



AUSTRALIAN RECORDING  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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## ARIA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF CHARTING MUSIC HISTORY

8<sup>th</sup> July 2008

SYDNEY – ARIA (Australian Recording Industry Association) is celebrating this week 25 years of the charts, with the first chart distributed on 10 July 1983, featuring Bonnie Tyler's *Total Eclipse of the Heart* at number one of the singles chart and Michael Jackson's *Thriller* atop the album chart.

Over the years, the ARIA Chart has developed into Australia's pre-eminent music chart, recognised as the authoritative source for chart positions, which in turn accurately reflect over-the-counter and digital music sales at over 1100 national outlets.

"The ARIA Charts have been a mainstay of the music world for a quarter of a century and their evolution has been remarkable," said Mr Ed St John, ARIA Chairman and President & CEO of Warner Music Australasia. "Everyone who works in the music business uses the chart as a weekly scorecard of their triumphs and failures and as the basis for almost every commercial decision. The chart tracks every trend and movement in consumer behaviour and reflects the success of every marketing initiative. As such we all rely on its accuracy and credibility – we couldn't do business without it."

The ARIA Chart has grown from singles and albums to diversify into genre-specific charts including the Urban Chart, Country Chart, Classical Chart and more recently, Digital Track Chart, ensuring there has always been an ARIA Chart to reflect trends within the industry.

In the early days, from 1983 to 1988, the ARIA Charts were prepared under contract by an external party. However, in 1988, ARIA brought the chart production in house and hired a dedicated chart team to prepare them weekly.

Driving the chart since the team's inception two decades ago has been ARIA Chart Manager, Mr Ian Wallace. Ian has earned the reputation as one of this country's foremost music chart authorities and has passionately kept records of every ARIA Chart.

He is regularly asked for chart statistics and comment on chart trends, and is proud that the ARIA Charts remain more relevant than ever.

"As the Australian music industry has been evolving over the last 25 years, the ARIA Charts have been there all the way, reflecting changes as they have happened in music styles, technologies and at retail," said Wallace. "With the fundamental change that digital music is bringing to the market, it is as exciting to be part of it now, as it has been at any time in the past two decades."





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Mr Denis Handlin AM, ARIA board member since 1984, and Chairman and CEO of SONY BMG Music Entertainment, Australia & New Zealand, jointly lead the board initiative to establish the ARIA Charts and appointed Ian Wallace in 1988.

Denis Handlin said today “Our view remains the same since that time, that the industry needed an authoritative chart service that could be relied on by record companies, publishers, artists and songwriters, retailers, broadcasters, media and the public. Over the years, ARIA has continually invested substantial resources to create advanced data systems which have produced ARIA’s wide range of charts and services. Ian Wallace in particular, together with the chart team, is to be praised for his enthusiasm and dedication to ensure the accuracy and development of the charts which has been second to none.”

Recent innovations of the Motorola ARIA Charts include the live unveiling of the top 40 singles chart every Sunday on Nova radio stations nationally, and a weekly top 10 countdown show on MTV Australia. For the latest charts, uploaded every Sunday night, visit [www.ariacharts.com.au](http://www.ariacharts.com.au).

For further Motorola ARIA Chart information:

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### **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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