

# George Vardas films

**Accession number** 32433

**Date** [1950-1960]

**Author / Creator**

**Vardas, George**

**Abstract** Home movies from the 1950s showing scenes in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Toowoomba, hunting trips, and a trip to Greece.

**Description** 13 films

**Additional format** Digital copies for selected items.

**Administrative / Biographical history** George Vardas migrated to Australia from Greece prior to World War Two. He served in New Guinea during the war. He operated a store in Eagle Farm before work as a travelling sales rep for P. Samios & Co who supplied small goods to corner stores. George was twice married but had no children. His sister had three daughters which are most likely the young girls often depicted in his movies. As well as film making, George was a keen hunter and angler, and was heavily involved in the Olympic soccer club. He often returned to Greece and after his death the films in this collection were found in property owned by him in Athens, and were returned to Australia.

**Access restrictions** Some restrictions apply. Please contact Queensland Memory, State Library of Queensland for more information.

**Copyright status** In copyright.

**Conditions of use** You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

**Notes** Digitised with support of donors through the Queensland Library Foundation Reel Rescue campaign.

**Preferred citation**

32433, George Vardas films, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

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# Series 1: Films ([1950-1960])

**Series number** 1

**Series title** Films

**Date** [1950-1960]

## Scope and content

A collection of home movies showing footage of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, family holidays in Queensland and New South Wales. Digital copies available for selected items.

***Digitised with support of donors through the Queensland Library Foundation Reel Rescue campaign.***

## Author / Creator

Vardas, George

## Description

**Description** 13 film reels

**Additional format** Digital copies available for selected items

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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## Items in this series:

### Brisbane Royal Show (1955)



**Unit ID** 32433/1

**Date** 1955

**Scope and content**

Film shows scenes of Brisbane city, King George Square and Fortitude Valley showing shops, main streets, traffic and people; Anzac Square on Anzac Day, the Botanic Gardens zoo, footage of the Brisbane River, bridges, ferries and other boats on the river and the Olympic torch relay; several jet planes and passengers at the airport. Much of the film contains footage from the Brisbane Royal Show (Ekka) including crowds, rides, ring events and fireworks.

**Description**

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent, 30 min., 24 secs.)

8mm

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMFiLM

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**Gold Coast ([1950-1960])**



**Unit ID** 32433/2

**Date** [1950-1960]

**Scope and content**

Home movie footage from a family holiday on the Gold Coast. The footage includes the outdoor areas and swimming pools of several hotels and accommodation venues including Lennons Broadbeach Hotel, along with neon signs advertising Blue Lagoon, Surfers Paradise Hotel, Cafe Cathay, Sun Seeker Motel, El Dorado Motel, Golden Sun Motel in Surfers

Paradise. The footage also includes views of Burleigh Heads, family members relaxing in various locations, people surfing, dolphins at a marine park, a Surf Lifesaving competition, a bird sanctuary and a 'Sun Girl Quest' beauty pageant. The footage shows street scenes including cars and people wearing the fashions of the 1950s.

#### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; 33 mins., 44 secs.)

8 mm

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMFILM

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#### Sports parade ([1950-1960])



**Unit ID** 32433/3

**Date** [1950-1960]

#### Scope and content

Home movie showing camping, shooting, Doomben 10,000, rugby and soccer. The film opens with crowds/families enjoying the day out and watching a local clay-shooting competition; the scene changes to the 'Doomben 10,000' horse racing with views of the crowd, ladies fashion of the day, horse parades and races being run; scene changes to the river with teams of rowers racing and practicing, speed boats racing and practicing. The film finishes with scenes of a local football and soccer game.

#### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; 19 min., 4 sec.)

8 mm

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMFILM0CSU Trolley 2, Shelf A

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## City of Toowoomba, Carnival of Flowers (1958)



**Unit ID** 32433/4

**Date** 1958

### Scope and content

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers 1958 event: Amateur film of the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers 1958 event: The film starts with the street parade through Toowoomba with pipe bands, marching girls from the various Schools of the district, a selection of parade floats from local producers (such as Spreadwell), the Dept. of Education, Carnival Queen, floral floats, vintage cars and replica stage coach with passengers in period clothes. The parade continues into the show grounds and does a circuit as the official party arrives. The marching girls make way for floral displays, trees in full bloom, children playing in the flowers. One of the floats gives the year as 1958.

### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; 16 min., 4 sec.)

8 mm

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMFILM

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## Road trip to New South Wales ([1950-1960])

**Unit ID** 32433/5

**Date** [1950-1960]

### Scope and content

Home movie footage of a trip by car through New South Wales. Includes Brunswick Heads, Harwood, Clarence River, Newcastle, Sydney, Manly, Canberra and footage of camping and picnics.

### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; approximately 15 min.)

8 mm

**Locate** OMFILM

## Hunting ([1950-1960])



**Unit ID** 32433/6

**Date** [1950-1960]

### Scope and content

Home movie footage of hunting scenes. The film opens with a group of men that have been hunting, they are carrying rifles and the carcase of a deer and dead bush turkeys, there is vision of how to butcher them. A signpost appears labelled 'McIntyre River and Goondiwindi' the scenes that follow are all of camping families enjoying meals, rowing in rowboats, swimming, washing and fishing, a man shows how to gut, fillet and cook a fish. Scene changes to a car stopped at Glen Innes where the family sees a herd of sheep with their dog eating

grass in the town, The film finishes with a day of hunting with men preparing their rifles and dogs and coming back to their truck with dead birds (possibly pigeons). The film ends in darkness after their successful hunt.

#### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; 14 min., 57 sec. )

8 mm

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMFI

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#### Carne Westley film ([1950-1960])



Unit ID 32433/7

Date [1950-1960]

#### Scope and content

Home movie footage from north Queensland including scenes in Cairns, Babinda, tourists on Green Island, a lawn bowls game, sugar cane fields, cane train and Paronella Park.

#### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; 17 min., 34 sec.)

8 mm

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMFI

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## North Queensland and Sydney ([1950-1960])



**Unit ID** 32433/8

**Date** [1950-1960]

### Scope and content

Home movie footage including plane travel, scenes in Sydney, north Queensland, Tobruk Memorial Baths in Townsville, family groups at the beach, spear fishing from rocks, tourist boats and scenes of Charters Towers.

### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; 15 min.)

8 mm

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMFILM

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## Movie 9 ([1950-1960])

**Unit ID** 32433/9

**Date** [1950-1960]

### Scope and content

From film can: Mickey's Service Station, Playful Pluto, includes views of a sign 'Apex

welcomes you to NSW'. Includes footage of a wedding and an interstate road trip.

#### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; approximately 4 min.)

8mm

**Locate** OMFILM

### Movie 10 ([1955-1958])



**Unit ID** 32433/10

**Date** [1955-1958]

#### Scope and content

Home movie beginning with footage of a band performing at a dance in a hall. The band is The Rockettes, described as Brisbane's first rock 'n' roll band. The Rockettes existed between 1955 and 1958 before evolving into The Blue Jays. Band members Chuck Supplice (on guitar), Ronnie Carroll (on piano), Ozzie Mengel (on rhythm guitar) and Kenny McKerchner (on vocals) are all pictured. The concert venue is possibly Morningside RSL, where the band organised their own concerts during the mid 1950s. The footage continues showing a beauty pageant, synchronized swimming, trapeze artists, Brophy's Circus, boxing and wrestling at Brisbane Stadium (Festival Hall) and a candy bar. The wrestling footage includes an extended segment of a bout featuring Canadian wrestler Sky Hi Lee (Ski-Hi Lee). His opponent is possibly American wrestler Ricky Waldo.

#### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; 8 min., 24 sec.)

8 mm

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMFILM

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## Fishing and hunting, Cundywendi ([1950-1960])



**Unit ID** 32433/11

**Date** [1950-1960]

### Scope and content

Home movie footage of hunting, camping and fishing. Shows several boat and road trips to fish and shoot, also eating watermelon and cooking sea food on an open fire.

**Description**

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; 8 min.)

8 mm

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMFI

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## Rio to Lefkas, Carnival, Easter ([1950-1960])

**Unit ID** 32433/12

**Date** [1950-1960]

**Description**

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; approximately 15 min.)

8mm

**Locate** OMFILM0CSS

## Trip to Greece ([1950-1960])

**Unit ID** 32433/13

**Date** [1950-1960]

### Scope and content

Home movie footage of a trip to Greece.

### Description

**Description** 1 film reel (Colour, silent ; approx. 30 min.)

8 mm

**Locate** OMFILM

(9 digital)