



Audio Engineering Society

Melbourne Section Inc.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – August 14th 2017

Location: Lecture Theatre
SAE Institute
Normanby Rd, South Melbourne

Time: 7:30pm

Attendees: Graeme Huon (Chairman)*, Paolo Menolotto (Vice-Chair)*
Peter Smerdon (Secretary)*, Graham Haynes (Treasurer)*
Michail Barabasz*, Lloyd Carrick*, Greg Segal*
Rod Staples*, John Smyth*, Diego Tognola*
Mark Hanson*, David Hudson*, Graeme Dennes*
Glenn Leembrugger, Brian Condon
Mike Rezney, Greg Eva

* Voting members

Apologies:

Ed Cherry, Norm Broner, Nigel Frayne, Bryan Cox, Mark Thompson.

Welcome

The Chairman, Graeme Huon, welcomed all members to the 2017 AGM.

Minutes of Previous meeting

The Chairman indicated that the Minutes of the previous AGM (August 8th 2016) had been circulated in the mailout prior to the meeting.

Rod Staples moved, seconded by *David Hudson*, that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Motion was carried on a show of hands.

The Chairman called for any matters arising from the minutes. None were forthcoming from the floor.

Chairman's Report

Our Chairman, Graeme, then presented his report outlining the Section and Committee activities since the last AGM, including Section meetings, the Audio Legends/History project, and social media activities.

He also highlighted the fact that Committee member Michail Barabasz was stepping down from the Committee at this time. He described Mike's significant contributions to the Committee, and thanked him for his service.

Paolo Menolotto moved, seconded by *Michail Barabasz*, that the Chairman's Report be accepted. Motion was carried.

(For the full Chairman's Report text refer to *Appendix 1*)

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Graham Haynes, presented the accounts of the Section for the 2017 Financial Year. (Refer *Appendix 2*)

The Financial Report showed nett assets of \$35,054 - comprised of \$35,000 in Term Deposit and \$54 in the cheque account.

Graeme Huon moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, seconded by *Rod Staples*. Motion carried on a show of hands.

The Treasurer indicated that he had copies of the full financial statement available for perusal by any members who so desired.

Election of Officers

The Chairman then passed the chairing of the meeting to member Michail Barabasz to conduct the election of officers.

Michail declared all positions vacant and proceeded with the election.

There were nominations to hand for one person for each executive position, plus four ordinary committee-members. It was also indicated that nominations could be accepted from the floor of the meeting during the election process.

Nominations for each executive position were read out, and nominations called from the floor. In each case there were no further nominations from the floor, so each nominee was duly declared elected.

For the committee-members, Michail read out the four nominations that he had on hand, and called for further nominations from the floor of the meeting.

There were no further nominations.

With the total number of nominations (4) being less than the maximum of 6, Jim declared the five nominees duly elected.

The elected committee is:

Chairman -	Graeme Huon
Vice Chair -	Paolo Menolotto
Secretary -	Peter Smerdon
Treasurer -	Graham Haynes

Committee-persons:

Rod Staples
Diego Tognola
Greg Segal
David Hudson

Michail then passed the meeting back to the Chairman, Graeme Huon.

Graeme then called for any Other Business.

John Smyth raised the issue of the Section's involvement with the 2017 SMPTE Conference in Sydney, having heard that the Section was approached to be involved, but having not seen any evidence of that involvement at the event. He commented that the event seemed to have little audio content. The Chairman explained that, while we had been invited to participate we elected not to do so, in part because of the significant commitment of time needed, as well as the requirement to make a financial contribution. John Smyth then asked about similar arrangements with other shows, and the Chairman responded that the Committee is monitoring opportunities in the sphere, and made special note of the work of ACETA to rationalize the trade show environment.

The Chairman then called for any further Other Business, and none was forthcoming. There being no further business, Graeme declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Following the AGM Graeme

The meeting finished at 9:30pm.

Peter Smerdon.

14th August 2017.

Appendix 1:

Chairman's Report - AGM 2017

Graeme Huon

Meeting activities

The AES Melbourne section continues to benefit from having the SAE Institute in South Melbourne as a regular venue for presentations covering a wide gamut of audio technologies. We again thank the SAE Institute for providing this valuable service to us.

The meeting program has continued to draw regular crowds with an excellent array of world-class and indeed world leading presenters.

In early August, Peter Blamey of Blamey and Saunders gave the second of two talks on the technologies of the modern hearing aid. We are privileged to have Peter and his business partner Elaine Saunders based Melbourne.

In late August, Dr Johannes Mulder gave a talk on sound level management and regulation. He pointed out that the European situation has been to progressively legislate on a country by country basis for a medium term average SPL A weighted limit to audience dose typically below 103dB over 15 – 30 minutes. This legislation has forced concert organisers to meet with performers prior to the event and arrange (negotiate) the program or risk being shut down by the “sound police” during the performance. Sound spill or trespass was also discussed. He expected similar guidelines to be introduced here. He also commented on the contribution to overall sound levels that an excited audience could make. His talk was punctuated with anecdotes especially from his time managing the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam he oversaw (under sufferance) the artistic genre changing from Wagnerian opera and string quartets to Pink Floyd and heavy metal.

Of particular interest to the audience was his description of managing the composer Stockhausen and the inaugural rendering of his concert for string quartet in helicopters at the Gebouw– a performance that the Germans had steadfastly refused to do!

