

## ASRA Award 2014

### To Ken Berryman for an outstanding contribution in the development and interpretation of Australia's audiovisual heritage

The recipient of the 2014 ASRA award for excellence is someone who has represented the human face of sound and audio-visual archives to the community, and has developed relationships with creators, researchers and other archive users that are enduring, that are based on trust, and the benefits which emphasises for all parties.

His interests foremost in stories that collections, that has adaptability his hand to of activities developing archival



Figure 1

are first and the people and are represented in and in a career shown remarkable he has turned the full spectrum associated with and delivering collections.

As the founding manager of the Melbourne Office for the National Film & Sound Archive, Ken Berryman brought together his love of Melbourne with his passion for the stories and people behind our film and sound heritage. Ken forged links with a vibrant community that continues to use and support the NFSA to this day, and was a central figure in developing not only the NFSA's collection and business, but also in the development of staff and colleagues in the Melbourne office.

Ken led the way in interpreting the National collection through product development, creating a catalogue of titles that for the first time gave access to the treasures of the NFSA's collection to those with an interest in their own history. From humble beginnings with simple compilations providing a window into the archive, Ken went on to lead a program that became, in its day, one of the primary access pathways to the national collection. He challenged and led the technical and

other staff supporting this work, constantly improving production and curatorial standards. He overcame initial scepticism on the part of those who thought these efforts were detracting from preservation, to the point that they were among the most vocal protesters when ultimately the battle to keep that program going was lost.

Ken's ever present adaptability and his strength as a "people person" meant he was able to make the next phase of his career another rounding success, building an oral history program that engaged the hearts and minds of a team of interviewers and an astonishing diversity of folk from all areas of the ten audiovisual industries. The recorded interviews obtained during this program are a real national treasure, and the relationships forged are an invaluable asset for the archival sector as a whole.

Ken has also been a great friend of the Australasian Sound Recording Association ASRA, presenting at numerous conferences, including his interesting and informative account of the history of the W.& G. Record Processing Company records and his review of the impact of one of the first systematic approaches to oral history in the sound industries, the *Once Upon a Wireless* project. It's great that Ken can be present with us tonight, and I am delighted to present him with the 2014 ASRA Award, for outstanding achievement in the development and interpretation of Australia's audiovisual heritage.

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**Figures:**

1. Ken Berryman at the National Film & Sound Archive, Melbourne Office 7 July 2015 photograph by Chris Arneil