

## February Meeting:

Waverley Film Society will meet at Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mount Waverley (MEL 61 E2), on **Wednesday, 12th of February**. Apologies can be left with Brett on 9807 3426.

Nomination forms for the election of office-bearers at the March AGM will be available at this meeting.

This month we will screen : *Babe* (1995)

Gentle farmer Arthur Hoggett wins a piglet Babe at a county fair. Narrowly escaping his fate as Christmas dinner, Babe bonds with motherly border collie Fly and discovers that he too can herd sheep. But will the other animals accept him?



## Last Meeting

- Twenty people attended and there were ten apologies.
- Attendees awarded *Duck Soup* 3.3 stars.
- Members enjoyed socialising around Christmas nibbles
- The 2025 printed program was issued.

## Next Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm, just prior to the screening on Wednesday, March 12th. The agenda and annual reports will be emailed prior to that meeting.

The film to be screened is: *The Lavender Hill Mob* (1951)

A meek bank clerk who oversees the shipment of bullion joins with an eccentric neighbour to steal gold bars and smuggle them out of the country as miniature Eiffel Towers.

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



The society's website is [www.waverleyfilm.org](http://www.waverleyfilm.org)

Our email address is [contact@waverleyfilm.org](mailto:contact@waverleyfilm.org)

## **BABE (1995)**    *(Reference: [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))*

**Director:** Chris Noonan

**Writers:** Dick King-Smith (novel) , George Miller  
and Chris Noonan (screenplay)

**Cinematography:** Andrew Lesnie

**Editing:** Marcus D'Arcy, Jay Friedkin

**Music:** Nigel Westlake

**Cast includes:**

Farmer Hoggett

Esme Hoggett

Babe (voice)

Fly (voice)

Rex (voice)

James Cromwell

Magda Szubanski

Christine Cavanaugh

Miriam Margolyes

Hugo Weaving

- Because baby pigs grow so fast, 48 pigs were used during filming for the role of Babe.
- Magda Szubanski was only in her early 30s when she won the role of Esme Hoggett, who was supposed to be elderly, so Szubanski was made up to look about 20 years older.
- When James Cromwell was handed the screenplay for Babe, he thumbed through it to see how many lines he had. He saw that he didn't have that many (he had only 171 words of spoken dialogue, and 61 words that were sung), so decided that he would do it as a nice easy film. What he didn't realize was that he would have more screen time in this film than any of his previous films.
- Jerry Goldsmith originally composed the film's music, but it was ultimately rejected for being too dark in tone. Nigel Westlake was then brought in to compose a lighter score.
- USA pork sales dropped by 20% after the movie came out.

**Review: This Is About As Good As It Gets For A Family Movie** *(ccthemoviemann-1 2006)*

When this came out -- years ago, I thought, "Wow, this is pretty amazing" and since then movie audiences have been amazed at a number of camera tricks, computer-enhanced people, animals, monsters, and who knows what....so this kind of story with fun special effects is no longer is unique.

However, it's so charming, so nice a story that it should hold up as solid entertainment for a long, long time. It has proved to be anything but a flash-in-the-pan. This movie will endure. It's also a beautiful film on DVD with brilliant colours and some very rich visuals.

Filmed in rural Australia, the scenery is magnificent and so is the house that is featured in the film. It looks like some old-fashioned gingerbread house. The animals are entertaining, talking to one another like humans but not looking hokey in the process. In other words, the dubbing is well done.

The main character, "Babe," the little pig, is the nicest, most innocent "character" you could ever hope to find. Listening to him talk is heart-warming most of the time and sometimes it's heart-breaking. The best comic relief is provided by the goose who wants to be a rooster. That may sound like it's geared toward little kids, but it isn't. I haven't found an adult friend yet who didn't like this film.

It also was good to see James Cromwell play a nice guy, too. Most other times he seems to play profane and corrupt cops or government officials. Here, he's just a nice old farmer who blends in perfectly with the surroundings. His wife is a bit annoying, but not too bad.

This is a wonderful, sweet-hearted comedy-drama with a nice ending, too, guaranteed to leave you with a smile or a tear, or both. This is one of the best "family" movies of all time.