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ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR: *1 January to 31 December 2019*

DARWIN FILM SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Principal Activities (including any significant changes)

The 2019 Year for the DFS was a great year for the DFS with a record number of customers through the gate (over 50,000). It was the first year for our new team, James and Damien as General Manager and Operations Managers and I would like to thank them for their dedication, attitude and contribution to ensuring the success of the cinema.

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 2019 the DFS largely through the Deckchair Cinema:

- Screened 198 films, including 158 at Deckchair Cinema and 40 at other venues (for Flix and during DIFF) films with a total attendance of 50,102 people and experienced 36 sold out nights. This represents an increase from last year of approximately 1000 in attendance and ten additional sold out night.



- Returned more than \$60,983 to fundraising organisations from ticket sales at their fundraising movie nights. This is after accounting for the costs of film hire and does not include other fundraising efforts such as meals and raffles.
- Screened 25 Australian films (incl Flix, DIFF and general Deckchair program)
- Held Flix In The Wet, for the first time as it came to pass at the BCC Casuarina. During Flix we screened 9 films, 1 being Australian with a total attendance of 2462 (up 30% from the previous year.). Flix lost about \$2,422. We received support from our sponsors Living Water Smart to the value of \$2500.
- Held the 10th annual Darwin International Film Festival, or DIFF, screening 28 films attracting a total attendance of 3325 across all the DIFF events. It was a year of consolidation for DIFF. We have a range of initiatives that we focused on 'bedding down' for 2019, with the exception of the 'Water Screen' at the Waterfront. Overall DIFF made a loss of \$13,039, which the committee acknowledged was an acceptable risk prior. The In-house team led by Blandine Ruffo with able support of the rest of the team meant DIFF was again a key event for the DFS and Darwin more broadly.
- The NT Travelling Film Festival built on the success and experience of 2018. With the fantastic work of Britt Guy (Accomplice) and her team we ran the second NTTFF. Communities and Iconic Locations were visited, the showing of local NT films, including those of the SPARK initiative, set a new highlight for the DFS mission of spreading screen culture far and wide.
- Through our the year James and the team developed and maintained strong relationships with: Travelling Film Festival (Syd), Screen Territory, Darwin Festival, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, national film distributors and our neighbours including Darwin Water Front and Darwin City Council.
- We employed 1 fulltime manager, 1 full time operations manager, a part-time DIFF Manager and an average of 13 casual staff at Deckchair Cinema.
- Supported local film industry with the second SPARK film initiative (seed funding and guidance for 4 new short films premiered at DIFF) and continues the engagement of a project manager for NT Travelling Film Festival.
- Undertook a number of improvements around the venue's resources including:
 - Completed the new service area that was constructed over the last wet season that was supported with a grant from The Community Benefit Fund (\$6,172) The finalisation of the project in 2019 has expended the grant funds to a total of \$41,991
 - Initiated the Furniture grant through the Community Benefit Fund with grant funds of \$35,330 and a DFS contribution of \$15,000. We invested the funds in furniture from HPA and Gumatj Corporation, both worthwhile upstanding community organisations that we are happy to support.
 - Installed a mahogany timber slab bench adjacent to the deck to a value of \$1500,
 - A range of general maintenance including painting and landscaping. A big thank you to John Schier who's continued weekly contribution is obvious as we stand here.

- Recognised the importance of both staff and Committee member development and allocated funds accordingly, such as for the General Manager to attend the Independent Cinema Association conference in Sydney.
- Maintained strong membership base having a membership of over 1,000 (Nov 2019) and a strong volunteer base. Thanks for all your support at working bees, market stalls, special events and more.

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
- Secretary – Lee Upton
- Treasurer - Vacant
- Public Officer – Lex Silvester
- Member – Di Koser
- Member – Phil Hickey
- Member – Helen Pereira
- Member – Felicity Watt

The committee does a great job and works well as a team. I (Jeff) as Chair appreciate the support provided by all Committee members

Details of disclosures of interest

- Nil

Details of Net Profit or Loss

- Net operating profit was \$35,921
 - This is inclusive of grants income received for capital projects of \$35,121
 - The overall trading profit in 2019 was \$75,148
 - The Net operating profit of the previous year (2018) was \$81,779

Statement

In our opinion –

- (a) 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 23rd of May 2020 and the results of the DFS for the year ended on that date;
- (b) The accounts of the DFS have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the DFS; and
- (c) 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: _____
Vice Chair

Date: _____

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