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Log on and learn

One of the nation's largest producers of television documentaries and educational programs, Film Australia, takes a new direction with the launch of learning@filmaustralia—a dynamic online educational resource, wholly Australian and absolutely free.

Five websites under the learning@filmaustralia portal cover subjects ranging from body image to railways, from the workforce to the media.

Developed in consultation with education specialists and designed specifically with Australian educators in mind, the websites will assist teachers meet learning outcomes over a wide range of curriculum areas. Each contains detailed teachers notes and lesson plans.

"These sites give everyone from primary school children to university lecturers the ability to stream—and in some instances, download—up to 14 hours of free video clips from our library," the Executive Producer of learning@filmaustralia, Chris Warner, said. "In fact, every part of each of the sites is accessible completely free of charge."

"These five initial sites are designed to give teachers easy-to-use resources for their classes with material including clips, interactive games and information-loaded timelines."

"For example, a secondary teacher can access more than 50 clips and 150 lesson plans on the theme of work. Students or individuals researching one of the 35 people on our *Australian Biography* site will find transcripts of lengthy interviews as well as free downloadable clips," Mr Warner said.

Each of the projects draws on Film Australia's remarkable archive—one of the nation's largest and most historically significant collections of audiovisual material, spanning the late 19th century to the present day.

"Film Australia is highly regarded for the quality of its online resources for teachers. We offer free downloadable teachers notes for more than 200 programs, TV schedules for educational off-air copying and online ordering of more than 1000 Film Australia videos and DVDs," Film Australia's Chief Executive Officer, Daryl Karp, said.

www.filmaust.com.au/learning
the gateway to Film Australia's
online educational resources

- educational websites
- teachers notes and lesson plans
- TV guide
- online ordering



Australians at Work

A collection of more than 50 video clips (about 1.5 hours of viewing) plus 150 study modules on the theme of Australians at work, from Mawson's expedition to the Antarctic to playing in a rock-n-roll band.

Education level: secondary, tertiary, lifelong learning



From Wireless to Web

A selective history of the broadcast media in Australia, told with timelines, photos and almost 500 video clips (about 5 hours of viewing) including interviews with commentators and media figures such as Tim Bowden, Corinne Grant, Megan Spencer and John Safran.

Education level: secondary, tertiary, lifelong learning



completely GORGEOUS

An hilarious and helpful look at body image for modern girls and guys from Kaz Cooke. An online version of her *totally Gorgeous* CD-ROM and bestselling book *real Gorgeous*, including the award-winning animation *Gorgeous* plus quizzes, games and an animated screensaver.

Education level: upper primary, secondary, tertiary, lifelong learning



On the Rails

An interactive journey following the tracks of three famous Australian trains through time and place. Features 26 video clips (more than 45 minutes of viewing) plus quizzes, games and tasks to complete—and a printable certificate for students to mark the end of the journey.

Educational level: upper primary, lower secondary



Australian Biography Online

A biographical resource profiling some of the most extraordinary Australians of our time, as seen in the *Australian Biography* TV series on SBS. The site features video as well as transcripts of interviews with 35 distinguished Australians in their complete, unedited form.

Education level: secondary, tertiary, lifelong learning



Betty Churcher presents The Art of War

Former National Gallery director and arts educator Betty Churcher brings her unique perspective to a series on Australian art inspired or provoked by our involvement in conflicts over the past century.

From the First World War to the “war on terror”, **The Art of War** reveals how dramatically attitudes to war have changed, and how radically the trauma of war has changed art itself.

Written and presented by Betty Churcher, the series will be broadcast nationally on SBS-TV over two nights—Saturday 23 April and Sunday 24 April—at 7.30pm.

This is a personal exploration of art rather than a comprehensive history. With images from official war artists, soldiers on the frontline or in POW camps, civilians in concentration camps and those on the homefront, it is a story of unknown artists and famous names such as George Lambert, Nora Heysen and Sidney Nolan.

The range and diversity of the works is remarkable, from dramatic battlefield panoramas to pencil-on-paper sketches of individuals. Some were created to encourage patriotic sentiment; others protest a senseless loss of life. Almost all capture something of the Australian identity—our humour, courage and endurance.

