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## 2018 Advocacy Award

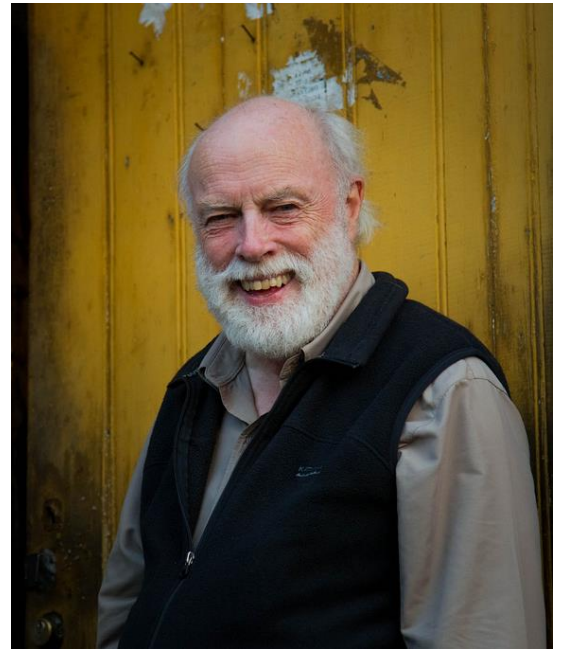
### Ray Edmondson

The AMIA Advocacy Award recognizes an individual, an organization, or a project that promotes greater public awareness, appreciation, or support of media archives or those working to preserve and provide access to media archives. Advocacy may take the form of advocacy, publicity, legislation, or a similar action that supports archival work or raises public consciousness of the importance of archival work. Advocacy should have impact at the regional level or beyond.

#### **RAY EDMONDSON**

AMIA's inaugural Advocacy Award is presented to Ray Edmondson in recognition of his history of advocacy for cinema, archives and archivists around the world. Ray has inspired advocacy efforts within AMIA since the organization's early years – he was inaugural chair of AMIA's Advocacy Committee and inaugural co-chair of its *International Outreach Committee*.

In the art and science of archiving, Ray is one of the industry's most respected advocates, embodying what the award stands for. Described as the "moving spirit" behind the creation of the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA) in 1984, Edmondson was its deputy director until 2001, when he retired and was endowed as its first honorary Curator Emeritus. During his public service career, he devised and led corporately funded film restorations and pioneering programs like *The Last Film Search* and *Operation Newsreel*.



Ray has received numerous awards for his work, including the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), NSW Pioneer of the Year by the Australian Society of Cinema Pioneers, the SEAPAVAA (South East Asia Pacific Audiovisual Archive Association) Life Achievement Award, and the Distinguished Achievement Award of the Australian Society of Archivists, among many others. He is also a past recipient of the AMIA Silver Light Award.

In 1987 Ray was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his work in audiovisual archiving. In 2003 he received the AMIA (Association of Moving Image Archivists) *Silver Light* Award for outstanding career achievement. In 2008 he was elected NSW Pioneer of the Year by the Australian Society of Cinema Pioneers. In 2010 he was made a Fellow of SEAPAVAA (South East Asia Pacific Audiovisual Archive Association) and received its *Life Achievement* Award. He also received the *Distinguished Achievement* Award of the Australian Society of Archivists. In 2013 he was recognised by the Brazilian Association for Audiovisual Preservation for “a life dedicated to preserving the audiovisual heritage”, and in 2015 he was awarded a *Reconocimiento* for his work on audiovisual archiving philosophy by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

His work as chair or board member of various professional or community organisations has included *The Federation Line Inc.*, *Music Roll Australia*, *Archive Forum* and the *Friends of the NFSA*. Internationally, he was elected inaugural President of SEAPAVAA from 1996 to 2002, and was ex-officio Council member to 2008. From 1996 onwards his wider work for UNESCO has included its *Memory of the World* program. He authored its *General Guidelines (2002)* and *Companion*, and served in various roles on its Australian and international committees; from 2005 to 2014 he chaired its Asia

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Pacific Regional Committee (MOWCAP). In 2016-17 he coordinated the Group revising and updating the *General Guidelines*.

