

Home movie offers: FAQs and questionnaire

The Moving Image Branch of the National Film and Sound Archive aims to develop a comprehensive collection of works representing the history, technology and culture of the moving image in Australia, from its origins to the present, and looking to the future.

Guided by the NFSA's Collection Policy (available at www.nfsa.gov.au/collection), feature films, shorts and documentaries are added to the Archive's National Collection each year, as well as a selection of television productions, international screening prints and electronic/digital media.

The Moving Image Branch works closely with the other curatorial branches within the NFSA to collect related material like oral histories, publicity material, photographs and equipment. The branch also collects websites relevant to the screen and sound cultures and industries.

Home movies can be a valuable addition to an audiovisual collection, including the NFSA's National Collection. Though generally shot by amateurs, some home movies can be just as important as professionally made films to give us a vivid snapshot in time.

The extensive collection of home movies already held by NFSA includes amateur films shot by prominent Australians like former PM Sir Robert Gordon Menzies and media magnate Sir John Fairfax. The vast bulk of NFSA's home movies, however, have been shot over the decades by ordinary Australians, covering many different social situations, locations and events. We are interested in acquiring such material where it is highquality footage that does not duplicate existing holdings and which we consider to be of cultural and historical significance.

Do you have home movies you'd like to offer the NFSA?

Before we can consider your home movies, it is essential for you to provide us with as much information regarding your footage as possible. This will allow our curators to identify your films' significance and provenance.

On the following pages a questionnaire has been prepared for you to give us details of films you would like to offer for inclusion in the National Collection. When answering these questions, please give us as much detail as possible. This will help us in determining the significance of your footage in the context of the national collection. The information is also valuable for cataloguing purposes should a film be selected.

www.nfsa.gov.au

NFSA HEADQUARTERS

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Home movie FAQs

Before you fill out the questionnaire you may like to consider these frequently asked questions:

What is donation?

Donation is one of the primary methods for material to be lodged with the National Film and Sound Archive. When a film is donated to the NFSA, ownership of the physical item is transferred to the Archive. Any intellectual property still remains the property of the filmmaker.

I've got some home movies but don't know what is on them. There could be something important on them, so can I send them to you?

For practical reasons the NFSA must rely in the first instance on whatever information you can provide about your home movies. The questionnaire is a good guide to this information, even if you only have a name, date and location. This will assist curators to consider the possible relevance of the material.

Can I get a copy of my films on DVD in exchange for donation?

The NFSA does not provide a copy in exchange for the donation of your films, but we can provide you with a list of commercial companies that specialise in transferring film to more accessible domestic formats like DVD. You may wish to arrange for copying before offering the original material to the NFSA.

Who else may be interested in my films if the NFSA isn't?

Not all films offered to the NFSA will be selected for inclusion in the National Collection. This does not mean they won't be of value to someone else. For example, if you have something of local interest you may wish to consider approaching your local historical society or similar organisation. The NFSA has published the first edition of *The National Registry of Audiovisual Collections* which may also assist identifying other relevant collections. For more information on this publication, see www.nfsa.gov.au/avegistry .

Questionnaire

Please fill in your answers to the questions below. Remember to give as much information as possible for each film. Please attach extra documents if you don't have enough room.

Your details

Name

Address:

..... Postcode

Phone Email:

Details of the collection:

How many reels/cassettes do you have?

What format is each reel/cassette? (e.g. 16mm, VHS etc)

When and where was the footage shot?

Who are the people in the footage?

What do you consider is the cultural significance of the film?

.....
Describe the content in detail for each reel/cassette:

.....
How and where has the material been stored?

.....
What condition is the material in? (Does it smell like mothballs or vinegar? Are there white or dark powdery mould deposits?)

.....
Is the film colour or black & white?

Does it have sound?

Is there any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander content?

Yes, are you aware that this footage is restricted?

Copyright

Please tick the appropriate boxes and provide any further suitable information along the dotted lines.

- I am the owner of copyright in the Material/s and warrant that to the best of my knowledge no claims or previous entitlements to the copyright in the Material/s exist. If the Material/s are lodged with the NFSA, I wish to retain this copyright but will give permission for the NFSA to use the Material/s in agreed ways.
- I am aware that there is copyright in the Material/s, but that it is owned by a third party. If so please provide details of the copyright owner if you know who they are:
-

- I am unaware who owns copyright in the Material/s.
- Any copyright in the Material/s has expired.
- No copyright subsists in the Material/s.
- Other
-

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions with regard to your films. Please return this form to the following address, and a member of the Moving Image team will contact you:

**Attn: Moving Image
National Film & Sound Archive
GPO Box 2002
Canberra City ACT 2601**

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FILM WITH THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

A representative from the NFSA will contact you should we wish to examine any film on offer.