Produced with the support of the Australian War Memorial and in association with SBS Independent, the series was made under Film Australia’s National Interest Program in association with Early Works. It was directed by John Hughes, who also produced with Betty Churcher. Anna Grieve was Film Australia executive producer.

“Non-stop television coverage of modern wars can wash over us but when it comes to remembering we need the deeper bite of a singular image” Betty Churcher

Berner’s Loaded Brush

Radio and TV personality and former art student Peter Berner is painting a self-portrait for this year’s Archibald Prize—and Film Australia’s cameras are there to capture it.

Peter Berner’s Loaded Brush is a video diary of the process, from blank canvas to judgement day. It includes interviews with other artists, sitters and critics about big-picture subjects such as art, identity and celebrity, as well as excruciatingly honest critiques of Peter Berner’s work from the Director of the Art Gallery of NSW, Edmund Capon, and artist Wendy Sharpe. And, of course, the big moment—does the painting make the cut when the successful entrants are announced?

Directed by Edwina Throsby and produced by Sally Regan, the one-hour program will be broadcast on ABC-TV on 5 May 2005. Mark Hamlyn is executive producer for Film Australia and Amanda Duthie for the ABC.



Festival & awards update

Silent Storm won the Earth Vision Grand Prize (Best Film) at the Earth Vision–Tokyo Global Environmental Film Festival in Japan in February.

Following the screening of **Dhakiyarr vs the King** at the Sundance Film Festival in January, the program was invited to screen at Norway’s Sami Indigenous Culture Festival in March and the Jerusalem Film Festival in Israel in July. It has also been selected for the Short Film Grand Prix Competition at the Chicago International Documentary Film Festival in April.

The film received a special mention for an outstanding contribution to Australian culture at the Centre for Australian Cultural Studies National Cultural Awards. **Troubled Minds–The Lithium Revolution** was also shortlisted in the group category at the same awards.

In March, **Mr Patterns** screened at the London Australian Film Festival (along with **In the Realm of the Hackers**) and at the International Festival of Films on Art in Canada. It is one of only four films nominated for a Focal Award for best use of footage in a history factual production, to be announced in London in May. **Film Australia’s Immigration** DVD has also been nominated for a Focal Award for best use of footage in electronic publishing.

Land of the Morning Star has been selected for the New Zealand Human Rights Film Festival in May and **Wildness** will screen at the Commonwealth Film Festival in April in Manchester, United Kingdom.

Recent international sales

Discovery has licensed **Muddy Waters–Life and Death on the Great Barrier Reef** (Central/South Asia, India and the Pacific Rim) and **Wildness** (Australia and the Pacific Rim) for pay TV.

In other pay TV deals, **Muddy Waters** and **Silent Storm** were licensed to Odisea in Spain, **Selling Australia: The Red Heart** to Sky Travel in the UK and **Slow Food Revolution** to RAISAT through Vittagraph in Italy.

Mr Pattens, National Treasures and the first episode of **Colour of War–The Anzacs** were licensed to Qantas In-flight Entertainment, and a package of 37.5 hours was licensed to Aurora Television for digital TV in Australia.

Who’s Afraid of Designer Babies? was licensed for free-to-air TV to Channel Four (Nelonen) in Finland and MICO in Japan and to IETV for free-to-air, satellite and basic cable in Israel.

Also in Israel, **Nazi Supergrass** and **Uncle Chatzkel** have been licensed to The History Channel for pay TV, and **Myths of Childhood** and **The Opposite Sex** to Hop TV! for pay TV and non-theatrical distribution.

Bobtales, Handle with Care, Under One Roof, Welcome to the Waks Family and **Winds of Change** were licensed to Media Marketing and Production for free, cable and satellite TV in the Arabic-speaking Middle East.

Motion Pictures has purchased free and pay TV rights for **Ten Million Wildcats** in Spain and Portugal and **Muddy Waters** in Portugal only. **Myths of Childhood** was licensed to TVN24 for digital television in Poland, and **Sugar Slaves** to TG4 for free-to-air TV in Ireland.

