

April / May
2014



MEETING NIGHTS

First & Third Thursdays of the Month

MEETING VENUE

Figtree Heights Public School, St George Avenue & Lewis Drive

Vehicle entrance off Lewis Drive

FIGTREE

CONTACT DETAILS

www.wollongongcameraclub.com

www.youtube.com/wollongongmm

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A Letter from the Editor

With this issue, the Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers Newsletter has achieved 145 issues over a period of 14 years.

At the time of issue No 1 in April 2000, we were just getting acquainted with the digital revolution. Most of us were still in an analogue world. In May, Panasonic introduced its first DVD recorder; a reviewer of Pinnacle Studio DV version 1.02 said “the Internet has become absolutely indispensable” to supplying fixes to bugs in software and the providing updates of software. The number of lines of horizontal and vertical resolution that your camcorder could achieve was a hot topic in our club, as in others. Tom Hunt showed us, and for some of us it was the first time, three brands of video editing software; *Videowave*, *Ulead MediaStudio* and *Adobe Premiere*. Our club bought its first Super VHS VCR, as members’ videos for competitions were all submitted on VHS tapes. Trail-blazer members, Brian and Liz McCauley demonstrated their non-linear editing equipment, the Casablanca, in June 2000 and Peter Van Peterson showed a short video edited on his NLE system using a DC30 analogue editing card. By the end of the year 2000, Canopus had delivered real-time digital video editing; the digital revolution was upon us.

This issue of the newsletter sees a world where digital is king. The computer has replaced the edit controller and VCR of the analogue days; horizontal and vertical resolutions are fixed by universal standards and not by the manufacturer’s knowhow; and no longer are our competition videos a poorer copy of our original footage. We have survived the digital revolution and have profited from its many benefits.

As editor of this small newsletter I have watched, sometimes in awe, this revolution. Initially the video technology could not produce images anywhere near as good as could be got from Super 8 Kodachrome film. But now with high definition video, and soon to be upon us 4K video, we have images of startling sharpness and beauty that can easily match and surpass the best that Kodachrome film had to offer. For an old cine man this truly has been a revolution to see and to participate in.

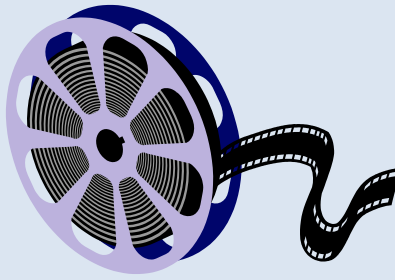
I had hoped to make the 150th issue this year, but it will not be possible unless another takes up the running of this newsletter. In the event that that does not happen, this newsletter will appear on an irregular basis from now on. It is time for travel and to enjoy new experiences, subject of course to extended family commitments. So this is not the end, but rather from my Scottish heritage the last words should be:

We’re no’ awa’ tae bide awa’



Camera
changes
in 14
years





Last Month at the Club

6th March 2014

The One Minute Videos night was supported by 8 members.

John Devenish showed *the Probus day out on the Hawkesbury River*.

Tom Hunt showed his *Minute of Mid-Air Madness*.

Max Davies showed his three videos: *Edna*, *Password* and *Marriage*.

Ian Simpson showed his *2014 FAMM Convention*.

John reminded everyone that:

- 1) the AGM was on Tuesday the 18th
- 2) The script for the Combined Clubs video was still under review,
- 3) There is still a need to find two actors to play the main roles and Bob Kennedy has agreed to be the security guard.

Chris Dunne showed a video of how we could create an explosion on the doors. He had created this on his Apple Mac.

20th March Club Meeting reported by Ann & John Devenish

Six members and one visitor attended the mid-month workshop. Apologies from Ian Simpson, Noel Gibson and Ian Wilson.

Two topics were to the fore – one general and the other particular.

