

# Off the air

Screenrights' Newsletter

**screenrights**

Screenrights is a non-profit company which administers copyright licences in Australia and New Zealand and collects similar royalties from Europe and North America for its 2,600 members from 54 countries.

October 2007

## **Feature: Screenrights collects a record \$37.70 million for filmmakers**

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## **EnhanceTV ATOM Award winners announced**

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## **DAVE.TV for SPAA**

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This is an online newsletter. You can subscribe by emailing [ota@screenrights.org](mailto:ota@screenrights.org)

The content of 'Off the air' is accurate at the time of publication. Screenrights makes no representations or warranties as to the satisfactory quality, or fitness for any particular purpose of the material contained in the newsletter.

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### Record collections

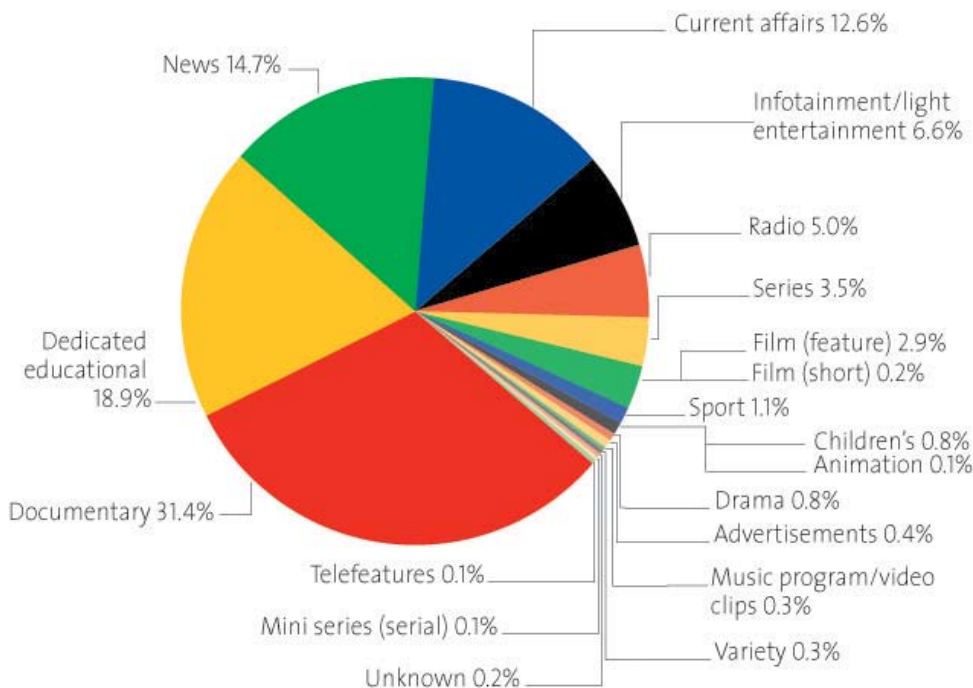
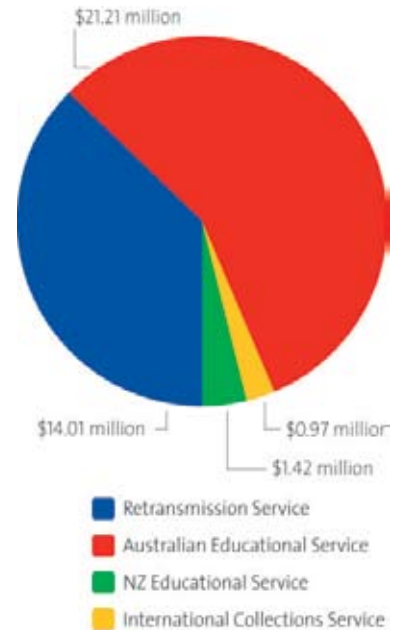
From 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, Screenrights collected its highest income yet – with total collections reaching \$37.70 million. This amount included \$14.01 million in royalties for retransmission since March 2001.

The rest of the income came from the Australian Educational Service (AES), the New Zealand Educational Service (NZES) and the International Collections Service (ICS).

The AES – Screenrights' oldest service – has once again shown a growth in income, from \$20.07 million in 2005/06 to \$21.21 million in 2006/07.

### What's being copied?

A broad range of audiovisual material is being copied by Australian and New Zealand educational institutions under their Screenrights licence, with documentaries again proving to be the most copied genre.



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## Drop in expenses to collections

Alongside this growth in income, Screenrights expenses to collections dropped to 10.5%, compared to 16.9% in the 2005/06 financial year. This was a particularly pleasing result in light of the fact that the organisation is administering more services than ever and is also gearing up for the first distribution of retransmission royalties to rightsholders.