The Human Face of the Pacific, Smokey and **Storymakers: Percy Trezise and Dick Roughsey** were licensed to Maori Television for free-to-air in New Zealand, and **Everyday Brave** and **Fly Peewee, Fly!** to the community service channel GTV for free-to-air in Broome.

In the USA, **Welcome to the Waks Family** was licensed to the Jewish Broadcasting Network for free-to-air in Chicago and to the Jewish Film Series of Southwest Florida and the Temple Beth-El in Providence as well as the Festival Internacional de Cine Judio AC in Mexico.

Hellas Television International has been appointed to represent the Film Australia catalogue in Greece and Cyprus on a non-exclusive basis.

2005 catalogues out now

Film Australia produces two catalogues each year: one for broadcasters and sub-distributors, the other for schools, universities, libraries, community groups and other institutions or individuals.

For a printed copy of either catalogue: email sales@filmaust.com.au call 02 9413 8634.

Or download a PDF copy from the Publications page on the Film Australia website. See www.filmaust.com.au/about

New in production

Three new projects are about to go into production: a landmark series based on a major longitudinal study of Australian children, a bawdy convict saga and a WWII epic about the final stages of the Pacific campaign.

Growing Up in Australia will open a window on the complexity and wonder of children. It is the first episode in a series that aims to track the lives of a group of children and their families for seven years. Made with the co-operation of the Department of Family and Community Services, the project draws on a study of 10,000 young children to provide an unparalleled picture of what it is like to be a child growing up in Australia. Janine Hosking and Catherine Marciniak are directing, Jennifer Cummins is producer and Penny Robins is executive producer for Film Australia.

Writer/director Mark Lewis and producers Chris Hilton and Sonja Armstrong are set to tell the extraordinary story of how 222 women prisoners in London's Newgate Gaol—many facing the death penalty—ended up on board a "floating brothel" bound for Botany Bay. The *Lady Juliana* and its enterprising convict cargo injected a sense of enterprise and hope for the future into what was a struggling colony. **The Floating Brothel** is being made in association with Essential Viewing Productions. Mark Hamlyn is executive producer for Film Australia.

Road to Tokyo will examine the arduous final months of World War Two as America "island-hopped" towards the heart of Japanese territory. Drawing on remarkable archival footage and interviews with veterans and historians, the program places into context the contribution made by Australia in the Pacific operations. It also reveals the controversy surrounding the deployment of troops and the growing tension between Australia and the US, whose General MacArthur wanted an American-dominated show. Directed by Graham Shirley and produced by Sally Regan, the program is being made to co-incide with the 60th anniversary of the World War Two armistice. Penny Robins is executive producer for Film Australia.

All three programs are to screen on ABC-TV.

Also in production

Air Australia

This three-part series will revisit Australia's grand but turbulent aviation history. Produced in association with Vue DC and with the assistance of ScreenWest, Lotterywest and the ABC, it is being produced by Helen Clucas and writer/director Alan Lindsay. Tony Virgo is associate producer.
Executive Producer: Anna Grieve

Australian Biography

Production of the tenth series continues with editing underway on the latest half-hour episode featuring actor, singer, dancer, choreographer and theatre director Noel Tovey. Rod Freedman is directing and producing; Robin Hughes is writing and presenting.
Executive Producer: Mark Hamlyn

The Bertram Wainer Story

Dr Bertram Wainer's campaign for abortion law reform in the 1960s is the subject of this one-hour documentary for SBS Independent. Developed and produced with the assistance of Film Victoria, the program is written and directed by John Moore, who is also producing with Sue Seeary.
Executive Producer: Penny Robins

A Colourful Life

Director Gillian Armstrong is in post-production on this one-hour documentary about the life of flamboyant design pioneer Florence Broadhurst. Made in association with Becker Entertainment and SBS Independent, the program is being produced by Charles Hannah and Sue Clothier and written by Katherine Thomson.
Executive Producer: Mark Hamlyn

