



Communique – AFA AGM and launch of AFA’s film *Open Doors* 23 November 2021

We were delighted that AFA’s Patron, former Commissioner for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the Hon Jennifer Coate AO, launched our film *Open Doors* today. *Open Doors* tells the story of Bill, who grew up in institutional ‘care’, and his first night in an aged care facility as he experiences the pain of returning to where he started as a boy. ‘*Open Doors* isn’t a documentary,’ said Caroline Carroll. ‘We wanted to make you feel Bill’s pain, to put yourself in Bill’s shoes, and to experience with him the awakening of old memories. Farshid has made an outstanding film of almost unbearable poignancy.’

This innovative 20-minute film, made in just one take, and despite extended periods of lockdown, was directed by award-winning film-maker and Victorian College of the Arts graduate Farshid Akhlaghi. *Open Doors* features Don Bridges as Bill and Clare Pickering as the nurse.

To view *Open Doors*, please contact AFA admin@forgottenaustralians.org.au

AFA’s Life Stories project is on track to record the lives of 60 Forgotten Australians by the end of the year. ‘Forgotten Australians have told us that recording their story has been a journey of reflection, one of sometimes painful memories, but ultimately something that may help them make sense of what happened to them as children,’ said project manager Simon Gardiner.

AFA farewelled Simon Gardiner after a long period as Secretary during which he was instrumental in setting the foundations for AFA’s incorporation and independence. Karyn Walsh AM was appointed as AFA’s Secretary, and Daryl Higgins was appointed to the Board.

AFA in 2021-22

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