For the first, lighting, three of the 1000 LED light banks were set up in standard three point position of Key and Fill at head height for the subject and Back-light on the floor. A camera was focussed on the sitting talent and the projector set up as a monitor for all to see. The white balance was adjusted. The need for a back-light to separate the subject from the background was demonstrated. Relative distances between camera, subject, back-light and backdrop were varied and assessed. In the course of this exercise many questions were raised – subject equally lit from both sides? Is shadow desirable? How much shade? Use of LEDs in the field? The number of LEDs? Battery use and life? Cost? The interplay of aperture, distance from subject and focal length was discussed. Several were surprised at the dictum that shutter speed should be 1/50th of a second ie the shutter speed to match the frame rate for video making. The need for a neutral density filter was demonstrated for forcing the use of maximum aperture to produce a narrower depth of field to throw the background out of focus.

Lighting is a lot more involved than it appears.

The second topic of the evening was work on the current script. Led by Tom we talked through the screenplay offering suggestions and ideas on where and how to film particular scenes. The quandary

was discussed of whether to film in “light with atmosphere” with little post production of film or to film in full light and adjust in post to get the desired effect. Suggestions on where to film were thrown about. There was much debate on the use or not of green screen as we did the preliminary work towards commitment to a storyboard.



WCCMM's Theme for 2014 – “Share and Learn”

“Share” our talents to make a good video production team, and **“Share”** our ideas to make our individual efforts better.

“Learn” from our team productions to make better club videos, and **“Learn”** from other's videos how we can make our own videos better and more interesting.



Part of the Wollongong 2014 FAMM Convention Committee at lunch after touring the proposed route of the coach tour.



CONVENTION 2014 in WOLLONGONG



31st March to 4th April

The Insider's Viewpoint by Ian Simpson

With a convention committee of six, the Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers (WCCMM) hesitantly took on the challenge to organise the 2014 FAMM Convention. What is probably not realised by other FAMM clubs is that this committee of six was approximately half the total active membership of the WCCMM. Also only 4 of the 6 had been to a convention before and that was the 2012 one in Canberra. So it was not surprising that the Canberra convention became the model for the 2014 convention. As Mark Tunningley had so graciously offered to organise and conduct the “Australia’s Five Best” competition, the Wollongong committee set about finding a site for the convention, a programme of speakers, a tour of the Illawarra and a mystery video making challenge.

In finding a suitable venue, the committee wanted a venue that would:

- a) cater for the various accommodation requirements of conventioners,
- b) be reasonably central to Wollongong,
- c) have a suitable sized meeting room that could be darkened during the day.
- d) be reasonably priced and have reasonably priced accommodation.

After checks with long standing conventioners, such as Gary Peterson, the Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort (WSLR) was booked. The WSLR placed a requirement on the booking that all accommodation be handled by the committee, with WSLR just reserving the various types of accommodation required. So the burden fell on Tom Hunt, the 2014 convention treasurer, to not only look after the registration of conventioners but to also book and keep track of their chosen accommodation. It is a credit to Tom that, although attendance fell short of the budgeted number, the convention managed to “break even” using the definition in By-Law #3. As Tom is not the treasurer of the Wollongong Camera Club (WCC), he had to be constantly in communication with the WCC treasurer which further complicated the process. To his credit Tom, like the swan, was all calm above the water but no doubt there was much action below.

Anyone who has tried to organise a speaker for an event knows that they face two challenges; finding the right speaker for the audience and hoping they will turn up on the day. The Wollongong committee was blessed by having to guide it John and Ann Devenish, who personally knew many local film and video makers. From their interactions with these local movie makers, John and Ann selected some who were invited along to our club meetings to give a presentation. So in a sense the members of WCCMM were auditioning speakers for their suitability to speak at the convention. Aside from a traffic delay for the first speaker at the Wollongong convention, all speakers turned up on time and excelled themselves in their presentations. Without John and Ann’s involvement in the local artistic and creative community such quality and interesting presentations would not have been possible. These local creative people showed that Wollongong is more than a coal and steel town, it has a soul; a soul that can be expressed in many ways with our speakers using the moving image.