Divorce Stories

Director/producer Jessica Douglas-Henry, producer Mary-Ellen Mullane and series director Steve Westh are currently editing this three-part series at Film Australia Studios with editor Stewart Young and series editor Melanie Sandford. Developed with the assistance of the Australian Film Commission and produced in association with SBS Independent, the series will explore the real impact of divorce on society and individuals—not just couples but also children, family and friends.
Executive Producer: Penny Robins

Gone to a Good Home

This one-hour documentary will explore the experiences of unmarried mothers who, from the 1950s to the 1970s, were pressured by Australian authorities to give up their babies for adoption into what were considered "better" homes—those of married couples. Developed and produced with the assistance of the Pacific Film and Television program, it will screen on SBS-TV. Karen Berkman is directing; Mark Chapman is producing.
Executive Producer: Mark Hamlyn

Remembering Rain

Post-production is underway on this one-hour documentary for ABC-TV which will present stories from people in the bush as they confront one of the worst droughts on record. The program from director/producer Mandy Chang and producer Megan McMurchy raises important questions about the viability of farming in the driest continent on earth.
Executive Producer: Penny Robins

The Safe House

Lee Whitmore is using an unusual technique in the production of her animation for SBS-TV, involving a mixture of paint and oil on glass plates which she then digitally photographs. Produced by Denise Haslem, the half-hour program is inspired by the infamous Petrov Affair of the 1950s.
Executive Producer: Anna Grieve

Trafficked

How did a young Thai girl end up working in a Sydney brothel? This one-hour documentary follows former Australian Federal Police officer turned private detective, Chris Payne as he investigates the child sex trade between Asia and Australia. Produced in association with Abracadabra Films and SBS Independent, the program is written and directed Luigi Acquisto, who is also producing with Stella Zammataro.
Executive Producers: Anna Grieve and Franco di Chiera

Vietnam Symphony

The latest documentary from writer/director Tom Zubrycki is nearing completion. Produced by Kerry Herman, in association with Stonebridge Productions, it tells the story of the students and teachers at Hanoi National Conservatory of Music who, at the height of the Vietnam War, were forced to flee to the countryside where they built an entire campus underground. The program has been developed with the assistance of the Australian Film Commission and produced in association with the NSW Film and Television Office and SBS Independent.
Executive Producer: Penny Robins

New distribution title

Like most Australians, Amy and Paul had never experienced life in a remote Indigenous community. **Crossing the Line** follows the journeys of these two young medical students as they leave their comfortable middle-class homes behind and are thrust into the harsh reality of everyday life on Mornington Island. Soon they discover an ongoing tension between their personal experiences with the community and the professional distance they are told they need to maintain. This one-hour documentary reveals the practical realities of providing Western medical services to Indigenous communities.

Written and directed by Kaye Harrison, who also produced with Rod Freedman, the program was made in association with the Australian Film Commission, the NSW Film and Television Office, Link Enterprises and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Film Australia will distribute it internationally.

When it screened on ABC-TV in February, the *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote: "It makes for remarkable, riveting viewing and gives a rare and unsentimental insight into one of Australia's remote Indigenous communities. Don't miss it."

\$150,000 for pilot doco business project

Film Australia and the NSW Film and Television Office (FTO) have announced an investment of \$150,000 in a pilot "Hothouse Scheme" that will nurture and support a team of independent documentary filmmakers to establish a viable business.

Film Australia CEO Daryl Karp said the Hothouse Scheme was an exciting new initiative that would tackle the challenges facing many talented documentary makers.

Speaking at the AIDC "Meet the CEO" session where she launched the scheme, Ms Karp said the Hothouse Scheme was a tangible outcome of Film Australia's strategy to support a healthy documentary sector.

"We are serious about developing our talented independent producers and the pilot Hothouse Scheme shows we value this sector and we want to work with them and improve their commercial viability," she said.

The scheme will provide a selected team of filmmakers with \$100,000 as well as on-site production services, facilities, training and advice, with particular emphasis on developing business and marketing skills. Additional support will be provided by the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, Holding Redlich and Horwarths (NSW) Pty Ltd Chartered Accountants and Management Consultants. At the end of 12 months, the team will have a slate of developed projects and be on the way to a workable commercial venture.

