

Nimbin Movie – Let us Be Glad & Rejoice – some notes by Anthony Lupi.

Background

This movie was made as a University assignment for a second year social work subject (Social Work 1) at Qld Uni. There were three people involved in the assignment, Anthony Lupi, Jane Longbottom and Julia Shaw. There were many more people who contributed their time ideas and energy to the planning, shooting and editing of this movie. Those that contributed most are mentioned in the credits.

The movie was shot with a borrowed super 8 camera. It had no sound capacity. Originally we tried to record sound via a reel to reel tape recorder, however this proved to be useless for obtaining any quality sound. As a result, once we had finished the editing of the image reels, we simply recorded a whole lot of music that we felt would be appropriate as a backdrop for the images.

As well, we managed to record some Narrator's commentary that we wrote, and insert that into the sound track where appropriate. The narrator was Carl Wallace, who was a 4th year social work student friend of ours who we felt had a great voice. We also managed to obtain some interview sound footage of the people running the Learning Exchange at the Nimbin festival. Excerpts from this interview are also included in the sound reel.

The movie was only ever shown publicly on three occasions, although there were a few more private showings. In all cases the movie was played back on a super 8 projector, while the sound reels were played on a reel-to-reel tape recorder.

The synchronisation was done manually, and in order to keep the sound tapes at the right speed, in line with the projector, a one pound weight from my father's delicatessen was placed on the tape reel to slow it down fractionally.

Film Finance

We financed the film by raising money. Essentially we approached people of financial means that we knew and asked them to make a contribution. The person who contributed the most money was Blair Sheppard, a well-known Brisbane racing car driver who also owned a car sales yard. I met Blair on a plane trip from Sydney to Brisbane, and told him about the movie – he subsequently donated \$150 towards the project. This was a large sum in those days.

Two other large donors were Sally Anne and Leigh Atkinson. Sally Anne was a journalist with the Australian newspaper, and subsequently went on to become the Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Her husband Leigh was a neuro surgeon. I knew Leigh and Sally Anne as I worked part time as an operating theatre orderly at the Holy Spirit Hospital whilst I was a student. Dr. Bill Coman (an Ear Nose and Throat specialist) also donated to the film.

Sally Anne wrote an article which was published in the Australian prior to the festival. (A copy of this article and the photo of the three film makers is attached at the end of this article).

Kenmore Rotary Club donated \$50. – My father was a member and organised this donation for us. When I subsequently returned to the club to give a thank you speech and talk about Nimbin some of the members present booed because they did not like the idea of 'hippie' university students and the Aquarius Festival.

We also held a raffle and sold tickets to our friends. In all we raised over \$300. We used this money to buy Super 8 film. We approached Kodak for sponsorship but the best they offered was to sell us the film at wholesale price.

Filming

The bulk of the filming was done by Anthony Lupi. I had no prior experience in shooting Super 8 film (or any other medium). However I was given some coaching by David Franken a fellow student and friend who subsequently went on to a successful career in television. David and I used to experiment with the super 8 camera before the Nimbin festival.

Michael Longbottom (also a friend and fellow student and brother of Jane Longbottom) was a great supporter of the project. Michael drove us to Nimbin on a number of occasions prior to the festival so that we could get a sense of the layout of the festival and shoot some scenes on the preparation and lead up activities.

Michael also helped carry our equipment around the festival site while we were filming.

Editing

The editing was done by hand using a simple tape splicer and manual viewer. The editing was carried out underneath a shared student house in Torwood where I lived. The main people involved in the editing were Anthony Lupi, David Franken, Roger Stott and Dick Freeland. Essentially we spent many hours viewing the raw film footage, and trying to put the images into a sequence that made sense and also fitted with the theme of our assignment – which was to examine the alternate lifestyles on display at Nimbin.

We spliced together (with splicing tape) the different sequences into 5 reels. This was a very laborious and time consuming process.

There was a lot of film left over that was not included in the final version of the movie. I do not know what happened to this left over film.

Fryer Library

At the suggestion of Bruce Dickson (fellow student and editor of Semper Floreat I think) I donated the film and sound track to the Fryer library in 1978 when I was leaving Brisbane to go to Mt. Isa for work. The original footage and sound track have been in the Fryer Library since that time.

In Sept 2013, I was contacted by Peter Gray (who was very involved in the Brisbane Filmmakers Coop and who is now a volunteer archivist for the Fryer library). Peter advised me that he had made the digital versions of the movie and asked if I could sort out the syncing of the image with the sound files.

In 2014 Peter organised (via the library) for me to have access to these files. This was the first time I had seen the Nimbin movie since 1978.

Anthony Lupi
12 October 2014

Students turn festival into a film

STUDENTS from 40 other Australia will converge on Wingham, northern New South Wales, this month for an arts festival that will also be an experiment in community living.

And among those will be three Queensland University students producing a film.

Anthony Legg, of Terong, John Sherr, of Mackay and Jane Langston, of Ayr, are making a 16-minute film of the Australia Festival as a project for their second-year social work course.

Said Anthony: "Many people don't know what festival is all about."

"Our film will be an effort to explain it to society at large."

But there'll be getting off for students with a prime location, a lot of advice, a cinema, lecturers from Anthony's father and nearby also the five have raised themselves to help them said here.

The Australia Festival is the cultural arm of the Australian Council of Ministers which every two years organizes a festival of arts in connection with the May vacation.

But students have been told to stress and that in the 1960s that Australia has "grown up."

Students need a lot of about the people, 20 miles from Brisbane and 20 from Newcastle.

One of the most interesting things about the whole operation has been the involvement in cooperation between the people of Wingham and the "festival" students.

La Boite helps the women talk

COMMUNICATION and confidence are key words in the language of La Boite.

Classes at La Boite Theatre over the past six weeks have helped introduce women into confidence in the art of communication.

These classes have been organized by Mrs Jennifer Brockway, a director of the theatre, and Mrs Joan Lynch, a speech and drama teacher.

The first lesson concentrated on voice production and breathing exercises to relax vocal cords and develop the vocal chords and diaphragm.

Then the group took part in some speaking, language games, discussion groups, poems and acting with the help

of the women's teacher in the office.

The speakers became so confident in their ability that they looked to begin the production of their own plays. But at the end of the first period of criticism from the women committee, said Mrs Joan Lynch.

They continued each other to help in the future, there is a few questions to get the audience involved, use a little to play confidence and to draw the audience together.

Many of the women are going to join the advanced class which begins in the first Wednesday in June. A programme course starts in next day.

Ball sold

The local ball, but has been sold to the children for their entertainment, they've bought the tickets inside it for a show and concert ball and have bought one of the local clubs as a good reason for the 100-odd women.

The Women's committee have placed their own funds to support the ball in connection with Australia.

The hundreds of artists, poets, musicians, comedians, dancers, drama groups who'll work hard demonstrations, give performances have already started writing table scenes.

There's something for everyone and for the people of Wingham, giving a commitment to seeing their own theatre, so for the "festival" has brought nothing but good.



JULIA Shaw, Anthony Lupi and Jane Longbottom (right) discuss camera techniques during a practice filming session for the Aquarius Festival.