The challenges faced by Brian Harvey, the coach tour organiser, were both within his control and outside of his control. How do you show the natural beauty of a region which unfortunately has the historical baggage of being a dirty industrial town? Also how do you plan for a sunny day for the tour? Brian set about it in his normal methodical manner by drawing up proposed tour routes which were vigorously debated at the committee meetings. Once a possible route was settled on, Brian got the members of the committee together and the route was travelled and travelling times between locations were noted. Then to cover all possibilities, Brian drew up a “wet day” tour based on the “fine day” but with obvious changes to keep the conventioners mainly dry. Tom Hunt offered to do the tour commentary on the day. Even though he was already deep into spreadsheets, he found the time to research the various places on the tour. Although the Illawarra was drenched and had severe local flooding the week prior to the convention, the Wednesday of the convention was a glorious autumn day. Then with military precision, sergeant-major Brian introduced the conventioners to the other, less well known, side of the Illawarra; its natural beauty. This mission was a success as it was overheard many times in conventioners’ conversations that they did not realise how pretty the Wollongong area was and that they would like to come back and explore the Illawarra more thoroughly than was possible on that one day coach tour.

All convention committees need a “people person”, one who can easily communicate with others, who is approachable and will listen to others’ needs. We found that person in Max Davies who transported conventioners to and from the local railway stations to WSLR. Max was also the “go to” person if conventioners had any questions; be they of local geography or shopping locations.

Although the 2012 Canberra convention was used as our model, changes were wrought in the programme in two areas. Firstly the presentation of “Australia’s Five Best” entries was broken up into three viewings. Approximately ten videos were shown in each session and time was allowed for the author of each video to speak about their work. The thought here was for the audience to get a deeper understanding of why the author made the video and what challenges were experienced during its creation. The second change was to introduce a video making exercise into the convention by asking conventioners to make an edit-in-camera video during their tour of the Illawarra. The products of this exercise were shown as the last item on the convention programme on Friday, thus celebrating the fine coach tour of the Illawarra.

Very special thanks are due to a number of people, not the least are the wives of the committee members who had to delay travel plans and live with convention obsessive partners. Also to Mark Tunngley and his helpers who removed a load from the committee’s shoulders by taking over the “Australia’s Five Best” competition; receiving entries, organising judges, collating results and preparing copies of all the videos for distribution to the clubs. Also special thanks go to Tony Fisher who so generously organised with *CyberLink* to provide software as prizes and give-aways during the convention. Thanks are also extended to the tireless videographers; Tony Mann and David Wastie.

What have I learned from the 2014 Convention?

- 1) Small budget feature films are being made in this country, it’s just their voice is often drowned out by the Hollywood blockbusters.
- 2) The ABC and SBS are not “small, local, documentary” friendly, and so if you wish to document our changing society and culture you need to look elsewhere for support.
- 3) A beautiful shoot of a rubbish script is a rubbish video.
- 4) The *Theme* of a video is **not** the story it is the *Message*.

- 5) Structure your story so that it has three parts; a Beginning, a Middle and an End. The Beginning is a quarter of the length of the video, the Middle encompasses half the duration of the video and the End a quarter of the video.
- 6) The Beginning of the video should a) set the *tone* of the video and the tone should be consistent throughout the rest of the video, b) set up conflict or a problem, c) make the audience want to see the rest of the video.
- 7) The Middle should be divided into three “beats” with each beat having its own beginning, middle and end. Each beat can build on the previous beat(s).
- 8) The End brings resolution or answers questions; it delivers the message; it shows that you have reached your destination.
- 9) When you shoot unscripted, shoot as much as you can with it ever present in your mind what you will need to get for a good edit. During a review of the footage, ask yourself; What have I learned? What do I want others to learn? Write a script and put your shots in that order. Ask yourself do you need extra footage? Then edit ruthlessly.
- 10) A good video has only one message.
- 11) Fiverr.com is a service for transcribing your footage.
- 12) When tackling a new genre or an unknown subject, spend a lot of time in research; see everything you can get a hold of, of that genre. Read everything you can on the subject.
- 13) Know your audience; some are Push Audiences, captive audiences like in the cinema and others are Pull Audiences such as those that browse the internet or the TV channels.
- 14) Maximum video durations are 2 ½ to 3 minutes for a Pull Audience and 7 minutes for a Push one
- 15) When shooting a drama with untrained actors use lots of single person takes.
- 16) The content of a photograph or a video is different from its subject. The content is what you can see; the subject is your interpretation.
- 17) Similarly the meaning of a photograph or video and its intention are different. The former is what the author intends while intention is what the audience understands. The two may be different.
- 18) Visual language is visual communication and like all forms of communication you need to be aware of cultural reference points.
- 19) I need to have a personal manifesto which states why I want to make movies.
- 20) Do I really want to be creative or do I want to win competitions?
- 21) To be creative means to see possibilities; to take risks; to connect the dots; to allow ideas to incubate; to realise that quantity and quality are inversely related.
- 22) To realise there is a difference between novelty and originality.
- 23) That photographers and videographers fall into one of three types: the takers (the happy snappers); the makers (that create exhibition winning entries); and shakers (whose originality disturbs and moves the viewer).
- 24) To attract others to your movie making club, especially the younger generation, you need; to have no competitions as these can limit creativity; to have mentoring of new members; to regularly show works in progress and offer constructive suggestions; to provide creative guidance, to help develop personal styles and not just concentrate on “how to do” as this can now be easily got from the internet.
- 25) When trying to decide what video you want to make, ask yourself the question, “What video don’t I want to make?”
- 26) When making a documentary always have in the back of your mind the question; “Why should we (the audience) care?”
- 27) Try to set your drama or documentary during a period of great change.