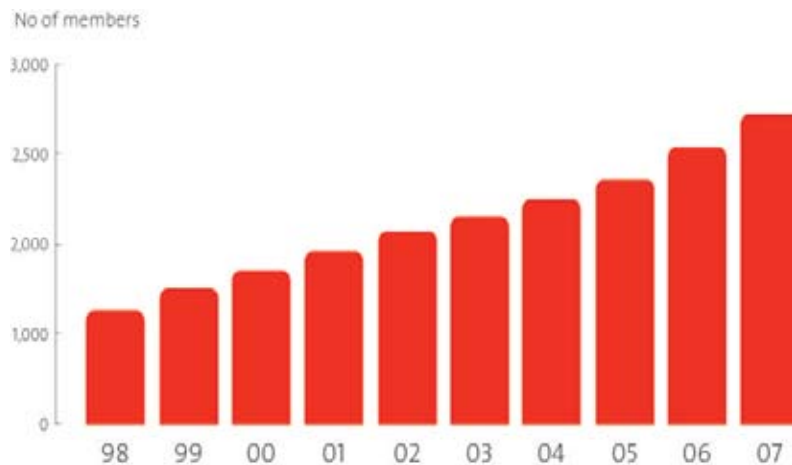
## Growth in distributions to members

The total amount actually distributed to members during 2006/07 was \$19.89 million, another record for the company. The previous highest amount was \$19.78 million in 2005/06.

## Growth in members

2006/07 was also a period of growth in Screenrights' membership.

Screenrights now has 2,653 members from 54 countries, compared to 2,505 members from 52 countries at the end of the 2005/06 financial year.



## A year of 'firsts' and achievements

Along with the growth in collections, distributions and membership, Screenrights has had a number of notable 'firsts' and achievements during 2006/07. These include:

- Collecting the first retransmission royalties from pay television operators, with distribution of this money expected to commence in December.
- Finalising the first agreements for retransmission in new housing developments and hospitals.
- Issuing the first ISANs through ISAN Australasia, the agency established by Screenrights and APRA, with this unique digital identifier for audiovisual works appearing on the credit rolls of new television series and films.
- Copying of the first podcasts by educational institutions under their Screenrights licences.
- Recognition for EnhanceTV as a finalist in the Best Non-Profit Site category of the prestigious AIMIA Awards.
- Growth in the number of subscribers to EnhanceTV, and in the services offered by the site.
- Redevelopment of Screenrights corporate website to improve communications with members and the people who use their work.

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## **The future**

Screenrights Chief Executive Simon Lake said that the record collections and lower expenses to collections ratio were pleasing results.

"We are delivering real benefits to rightsholders in film and television," he said, "and the services we offer continue to meet a growing need – simple access to content in an increasingly complex copyright environment. Screenrights is well positioned to continue to grow, meeting the ongoing and changing needs of all our stakeholders."

## **Download the annual report**

Screenrights achievements for 2006/07 are contained in the company's Annual Report. A copy of the report can be downloaded here: <http://www.screenrights.org/pdfs/about/AnnualReport/ScreenrightsAR2007-full.pdf>

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## Election of directors

Screenrights is delighted to announce the appointment of Maureen Barron to its Board of Directors, along with the re-election of David Baldock, Dean Ormston and Alison Weston.

Maureen is currently the Chair of the Australian Film Commission, having first been appointed to the position in October 1997. From March 1995 until June 2007, Maureen worked for the Southern Star group of companies, most recently as General Manager, Corporate. She has been a director of many arts organisations and film production companies, and was also a member of the Australian Government's Copyright Tribunal and Copyright Law Review Committee.

Her election was announced at Screenrights' AGM held in Sydney on October 25.

Screenrights Chair Jill Bryant said the Board had much pleasure in welcoming Maureen. "She brings a great depth of industry and legal expertise to Screenrights," Jill said. "I am certain her contribution will be an invaluable one."

The full Board of Directors (in alphabetical order) now comprises:

- Martin Armiger (Composer and writer; Head of Screen Composition, AFTRS)
- Maureen Barron (Chair of the Australian Film Commission)
- David Baldock (Managing Director and Head of Production, Ninox Television; documentary, factual and reality programs producer)
- Jill Bryant (CEO and Co-Producer, Walking With Dinosaurs – The Live Experience; former Marketing Director, Asia-Pacific, BBC Worldwide Ltd)
- Nicholas Collis-George (Manager, Australian Institute of Architects NSW)
- Will Davies (Executive Producer, Look Film Productions Pty Ltd; independent documentary producer)
- John Ford (Managing Director, Sony Pictures Television Pty Ltd; Director, Premium Movie Partnership, TV1; Chairman, Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation)
- Sally McCausland (Senior Lawyer, SBS)
- Dean Ormston (Director, Corporate Affairs and Communications and Company Secretary, APRA and AMCOS)
- Allison Rowe (Visual artist and copyright consultant; formerly Head, Copyright Section, ABC)
- Sue Taylor (Independent producer)
- Alison Weston (Manager, Education Programming, Education Television, ABC).

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## EnhanceTV ATOM Award winners announced

Congratulations to the winners of this year's EnhanceTV ATOM Awards, announced at a ceremony in Melbourne on October 19.

