ASRA Award 2013

Figure 1

Warren Barnett was born in Marickville NSW, and attended Dulwich Hill Junior High before completing an apprenticeship in painting and decorating. Having obtained his trade Warren set about following his real passion – a career in the record industry.

Starting as a Warehouse Assistant at EMI Records plant at Homebush in 1969, Warren let his enthusiasm for the recording side of the business be known, and took every opportunity to watch, learn and help out at EMI's 301 studio. This effort paid off and in 1971 Warren began working in the studio in the new field of Cassette Mastering, also working in the Master-tape Store. At 301 Warren worked with pioneers such as David Woodley-Page and Martin Benge.

In 1974 Warren relocated to the Festival Records Pyrmont studios as Disc Mastering and Studio Engineer /Producer where he mastered hundreds of classic pop records. Warren remained with the Festival / Festival Mushroom group through its various incarnations, working in diverse roles including disc and cassette mastering, quality control, and anti-piracy testing. In 1997 Warren

became the Archive Manager for the FMR group of companies. Following the demise of Festival/Mushroom Warren took up the role of media archivist with Sony DADC.

In addition to these key roles in both creating and preserving the heritage of some of Australia's most important major record companies, Warren has lent his talents to heritage projects including remastering for Martin Clarke and Klarion Enterprise, and for the very important heritage record label "Raven Records".

Warren has also had an ongoing involvement in Australian Christian Music, is a community radio presenter and in 2008 produced a single for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) at Crossroads International, in Hong Kong.

Warren's passion for music and recording has sustained him throughout this extensive career in an industry which has had its ups and downs. In addition to this passion he brings to his work as a mastering engineer and archivist a level of dedication and commitment to technical excellence in audio production and an encyclopaedic knowledge of Australian pop music history. I am delighted to present the 2013 ASRA Award for Excellence to Warren Barnett for his outstanding contribution to Australian music heritage as an archivist and as a disc and cassette mastering engineer.

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Figures:
1. Warren Barnett at God's Cafe. Australian National University ANU, Canberra, 24 October 2013, photograph by Graeme Kinraid