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
GOLD COAST VIDEO CAMERA CLUB
winner of the
FEDERATION SHIELD

In the “Australia’s Five Best” competition the Federation Shield went to the Gold Coast Video Camera Club with their top three video entries totalling 230.35 points. The next in line was with a total of 221.82 was Newcastle Video Movie Makers. Whilst third place went to Milton-Ulladulla Videography Club with 219.56.

The first five top rating videos were:

- First – *Marion’s Story* by Geoff Smith from Milton-Ulladulla Videography Club
- Second – *A Journey to the Staircase to the Moon* by Colin Usher of the Gold Coast Video Camera Club
- Third – *Flaggy Creek* by Ian Huish of Newcastle Video Movie Makers
- Fourth – *Borneo Jungle Soundscape* by Jon Grey of Tasmanian Movie Makers
- Fifth – *Poetry of Flight* by Jorg Fedler of the Gold Coast Video Camera Club

Best Club Entry:

Change by Milton-Ulladulla Videography Club

Highly Commended:

Kites High by Colin Tretheway of Brisbane Movie Makers

In the One Minute Competition

- First – *A Little Fishy* by Ian Huish of Newcastle Video Movie Makers
- Equal Second – *Borneo Bay* by Jon Grey of Tasmanian Movie Makers
- Equal Second – *A Dream I Had* by Tom Hunt of Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers

Edit-In-Camera Exercise

- Equal First - Colin Tretheway of Brisbane Movie Makers
- Equal First - Tom Hunt of Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers

Gifts and Thoughts at the Convention



Rie are you sure you're happy with red?



Be careful Gerardo its last year's vintage.



Tony look out for the intercept!



Tony, I'll swap you the wine for the discs.



See David it was worth coming along.



Gerardo let me see if I gave you the right bottle.

Candid Camera at the Convention



The Videographers:

Left: David Wastie

Right: Tony Mann



Presidents: Past and Present



Neville Brooks accepts the Federation Shield for the Gold Coast Video Camera Club as 2014 winners of "Australia's Five Best" competition.



Joint winners of the Edit-In-Camera exercise: Colin Tretheway on the left and Tom Hunt on the right.



The after dinner speaker, Prof. Des Crawley asked the difficult question, "Do you really want to be creative?"



Mark Tunningley on the right, hands the President's bell to the new President Laurie Chesterfield on the left.



The Glenn Hanns' equipment scrum.



Lunch at the 2014 Convention at the Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!

Our club activity last year to make a drama video on the subject of CHANGE has, in its 5 minute version, come second in the drama section of the FROME Five Minute Video Festival in the UK. This festival is in its 23rd year and attracts entries from around the world. To all the members involved in this little movie, “you have all done v-v-very well”, to take a quote from an old UK comedy series.



