

### Australia Section to Hold SMPTE 2001

#### *Compressing Images—Expanding Ideas*

The initial success and the future of digital technology in Australia will be the topic of debate and discussion at this year's SMPTE 2001 Conference, which is being held from July 9 to 13, at the Sydney Convention Centre, in Darling Harbour. This is a great chance for the industry to examine how well the introduction of digital broadcast is going, where it is taking us, and where we are headed in the future.

#### Supporting Associations

For the first time, four industry organizations are lending support to the Conference and Exhibition: The Australian Subscription, Television

and Radio Assoc. (ASTRA); The Australian Screen Directors Assoc. (ASDA); The Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS); and the Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Assoc. (AEEMA).

#### Exhibition

The SMPTE 2001 Exhibition is now 75% booked. There are still great stand positions available, but they are going quickly. To participate call Vicki at Expertise Events, P.O. Box 295, Brookvale NSW 2100, Australia, (tel: 02-9939-4445; fax: 02-9939-4229).

A new feature at the exhibition will be the SMPTE Shop, a great opportunity for exhibitors' to display and sell branded merchandise, such as bags, T-shirts, jackets, etc. Other items for sale will include reference books and CDs.

#### Sponsorship

Sponsorship is the ideal opportunity to increase exposure at the event making a larger impact on your target market. Call Vicki to discuss incorporating sponsorship into your exhibiting experience.

Further information about SMPTE 2001 is available at [www.smpte.com.au](http://www.smpte.com.au).

### Hong Kong Section Holds Third Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting (DTTB) Forum

#### By Tim Kelly, TVB

The Hong Kong Section held its third forum on digital terrestrial television on November 10, 2000 at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Tsimshatsui. The theme of the forum was "Formats Update and Consumer Perspective," and its aim was to look at the implementations of the three major DTTB standards around the world to see how successful each had been in attracting new viewers. The event was particularly timely as on December 1 the Government announced its intention to implement the DVB system in Hong Kong by the end of 2002.

The first part of the forum comprised presentations by John Bigeni and Peter MacAvock representing DVB; Jong-Seok Park from ATSC (Korea); and Sadao Kaneko representing DiBEG (Japan). The second

part was a panel discussion moderated by Tim Kelly of TVB. A keen topic was the current international debate regarding the relative merits of COFDM and 8VSB modulation, and there was much active participation from the floor.

During the forum a questionnaire was given to all attendees to determine their views on the features and benefits of digital terrestrial TV.

#### Annual Dinner

The 6th Annual Dinner hosted by Leitch Asia immediately followed the DTTB Forum. The guest speaker was Todd Roth who held the guests' attention with a lively talk on the PRO MPEG File format. A total of 79 members and guests attended the dinner.

### Sacramento Section

November 21, 2000

Twenty-three people attended the meeting held at the Grass Valley Group facility. The theme was "A Linux Primer."

Andrew Raiche, test technician at GVG spoke on what Linux is, where it came from, where it is going, and its importance to the video industry.

He began using and working on Linux systems in 1996 with the first Slackware distributions. Linux is a free, UNIX-like operating system first developed for home PCs, but now used on many platforms including Alpha, SPARC, PowerPC, Crusoe, ARM, MC680x0, and many more. He described Linux's many attributes: it is small, fast, reliable, and best of all, free. Discussion centered around the hardware flexibility and scalability has made it an ideal system for embedded applications today.—William Carlquist, Section Chair



Andrew Raiche