November 2026

Waverley Film Society

Volume 13
No. 10

November Meeting:

Waverley Film Society will meet at Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mount Waverley (MEL 61 E2), on **Wednesday, 11th of November.** Apologies can be left with Brett on 9807 3426.



The film to be screened is *Muriel's Wedding (1994).*
A young social outcast steals money from her parents for a holiday, where she hopes to find love.



Last Meeting

- Twenty one members and two visitors attended and there were four apologies.
- *Ladyhawke* scored 4.0 stars.
- The film selection list for 2027 was distributed to members. The selections will be returned at the November screening.
- DVDs of the potential 2027 films were available for perusal.
- We welcomed partners of Sandra and Amarangi to the screening.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th.



The film to be screened is *Singin' in the Rain (1952).*
A silent era film star falls for a chorus girl, just as he and his jealous partner are about to transition to sound movies.

Posters are available for posting in community spaces to advertise the society and the next screening.

The society's website is ***www.waverleyfilm.org***
Our email address is ***contact@waverleyfilm.org***

MURIEL'S WEDDING (1994) *(Reference: www.imdb.com)*

Director: P J Hogan

Writer: P J Hogan

Cinematography: Martin McGrath

Music: Peter Best

Editing: Jill Bilcock

Cast includes:

Muriel	Toni Collette
Rhonda	Rachel Griffiths
Bill	Bill Hunter
Deidre	Gennie Nevinson

Trivia

- The photos in the Heslop family album are actual childhood photos of the actors who portray the family.
- Toni Collette gained 18 kgs (40 pounds) in 7 weeks with the help of a dietitian for this role.
- P.J. Hogan based Muriel's personality on himself, but Muriel's actions were inspired by his sister, who embezzled $15,000 from their father and then disappeared to Sydney to live with a friend.
- Bill Hunter was filming *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (1994) and *Muriel's Wedding* (1994) at the same time, each requiring him to have different length hair, beard and to be in different parts of the country. Both films developed international cult followings and prominently featured the music of ABBA.
- P.J. Hogan wanted to use the music of ABBA in the film. At first, permission for the music to be used was denied. When the director promised to fly to Europe to plead his case to the founders of the band, permission was granted, as long as the band received a percentage of the film profits. The film turned out to be a big international hit, and helped inspire the very successful Broadway show which became the movie Mamma Mia! (2008).

Review : **Dancing Queen** *(blanche-2) 2008)*

Toni Collette wants to have "Muriel's Wedding" in this 1994 Australian film, directed and written by P.J. Hogan. Muriel is a social outcast living with her dysfunctional family and fantasizing about a better life for herself, as exemplified in Abba music. She wants the excitement the music has, the fun, the prettiness, the glamor. Most of all, she wants a fabulous wedding. Her dreadful father (Bill Hunter) constantly puts her down and constantly elevates himself. …….

This is such a splendid film, made all the more magnificent by the performance of one of the truly great actresses of this century, Toni Collette. Collette belongs right up there with Streep, Helen Mirren and Cate Blanchette. She's not there because she's a character actress who disappears into her roles so that she's unrecognizable from film to film. Here she embodies Muriel - overweight, badly dressed, with low self-esteem who, in the process of finding out who she is, emerges as an attractive person who knows what's important and what it is she really wants.

"Muriel's Wedding" is not a raucous comedy. It has many layers - ridiculous characters, such as her supposed vain friends, and then it turns around and gives you a complicated character like Rhonda, who loves life and lives it with complete abandon until tragedy strikes. Griffiths gives a beautiful performance. Hunter, the man we loved to hate in "Strictly Ballroom," is even more hateful here, but in the end, seems to have learned his lessons too.

Muriel learns what we all learn - life isn't what goes on on the outside, it's what happens inside. What's valuable isn't the wedding dress and all the pomp, but the souls and love involved and the real meaning of marriage. Then you're a Dancing Queen and you can really feel joy.

Such a great film, made possible by Collette and Hogan's excellent script and direction.