



HOME MOVIE TITLES

Annual leave 1952

The first filmed road trip to Eildon and Taggerty in their 1935 'Standard 10' car shows the start of works on Lake Eildon to raise the level of storage.

00:05:13 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR 1952

Beautiful Berri

This amateur production shows scenes of Berri featuring the vineyards of the area, orange orchards and other fruit producing farms as well as the processing industries in the district. Scenes include women packing products in the factories, irrigation systems and the Murray River.

00:19:29 ERNST GOURLAY MORRIS, PRODUCER/DIRECTOR; ERNST GOURLAY MORRIS, CINEMATOGRAPHER 1946

Billycarts

This evocative silent home movie footage shows kids playing in a billycart in the driveway and on the street, and creates a strong nostalgia for long ago youth. Athol Adams footage is courtesy of Jenny and Owen Peake.

00:01:15 ATHOL ADAMS, CREATOR 1958

Brother bother

In this instalment of the Little Claude adventures, a murderous little Claude tries to do away with his inconvenient brother.

00:03:00 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR 1953

Do you believe in ghosts?

A young John Straford again stars in this editing exercise as a skeptic whose composure is shaken by a very untoward event. The back garden sets the scene.

00:00:59 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR; FRANK STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR 1951

Flash trip to the beach

This home movie takes us back to an era when holidays seemed longer, days sunnier and road safety was much less of an issue. Older Bayside residents will be interested in scenes taken of Brighton streets and the Kinane Street beach. A man and a boy take a trip to the beach on the back of a motorbike.

00:02:18 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR; FRANK STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR 1952

How to make a movie

Although short and largely created to practise the Straford Brothers' unique approach to editing and transitions, this already shows their ambitions for scene and story. Here, a frustrated filmmaker tries to make a 'classic.'

00:01:16 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR 1951

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Let's go Roman

This is the longest of the Little Claude animations and sees our hapless hero wreaking slapstick havoc with a catapult in Imperial Rome.

00:04:24 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR; FRANK STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR 1956

Little Claude - a'hunting he will go

The Straford Brothers' first attempt at a hand drawn animation. Frank recalls that it was done by drawing on a single cell, filming it, then rubbing it out and drawing the next frame on top, "a pretty laborious way to make an animation."

00:01:36 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR 1951

Mallacoota fishing trip

Mallacoota - There is boatloads of nostalgic charm in this short black and white 1950s film of men taking a fishing trip at Mallacoota. Photographer Athol Adams has captured a sense of fun in this footage, made more entertaining to modern eyes because of the formal clothes the fishermen are wearing. A wonderful glimpse of a different generation at play. Athol Adams footage is courtesy of Jenny and Owen Peake.

00:02:30 ATHOL ADAMS, CREATOR 1958

Maroondah Dam

Silent 1950s home movie footage of a family outing to the Maroondah Dam in the Upper Yarra Valley. Includes images of the landscape and boating facilities. Filmed by portrait photographer Athol Adams. Athol Adams footage is courtesy of Jenny and Owen Peake.

00:02:47 ATHOL ADAMS, CREATOR 1958

Melbourne city parade

Silent film of the Queen Mother arriving at the Melbourne Town Hall during a Moomba parade. Includes scenes of crowds lining Swanston Street; the Lord Mayor's welcoming speech to the Queen Mother; and her departure in an open car as she waves to the crowd. Filmed by portrait photographer Athol Adams. Athol Adams footage is courtesy of Jenny and Owen Peake.

00:02:40 ATHOL ADAMS, CREATOR 1958

Northern oasis

A silent film about life in the North-Western Victorian country town of Boort during the 1940s. Produced by and for the people of Boort and district.

00:30:34 BOORT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION, PRODUCTION COMPANY; E.M. JACKSON, DIRECTOR 1948

Olympic Games, Melbourne, Australia, 1956

The 1956 Olympics warranted the Straford Brothers using their cherished stock of coloured film to capture this unique event. Original footage of the Athletics field (notably pole vaulting), swimming and diving events in the pool have been compiled by Frank years later with additional video content and a voiceover. Despite shooting some of this additional footage on his living room floor (inadvertantly including a glimpse of shagpile carpet) and such "special effects" as a whiteboard marker illustrating points on a map, the documentary has a lot of interesting detail about the event; about their personal experience of it and the novelty of seeing OB Television crews in action.