The Setup



Camera One – Chris Dunn



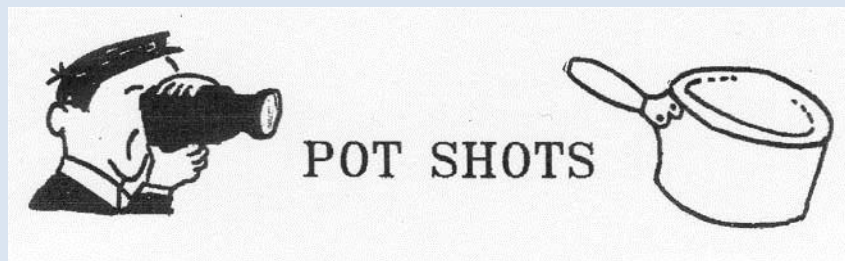
Camera Two - Anthony Howes



The main actor – Don Estell



The Making of – Max Davies



The 4K revolution is upon us

If you were in any doubt that the next technological push in video was upon us, you need only to have attended the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January this year. Ultra High Definition TV, or 4K for short, was all the rage from TV sets to cameras. Of special interest for the amateur videography was Sony's new 4K capable Handycam, the model FDR AX100. This model is built around a relatively large sensor for a consumer camcorder, a one inch sensor, compared to the normal 1/3" or 1/2.3" sized sensors. It comes with a 12x optical zoom, Carl Zeiss Sonnar T* class lens. In 35mm speak the zoom range is from 29mm to 348mm. The combination of the larger sensor and the 12x zoom range has meant that the maximum aperture range is F2.8 to F4.5, so as to keep the Handycam a handy size. It comes with a 7 blade iris and 3 ND filters. It uses Sony's XAVC-S codec to record the 4K images at 3840 x 2160 resolution at 30p (USA version) and 24p frame rates. All of this for just under \$2000(US). When I consider what my first Sony Hi8 camcorder cost me, this is a real bargain. One can only wonder what Canon and Panasonic will produce to compete with it.



The masses move away from traditional cameras

Global sales of digital cameras have declined by 34.5% in the first two months of 2014 compared to the same period last year. In the USA the sales are down even more at 50%. But all is not doom and gloom, sales of mirrorless cameras (cameras with interchangeable lens capability but do not have the optical mirror box of the SLR) are up 24.4% globally and 34.2% in the USA. These two facts taken together are bad news for the DSLR manufacturers. Where are the future photographers going to get their new gear? The answer lies partly in this shot of the New Year's fireworks in Sydney.



This image was shot on an iPhone by my son David, as did many of the other observers holding up their smart phone to capture both still and moving images. The quality produced by these phones is now so good that no other devices are needed to get those happy snaps. Further there is that added convenience of having the camera/phone with you all the time and being able to quickly upload to social media.

2014 Programme

Date	Meeting Agenda	Place	Responsible Member
April 17	Critique of Video Editing Programs	School Hall	All Members
May 1	Invite PG members to discuss moviemaking with DSLRs and the making of Audio-Visuals	School Hall	All Members
May 10	Combined Clubs Meeting	Bomaderry Bowling Club	All Members
May 15	Workshop: skit – 1 or 2 minute video+ Camera shots Training	School Hall	All Members
June 5	Mid- Year Video Competition	School Hall	All Members
July 3	Invite PG members to discuss moviemaking with DSLRs and the making of Audio-Visuals	School Hall	All Members
August 7	The Documentary and the Amateur Videographer + Producing a Good Story from an Interview	School Hall	All Members
September 4	BYO members' videos and audio-visuals	School Hall	All Members
September 18	Workshop Skit or Training Camera Techniques	School Hall	All Members
October 2	Guest Speaker: Getting the most from your camera.	School Hall	All Members
October 16	Planning 2015 Programme & YOTY and A/V entries are due	School Hall	All Members
November 6	Video Journalism & the Amateur Videographer	School Hall	All Members
November 20	Workshop Skit & Training- mixing sound	School Hall	All Members
December 4	Gala Night for screening entries in VOTY & A/V competitions	School Hall	All Members
December 9	Club Annual Dinner & Presentations	Builders Club	All Members
Colour Code: Normal Monthly Meeting Extra Monthly Meeting Special Meeting			



Happy touring to those WCCMM members, now released from the 2014 FAMM Convention yoke, and are now free to wander every which way.

Photo: Brian Harvey