Jane Smith, Chief Executive NSW FTO said, "Sustainable production companies are pivotal to the continued growth and success of the documentary sector, and the industry in general. The Hothouse Scheme will provide the right kind of support needed for the successful company to make strategic plans for its future. We are very happy to be partnering with Film Australia to deliver this pilot scheme."

Details of the Hothouse Scheme, the terms of trade, distribution advance and revised editorial framework for the National Interest Program are available in the new Production section of the Film Australia website:
www.filmaust.com.au/production

New policies unveiled

Film Australia has released its new terms of trade and announced new policies to support Australia's independent documentary sector, including a distribution advance of up to \$10,000.

The release of Film Australia's **terms of trade** at the 2005 Australian International Documentary Conference in late February marked one year since the SPAA/ASDA Documentary Council (SADC) offered to negotiate the claims of the independent sector.

Film Australia CEO Daryl Karp said she saw the review of Film Australia's terms of trade as an opportunity to look at both the company's obligations and the needs of documentary makers.

"We are a production company that works with independent documentary makers, and we want to be considered the production partner of choice. So our terms of trade reflect both our editorial commitments and the commercial realities of documentary production in Australia, and provide a fair, and we hope, attractive environment for top quality teams," Ms Karp said.

The terms of trade relate to the development and production of Film Australia's National Interest Program made under contract with the Australian Government.

The major policy development in the terms of trade is the new producer's revenue stream, which will give 20 per cent of first returns to Film Australia to independent producers.

"This recognises the creative input of filmmakers who bring projects to the National Interest Program, and the need for an ongoing source of income to underpin business growth," said Ms Karp.

Geoff Brown, Executive Director SPAA, said, "The SADC are pleased that Film Australia recognised the legitimate claims of the independent documentary sector and were willing to negotiate in good faith."

Film Australia has also introduced a **distribution advance** for projects suitable for worldwide representation. The advance—up to \$10,000 for science and history projects—is part of Film Australia's acquisition drive for quality, independent documentaries. Film Australia has been working in distribution for more than 20 years, and has a wealth of experience to offer independent producers and directors.

The terms of trade and key policy developments are part of the new vision for Film Australia as leading Australian documentary.

Stanley Hawes Award goes to CAAMA

The Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) is the recipient of the 2005 Stanley Hawes Award for outstanding contribution to Australian Documentary, presented by Film Australia.

The \$5,000 prize was immediately earmarked to assist training in five communities in Central Australia to develop the next generation of Indigenous filmmakers.

Film Australia CEO Daryl Karp, who made the presentation the AIDC, said the selection recognised some 25 years of service by CAAMA.

"This is a fantastic award for our organisation and we thank Film Australia for recognising the impact CAAMA has made on the documentary sector in Australia with Indigenous filmmakers and on Indigenous stories," said Priscilla Collins, CAAMA Chief Executive Officer.

"We started as a dream in the late 1970s of three amazing people—John Macumba, Freda Glynn and Philip Batty—for Aboriginal voices to be heard and for Aboriginal people to take ownership and control of their future through media.

"In the early days we were always told Aboriginal films didn't rate, but as no Indigenous films at that time were being made how could we rate?" said Ms Collins.

CAAMA fought hard to promote Indigenous culture worldwide and continues to represent people, culture and language in film and television with Indigenous filmmakers.

CAAMA has supported many talented Australian filmmakers including Rachel Perkins (writer/director), Allan Collins (director/director of photography) and Erica Glynn (writer/director).

This is the first time Film Australia has presented the award to an organisation.

The award was established by Film Australia in 1997 to honour legendary documentary producer Stanley Hawes, the first Producer-in-Chief of the Australian National Film Board (1946-1969), later to become Film Australia. Previous winners include Robin Hughes (2004), Stewart Young (2003), Pat Fiske (2001), John Heyer (1999) and Graham Chase (1997).

Film Australia

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