

Welcome everybody to the 2012 Annual General Meeting for the Melbourne Section of the Audio Engineering Society.

{ Anyone who is here expecting to attend a lecture on Advanced Techniques in Burlesque Performance - you'll find the lecture theatre a couple of doors down the corridor on the right. }

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate myself for actually managing to make it to the AGM this year and for not managing to carefully organise an overseas trip like I did last year. Many thanks again to Jim for stepping into the breach for last year's AGM and holding the fort.

I'd also like to formally extend a welcome to David Murphy for coming all the way from Adelaide to support our section as he has done on many occasions previously. David is currently chair of the Adelaide section, a Fellow of the AES and holds membership in a number of AES committees including a formative technical committee for standards in Sound for Digital Cinema and Television.

David - many thanks for coming down from Adelaide to see us - we very much look forward to your talk later in the meeting.

On committee matters -

The committee has remained mostly unchanged this year, however we have recently received and accepted the resignation of Matt Topp who has been our student representative and also Jim Barbour who has been our long-standing vice chairman.

Jim Barbour has been teaching courses in Radio, Audio and Multimedia at Swinburne University for over 17 years and despite this has found time to be an active member of the committee acting in both chair and vice-chair positions since July 2009 when the section was restarted here in Melbourne.

Prior to this, Jim was one of a few AES members in Melbourne that kept the spark of the section alive during a period of low activity. Jim's research has taken him into areas around multi-channel audio and ambisonic formats - around which he has authored a number of papers - and has been kind enough to deliver talks to the section on these subjects, as well as kindly facilitating access to Swinburne's theatre facilities for our meetings for the past few years.

Jim, we're very sorry to see you leave the committee, but on behalf of the AES, the committee and the section membership, we would like to extend our gratitude and thanks for your service over the years and hope that we still will see you at future meetings and events.

We have received and accepted nominations for a number of additional committee posts and this will be covered later on in the meeting.

Thanks to the energy of our committee members - for which I am eternally grateful - the section has been able to undertake a number of site visits over the past year which have been extremely successful. I would like to draw particular attention to the trip to Gearhouse Broadcast's High-Definition OB truck in Campbellfield which was held in May this year and the trip to Dex Audio in West Melbourne which was held in June this year. Both site visits have been documented on the section website at www.aesmelbourne.org.au

In addition to these site visits, the section has also been privileged to hear from Dr Rod Staples who gave us new insights into how the ear really works, from Graeme Huon who gave us a long anticipated follow-up talk and demonstration of Vector Wave Front - which is an emerging technology for the capture and delivery of surround-sound audio and the elimination of sweet spots in the listening environment - and finally from Michail Barabasz of Lorantz Audio services who presented to us on distortion control in high powered Woofer designs.

I'd like to extend the thanks of the section to everyone who has facilitated site visits and prepared talks for us this year. I hope that we can look forward to another successful year in this regard.

As a committee we welcome any input from the membership as to content for section meetings and possible venues for site visits.

A topic that has taken much energy and hours of committee time is the apparent decline of audio engineering skills-**training** in Australia.

As representatives of the AES in Australia it is obviously a topic that is very close to our heart, however as a section we have not made any tangible progress in identifying a solution or indeed quantifying the problem.

Consequently, I would very much like to ask for the membership's support in forming a working group to undertake the following:

1. To identify and document the changes within industry structures that have contributed to this perceived decline in the audio engineering skills base, **and the subsequent reduced demand for vocational and academic training.**
2. To identify and engage with concerned stakeholders within government and the broadcast and media industry.
3. To produce a "state of the union report" based on empirical and quantifiable evidence that outlines the audio skills needed in today's broadcast and audio industry, to document the extent of the perceived skills gap and the likely consequences to the broadcast and media industry in Australia.

This is likely to be a very long-term project but I am hoping that this year we will be able to make a start in better understanding the perceived gap in audio skills in Australia and setting in motion some activities that may be instrumental in reversing the decline.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to the amended Section Rules which have now been approved by the AES board in New York. All voting members will by now have received a copy of these rule changes and as an incorporated association we are required by law to hold a final vote on their implementation. The change to the rules allow us to co-exist with updated association legislation here in Victoria and to modernize our communications and application processes by leveraging modern technologies such as the web and internet email.

There has been a considerable amount of effort undertaken by the working group to revise the section rules and I urge all voting members present to vote in favour of the amended rules at the appropriate point in the meeting.

I'd like to now hand over to Graham Haynes who will deliver the Treasurer's report.
