

# SMPTE Australia South Section – A Profile

The SMPTE relies on its membership – both nationally and internationally – to carry out its goals of industry standardization and education at a local level. To help meet this aim, the Australia South Section was formed to better serve the film and television industries in the southern states of Australia, particularly in Melbourne.

“For some years we had seen the film and television industries migrate from Melbourne to concentrate in Sydney,” said Australia South Section Chairman David Edgar, AAV Australia. “This prompted us to start a new section of the SMPTE in order to combat that migration and to improve the industry’s educational opportunities in this part of the country.”

The first step in organizing the southern section was to hold discussions with prominent people in the film and television industries. Three informal meetings were held: a general meeting to discuss the formation of a new section, a film-related evening where Eastman Kodak Co. presented their new T-Grain stocks, and a television-related evening hosted by Ampex Australia where former SMPTE President Carlos Kennedy spoke on the standards dilemma in the world today and Fraser Morrison discussed the evolution of the digital videotape recorder.

“The response from the initial

meetings was most encouraging,” noted Secretary/Treasurer David Parkes, Pro Image. “Few members in Melbourne had been exposed to speakers of the caliber of Carlos Kennedy and Fraser Morrison in such an informal and informative session, and it certainly proved the need to convene such forums in the future. Many members commented on the most interesting and amusing history of the digital VTR as presented by Morrison.”

The next step was to enlist help in getting the section established. Derek Wilson, Chairman of the Australia North Section, presented the idea for the new section to the Sydney-based Board of Managers, and discussions were also held with Carlos Kennedy during his visit to Australia. The response was positive and all Southern Australia members were asked to vote on the formation of the new section. An election of officers and a board of managers followed shortly thereafter. The petition of the new section was officially approved on January 29, 1991, by the SMPTE Board of Governors.

In addition to Chairman Edgar and Secretary/Treasurer Parkes, the leaders of the new section are Section Manager John Bowring, Lemac Film and Video; Engineering Manager Tony Corcoran, AAV Australia; Activities Manager Kurt Hauselberger, Ampex Australia; Test Materials

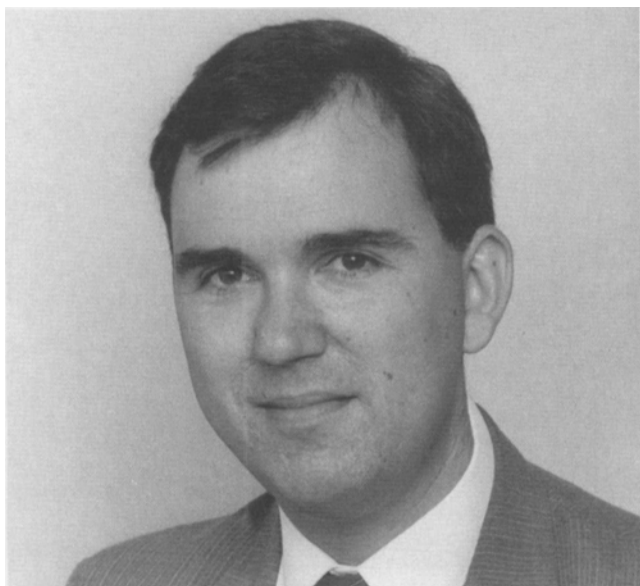
Manager Chris Sturgeon, Cinevex Film Labs; and Membership Chairman Steve Taysom, Kodak (Australia).

“The goals of the new section are to first and foremost increase local membership and raise the profile of the SMPTE, as well as promote the Society’s services and activities,” said Chairman Edgar. “Although the section is very new, we have already had our first managers meeting and our first section meeting, and we are well on our way to increasing the awareness of the Society outside of Sydney.”

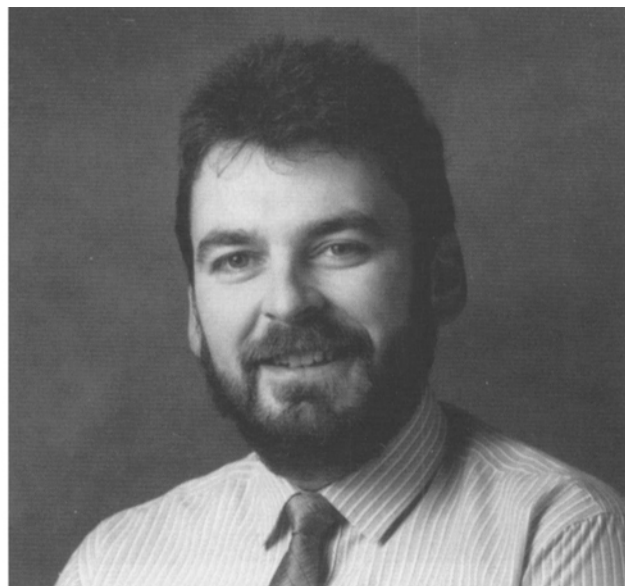
Secretary/Treasurer Parkes added that in the past, many SMPTE educational opportunities were missed by the Southern Australia members because of their distance from Sydney. “We hope to address this and provide a range of services and activities that will stimulate the industry and bring personal satisfaction to our members,” he said. “We plan to invite guest speakers from both international and local manufacturers to participate in upcoming meetings. We have already received a positive response in this area.”

“We also plan to hold a variety of film and television-related section meetings over the next 12 months and to organize a technical conference in Melbourne sometime in the future,” Edgar said.

– Carol King



Section Chairman David Edgar.



Secretary/Treasurer David Parkes.