In October we were privileged to have Peter Freedman managing director of RØDE microphones describe the riches to rags to riches history of this most successful company that he had originally inherited. Peter outlined the early days of the Australian company distributing Dynacord, establishment of Freedman electronics, establishing RØDE and the growth from a product range of one improved condenser microphone copy to a world-leading manufacturer. Peter outlined the core company philosophy of efficient, automated in-house manufacture, and hinted at a soon to be announced acquisition. This turned out to be the acquisition of the Soundfield company, originally of UK fame.

Today RØDE is a major player in the audio game, exporting microphones to over 111 countries

In November Stephan Schutze gave a presentation on audio for interactive environments.

Stephan first explained the differences between traditional generally linear audiovisual production and the new interactive highly non-linear and branching environments of online and interactive gaming. He observed that Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) are not just another format, but are a new medium. He also pointed out the litigious nature of the industry with rampant non-disclosures and that this was restricting his presentation though this did not seem to hamper the night.

In particular Stephan pointed out that Augmented Reality required the combination of timely presented material and real-time situational awareness that demanded new solutions for every part of the capture and delivery chain.

He also saw that the plethora of VR startups was muddying the true innovation waters.

He closed by observing that as in the words of Lucas and Boyle the audio experience was more than 50% of the puzzle.

The beginning of 2017 saw a flurry of activity on the AES Melbourne website – none of it desirable. The site gained a new master user ID through weaknesses in the older software package we had been using. Thanks go to Kostas Mitropoulos at ITsManaged Infrastructure Services, and Nicholas Dow at CBDweb for ridding us of this pestilence.

February 2016 saw a field visit to the newly equipped Kilsyth Baptist church where Frank Andrewartha of Quest audio demonstrated the challenges involved in providing premium quality, uniform coverage in modern architecture medium sized venues. The benefits of the new, Australian designed Quest HPI series of controlled directivity asymmetrical waveguide loudspeakers in delivering clearly intelligible voice were clearly demonstrated with uniform coverage combined with high fidelity delivered from compact units.

In April Frank followed up the field visit and demonstration with a presentation on the challenges in

delivery of speech in reverberant environments and the technology used in his products. The end to end chain from the cabinet to the cochlea and the implications for audio delivery were explained with the use of informative video. The evolution from the simple column speaker to stereo systems with acoustic side splash and more recently laterally placed expansive shaped arrays intended to throw concert sound was explained in terms of energy delivery and better solutions given for each case. The practical issues of installing audio equipment where there has been little architectural planning were covered with examples.

The June meeting took a look at the present and future directions for radio microphones. James Waldron and Jason Grbevski of Sennheiser Australia outlined the evolution of products in response to changing market demands and gave an informative summary of the radio spectrum issues involved. It was clearly pointed out that radio spectrum is a finite resource under pressure from improved quality and reliability, increased channel count demand and allocated bandwidth reduction. This has forced development and deployment of new spread spectrum products.

These and other presentations and video available on our website are receiving consistent attention.

Committee activities

Your AES committee has been meeting regularly to plan the Section's activities with three committee meetings held in the past twelve months.

Web and Social Media

As well as planning the regular bi-monthly meeting calendar and attending to section general business, the Committee has ensured that the Section's website is continually updated with meeting notices, meeting reports (with useful resources like slide decks, audio recordings and videos on the meetings), and other audio-related material. With the events of January this year this has been a challenging time. A special vote of thanks goes to our secretary Peter Smerdon for doing the bulk of this.

We have maintained the Section's Facebook and twitter feeds and accounts with our Facebook page MelbAES showing steady growth, and currently having 210 followers.

Membership

The Melbourne Section continues to grow, and presently has 76 members.

Audio Legends series

Work continues on several biographies, and in particular some previously unreleased interview material with Neville Thiele. This video material provides many interesting and revealing insights into the people and culture of the Australian (and American) audio scene and should be of interest to members.

Long-time Section stalwart and Melbourne loudspeaker legend Mike Barabasz has decided not to accept nomination for the Committee this year due to pressure of work and other commitments. Mike has provided much input to the section and his stabilising influence will be missed. We will try and keep a chair free for next year.

I would personally like to thank all local members of AES, and in particular each member of the AES Melbourne committee for making 2017 a pleasurable success so far and look forward to continued and growing success. In particular thanks again go in particular to Graham Haynes - Treasurer, and Peter Smerdon – Secretary who, quite simply, make the Melbourne section the cohesive success it is.

Graeme Huon
Chairman

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report



Audio Engineering Society Melbourne Section Inc.

ABN 22 813001 822

Statement of Financial Position as at 30th June 2017

	This Year <u>2017</u> \$	Last Year <u>2016</u> \$
Current Assets		
Investment Term Deposit	35000	35500
Cash at Bank	<u>54</u>	<u>191</u>
Total Current Assets	35054	35691
Non Current Assets		
Net Assets	<u>35054</u>	<u>35691</u>
Equity		
Members Funds	35054	35691
Surplus for Year /Deficit	<u>-138</u>	<u>-319</u>
	<u>34916</u>	<u>35372</u>
Income		
Interest/Income	805	816
Gross Profit	805	816
Expenditure		
AES Web Site Repairs	440	0
Bank Charges / Fees	3	33
AES Dinners	0	0
Meeting Expenses	108	123
Printing / Go Print AES Brochure	0	0
Post Box	0	0
Accounting Charges	0	0
Postage	60	60
Web Hosting/ Development	0	227
Consumer Affairs Vic	56	54
Equipment Hire	0	0
Storage	0	
Sundry	0	
	<u>667</u>	<u>497</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>138</u>	<u>319</u>