EnhanceTV presented the following three awards:

- Best Junior (K-8) Film Video Production: **Heat It Up: Global Warming** (Grade 5/6G (2006) Glenwood Public School NSW)
- Best Children's Television Series: **Lockie Leonard** (Kylie Du Fresne, Essential Viewing NSW)
- Best Secondary Education Resource: **Australia and the Vietnam War** (Roar Film and Ryebuck Media)

The Awards, which are in their 25th year, are open to students and professionals and celebrate excellence in screen and media culture.

This is the first year EnhanceTV has come on board as an Award's partner. The partnership recognises the importance of the awards to both of EnhanceTV's key stakeholder groups: the film industry and the education sector.

A full list of the award winners can be found at [www.atomawards.org/atomawards/finalists.html](http://www.atomawards.org/atomawards/finalists.html)

## Screenrights Board farewells Nick Hampton

The Screenrights Board has said farewell to Board member Nick Hampton, who was a director of the company since it was set up in 1990.

Speaking at Screenrights Annual General Meeting in Sydney, Chair Jill Bryant said: "Nick's financial acumen and his considerable experience in the music industry, along with his knowledge of collective rights administration will be missed. We wish him all the best for the future."

Nick, who has had long career working with music publishers, record companies and with APRA, was appointed to Screenrights' first Board of Directors. This Board was broadly representative of the Working Committee that had been established to set up what was then known as the Audio-Visual Copyright Society (AVCS).

"The establishment of the company was very much driven by the Copyright Council and its then Chief Executive Susie Bridge, along with John Kench, a lawyer at Mallesons," Nick said. "The Working Committee represented the key industries, including the national broadcasters and the other collecting societies. I was a representative for VIDA, (the Video Industry Distributors' Association), now AVSDA, and for the MPA (Motion Pictures' Association)."

In more than 15 years with Screenrights, Nick said that he felt one of the company's most important achievements had been the establishment of the first agreements with the universities and the schools.

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"And the maintenance of this relationship," he said. "We still have a good relationship with each of these sectors."

In terms of future challenges, Nick said that Screenrights, like all collecting societies, would need to "remain relevant as a service provider with the continual development of more user friendly technologies that allow people to access copyright material."

"The establishment of EnhanceTV has been an important step for Screenrights in ensuring that it remains up to date, providing resources directly to the people who use our members' works," he said.

Nick intends to continue his involvement with Nordoff-Robbins (a charitable company that promotes the understanding and development of music therapy).

"But other than that I don't intend to work, if I can possibly avoid it," he said.

Travelling with his partner, Jean Panther, and spending time with family are his "main priorities."

## **New Copyright Tribunal appointments**

New appointments have been made to the Copyright Tribunal over the last few months.

Justice Emmett of the Federal Court of Australia has recently been appointed as the President, Justice Allsop of the Federal Court of Australia and Federal Magistrate Rolf Driver have been appointed as Deputy Presidents, and Dr Hugh Sibly, Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Tasmania, has been appointed as a new member.

They join re-appointed members, Professor Dennis Pearce AO, Emeritus Professor and Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University, and Dr Rhonda Smith, Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Melbourne.

The Copyright Tribunal is established under the Copyright Act. It principally arbitrates disputes between copyright collecting societies and their licensees over licence fees.

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## DAVE.TV for SPAA

Rex Wong, CEO of DAVE.TV, will be the keynote speaker sponsored by Screenrights at the 2007 SPAA Conference, to be held in November.

DAVE.TV is the first cross-platform digital delivery network that delivers IPTV (Internet Protocol Television) and video over IP to TVs, PCs, portable and mobile devices. DAVE.TV develops IPTV platforms for service providers such as Telcos and ISPs.

Wong will speak on industry forecasts and future technologies on Thursday 15 November at 9am. For more details about the SPAA Conference, visit [www.spaa.org.au/conference](http://www.spaa.org.au/conference)

Screenrights is also sponsoring a session at SPAA Fringe to be held in Sydney on October 26 and 27. The session, entitled: "Does Money make the Movie – Raising Money and Budgeting for Low Budget Features", will be given by FFC project Manager Heather Oxenham. More information about SPAA Fringe can be found at [www.spaa.org.au/fringe](http://www.spaa.org.au/fringe)

Screenrights sponsors SPAA and SPAA Fringe as part of its commitment to the film industry. To view our sponsorship guidelines, visit [www.screenrights.org](http://www.screenrights.org)

## Please Vote For Me wins votes

A classic election nail-biter set in a third grade classroom took out the Screenrights sponsored Best Educational Documentary Award at this year's DOCNZ.

Directed by Weijun Chen, **Please Vote For Me** follows three eight-year-olds as they launch their campaign to become classroom monitor. The film also took out the International Competition – Medium Feature Award.

DOCNZ is held in New Zealand during the end of September to the beginning of October. More information about all the winners can be found at [www.docnz.org.nz](http://www.docnz.org.nz)