.
- Groups of 20 or less - \$200 per group.

All the above prices include a full film show and morning or afternoon tea.

Groups are welcome to bring cakes, etc, for their members additional enjoyment.

Public screenings are held every Sunday at 1.00 pm till approximately 4.00 pm - these shows include one hour of shorts, an intermission, including tea or coffee, and a feature film. Total price is \$8.00 per person.

A group enjoying the show on our fifteen-foot cinemascope screen.

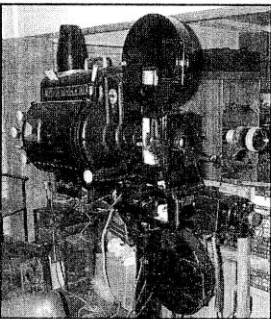


At the rear of the auditorium can be seen some of the restored seats from the Brisbane Wintergarden Theatre.



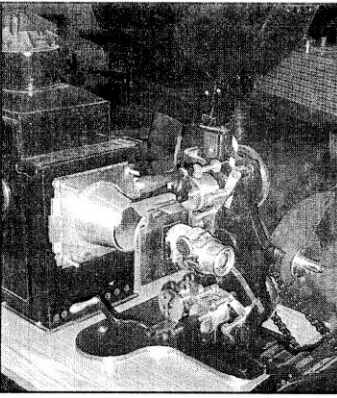
Settling in, ready to watch the feature film, after enjoying a laugh in the first part of the show, followed by an enjoyable cuppa in our Palm Court Tea Room.

Our unique display of early film equipment is nearly all fully functioning. Shown here is a 35 mm projector salvaged from the State Theatre, Red Hill.



Now fully restored, it had been sitting gathering dust in the old theatre for nearly forty years.

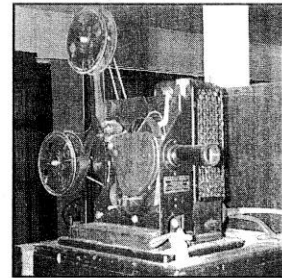
One of a pair, the other projector is not restorable.



A fully restored 1901 English made Warwick Patented Bioscope.

This machine possibly once belonged to the Salvation Army Limelight Film Division, coming to Brisbane with one of their former employees, Sid Cooke, who operated early picture shows in The Valley and Newstead.

Another of these is ready for restoration.

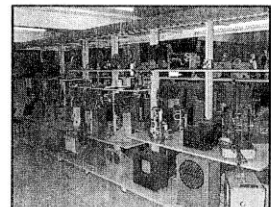


A 1925 Kodak 16mm projector, brought back to Australia by an orchestra leader on a trip to America. This is one of the earliest of these to have come into the country.

In excellent original condition, this projector, along with the films taken on a Kodak camera in 1926 to 1930, have been donated to our museum.

A small part of the display of 16mm and 8mm projectors.

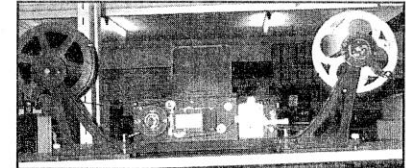
These date from 1926 to about 1976, and include the bottom of the range to the Rolls-Royce of projectors, an Australian produced Harmor & Heath machine dating from the mid 1940s. These machines were made in Sydney until the mid 1960s.



Another part of the display houses 16mm projectors, editors and sound strippers, as well as a unique collection of film splicers dating from 1924 to the 1970s.

One featured splicer is an electric fully automated German model from the mid-1950s.

A quality 16mm film editor that belonged to a celebrated local documentary maker from Redcliffe.



The unique display of early equipment has been built up over a ten-year period. Most has been donated by patrons and members of the general public, although some was purchased for use during shows.

The collection of still cameras will take you back to the early part of the century and well into the 1960s, the majority of the equipment is in full functioning order, and is at times used by our staff.

If you have any unwanted film or equipment, we are always willing to accept it for inclusion in our display.

Peter Goed, co-ordinator, Redcliffe Picture Palace.