00:09:41 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR; FRANK STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR 1956

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The Queen Mother at Essendon Airport

Silent footage of the arrival on 27 February 1958 of the Queen Mother at Essendon Airport to a welcoming crowd of waving spectators, military parades and marching bands, and government officials and dignitaries. Filmed by portrait photographer Athol Adams. Athol Adams footage is courtesy of Jenny and Owen Peake.

00:02:35 ATHOL ADAMS, FILM MAKER 1958

Roamin holiday

Shot on a random bag of film stock and featuring footage of Inverloch, Marysville and Albury, this holiday footage is one of Frank Straford's favourite 'Highway rambles'. The title is a sly reference to the Hollywood film popular at the time.

00:05:28 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR 1954

Thirty years destroyed

In this scripted drama, a mad scientist realises his life's work - with deathly consequences. Borrows from classic horror movies of the period to irresistible effect.

00:03:44 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR; FRANK STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR 1953

Workman's nightmare

An early experiment filmed in the Straford backyard in Brighton. It features the acting debut of 14 year-old John - as a workman who tussles with an unruly ladder. This short work from 1951 marked the boys earliest efforts.

00:01:13 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR 1951

World to conquer

This sci-fi 'Straford Brothers Specialite' is a scripted drama featuring local student actors. A classic sci-fi set up, it has some nifty DIY special effects including painstakingly made miniature sets (watch out for the alien control room!), animated spaceship and a alien periscope very reminiscent of early 'Doctor Who' episodes.

00:06:06 FRANK STRAFORD, CREATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CREATOR; FRANK STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR; JOHN STRAFORD, CAMERA OPERATOR 1956

[1939 and All That!]

Amateur filmmaker, James Poppleton, delivers an account of WWII from the home front in Melbourne, Australia. Newspaper headlines set the scene and provide a timeline, starting with the declaration of war and various wartime activities such as air raid drills, marching, sandbagging and trench digging. Poppleton concludes with the end of World War II and marks the occasion with the Victory Day celebrations and marches that took place on the streets of Melbourne.

00:14:59 JAMES POPPLETON, CINEMATOGRAPHER 1939-1948

[At Home With the Churchills]

This unique and rare home movie clip, filmed by Australia's Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies in 1941, opens with a shot of Mrs Clementine Churchill in curlers waving out a window to the camera. Additional classic footage taken of Sir Winston Churchill smoking his cigar along with shots of Sir Robert talking to Sir Winston. Source:

Australian Screen Online

00:02:14 ROBERT GORDON MENZIES, CREATOR 1941

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[Hyde Park London: rubbish dump after the Blitz]

This home movie filmed by the Australian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies in 1941, shows Hyde Park filled with rubble from 'The Blitz' dumped there in efforts to clear the streets of London after the destruction. Source: Australian Screen Online

00:00:53 ROBERT GORDON MENZIES, CREATOR 1941

[Menzies Addresses the Troops in Palestine]

Prime Minister Menzies visited a number of Army hospitals during his trip to the Middle East in 1941 and we see nurses contributing to the war effort in the field. The fact that Sir Robert also filmed a camera being cranked reveals his fascination with the medium. He was deeply moved by the opportunity to address the troops and was introduced to the official party by Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander of AIF. Source: Australian Screen Online

00:01:40 ROBERT GORDON MENZIES, CREATOR 1941

[Post War Berlin 1948]

Filmed by Sir Robert Menzies during a trip through Europe in 1948, this footage shows the destruction that followed the Second World War in Berlin. In that year the Berlin Blockade occurred which was one of the first crises of the Cold War when the Soviet Union blocked rail and street access to West Berlin. This eventually led to the creation of separate republics, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Berlin). Source: Australian Screen Online

00:02:45 ROBERT GORDON MENZIES, CREATOR 1948

[The Blitz London April 1941]

Sir Robert Menzies captures the atmosphere of London during The Blitz in 1941. Footage is shown of the West End including bombed buildings and empty street scenes. The way Menzies slowly pans up and down damaged buildings using his silent colour home movie camera shows his instinctive eye to record history. Source: Australian Screen Online

00:03:06 ROBERT GORDON MENZIES, CREATOR 1941