



AUSTRALIAN RECORDING
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

ARIA announces Board Members for 2008

Sydney, Australia – 31 March 2008 – The Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) today announced its Board of Directors for 2008.

Ed St John	ARIA Chairman	President & CEO Warner Music Australasia
Denis Handlin AM		Chairman & CEO, SONY BMG Music Entertainment Australia & NZ
George Ash		Managing Director, Universal Music Australia
Marcus Seal		CEO, Shock Records
John O'Donnell		Managing Director, EMI Music
Sebastian Chase		CEO, MGM Distribution
David Vodicka		Director, Rubber Group Of Companies

After an unprecedented 10 consecutive years as Chairman, Denis Handlin has announced his decision to stand down in order to allow another director to take the role. The ARIA Board has elected as Chairman for 2008 Ed St John, President & CEO Warner Music Australasia. To allow a smooth handover and transition, Denis Handlin will continue in the role of Chairman until 1 May 2008 when Ed St John takes over.

“It is a great privilege to be elected Chairman. While it’s a daunting task to follow in the footsteps of the legendary Denis Handlin, I know with Denis remaining as an active member of the board and with the support of the other Board members, ARIA will continue to grow in influence and achievements.”

“We are committed as a Board and an organisation to continuing the development and success of Australian artists while addressing the key issues facing the Australian music industry,” Mr. St. John said.

In addition to Ed St John's appointment, the ARIA Board also confirmed the following committee chair appointments for 2008:

Ed St John	ARIA Music Awards /Hall Of Fame
John Parker (Sony BMG Music Entertainment)	ARIA Chart & Marketing Committee
Libby Blakey (Warner Music Australia)	ARIA Copyright Committee
Darryl Sullivan (Universal Music Australia)	ARIA Finance Committee

Each of these committees reports directly to the ARIA Board and provides invaluable support to the Board.

Mr.St.John paid tribute to Denis Handlin's decade leading the ARIA Board.

"ARIA is now a more united organisation than it has been ever before and Denis has played a critical role in achieving this. That unity saw the successful creation of ARIA #1 Chart Awards, the Hall of Fame, the outstanding growth and recognition of the ARIA Awards and significant legislative developments on digital and anti piracy matters, together with the strengthening of government relations."

"I am really pleased that Denis will continue to play a leading role on the board, providing the benefit of this 25 years board experience," said Ed St John.

In 2005, Denis Handlin was awarded an Order of Australia, AM for his services to the development of the Australian music industry and of Australian artists and for his contribution to charitable causes. Denis is a Founding member of the Sony Foundation which was established in 1998 and he is also a Patron of Youth off the Streets. The Foundation has raised over \$10 million for charitable causes.

Denis Handlin AM said today, "In the 10 years I have chaired the Board, I feel we have achieved a great deal for the industry and the time is right for another board colleague to chair."

"I have always approached ARIA matters with the sole focus of advancing our artists and industry rights to achieve a healthy industry that provides Australian music fans with exciting music entertainment."

"It is great to see how ARIA achieved these goals during the last decade in a way that has enhanced ARIA's role as the leading organization in the Australian music scene."

"Ed has made a very significant contribution to this as the board member overseeing the ARIA Awards. I look forward to working closely with him on the ARIA Board."

“With music being both my life and my career, I am looking forward to remaining heavily involved on the ARIA board to continue to develop the industry. I recently renewed a long term contract with SONY BMG and this allows me to keep working tirelessly to develop Australian music and on the significant new business diversification initiatives to further develop SONY BMG and contribute to industry growth.”

“In my 38 years in this business I cannot remember a more exciting period than we have now, with the mix of traditional and new digital business areas together with our diversification into artist management, touring, events, TV & internet programming which are rapidly growing parts of SONY BMG’s business.”

About ARIA

ARIA is a national industry association representing major and independent record producers, manufacturers and distributors. It acts as an advocate for the Australian music industry, administers the labeling code of practice, provides a ‘blanket’ non-exclusive licensing function for copyright users and compiles industry information and research. For more information: <http://www.aria.com.au/>

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