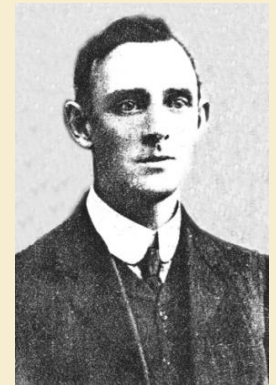


# AUSTRALIAN THEATRICAL AND AMUSEMENT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION (T.A.E.A.)

Established in 1910 as the Australian Federated Stage Employees' Association (A.F.S.E.A.), the union came into existence at a national level following the amalgamation of several state run organisations. While few details are currently known of these state branches the Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees' Association, Victorian Branch is known to have come into existence as early as 1908. The A.F.S.E.A. changed its name in 1912 to the Australian Federated Theatrical Employees' Association and then briefly to the Federated Theatrical and Amusement Employees' Association. In 1914 the union settled on the Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees' Association in 1914, and under which name it continued to be known for almost 80 years [see also "Historical Notes and Corrections" section below]

The Association's first president was N. H. Connolly. In reporting on his re-election in 1914, *Australian Variety* records that Connolly, then a stage mechanist at the Princess Theatre, had overseen considerable growth in the union over the previous four years. "Since taking over the presidential chair," writes the magazine's journalist, "the membership of the association has increased from three hundred to over seven hundred members in this state [N.S.W.] alone, and the Federation, at the present time, is over three thousand strong" (8 July 1914, n. pag.).



**N. H. Connolly**

*Australian Variety* 8 July (1914), n. pag.

The Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees' Association, which eventually evolved to cover theatrical and cinematic employees, outdoor sports ground staff and many in the television industry, amalgamated with the Australian Journalists' Association and the Actors' and Announcers' Equity Association in 1992 to form the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

## HISTORICAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS

1. The 8 July 1914 article in *Australian Variety* clearly identifies the union's name at that time as being the Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees' Association, with the abbreviation given as T.A.E.A. (N. H. Connolly's reign as president is also recorded as dating back four years). The 1914 date conflicts, however, with details provided by the Australian Trade Union Archives website which proposes 1915 as the year the Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees' Association name was finally settled on. The correct date and/or reasons for this discrepancy are yet to be ascertained.

### SEE ALSO

- [N. H. Connolly](#)

### FURTHER REFERENCE

"[Australian Theatrical & Amusement Employees' Association \(1915-1993\)](#)." *Australian Trade Union Archive*  
[sighted 26/04/2011]

**See also:**

**AV:** 8 July (1914), n. pag.

First published: 10/05/2011 • Last updated: 31/07/2011

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