



## **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](http://www.wollongongcameraclub.com)**

**[www.youtube.com/wollongongmm](http://www.youtube.com/wollongongmm)**

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

**Last Month at the Club**

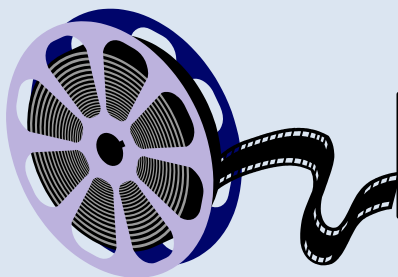
**In Search of Story Tellers**

**Pot Shots – Up to date snippets**

**2013 Programme**

**2014 Programme**





## **Last Month at the Club**

**by Ann & John Devenish**

### **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

A select group of six was able to attend the October meeting.

Among general notices the fee increase by \$5.00 for 2014 was passed.. The End of Year Dinner payment would be appreciated. \$35 per person.

This evening was a free flowing occasion with assorted points & clarifications discussed eg conversion of video formats. All possible pros and cons were aired. From there the debate moved on to sound and sound tracks: stereo to stereo and stereo to mono issues.

The distribution/viewing of members' videos led to a conversation of how best to do this: YouTube, DropBox, Vimeo.

The problem of batteries clearing China was noted.

Overscan with the projector was addressed as there was time to explore the manual and auto overscan with a very satisfying result.

The evening was rounded off with appraisal of two videos from Frome UK. My Space and Secret World. Two very competent productions.

### **October 17<sup>th</sup>**

The main thrust of the mid-month meeting was planning – both short and long term. But first, VOTY Entries were lodged.

Max's Hotspot review led to a consideration of making a club doco when the proposed subject is in recovery mode. It was suggested this activity have Max as Director so all could learn from his modus operandi.

For the CCM video two ideas were canvassed – Chris's and Ian's. Some discussion ensued and practicalities were aired.

The planning of the programme for 2014 began in earnest with many suggestions made. These fell into three categories:

Extension of the technical knowledge of members in:-

    Their cameras – both camcorders & DSLR.

    Conversion of files to a common readable format to facilitate editing joint productions.

    Editing programmes.

Skill development: learning by doing in teams on a regular basis.

Common Ground with the Photographic Group. Hence the inclusion of topics applicable to both Groups. Eg use of DSLRs, iPhones and compilation of AVs.

It was agreed that a draft programme be drawn up and circulated by email for further comment

## ***November 7<sup>th</sup>***

With 10 members and visitors in attendance, the Chairman, John Devenish opened the meeting with some announcements.

- Tom Hunt has requested that all members email him one second of footage from their camera or camcorder so that he can assess the various file formats used by members' equipment so as to be in readiness for the Club outing to the Wollongong Botanical Gardens in January.
- An auction of camera equipment will be held during next Tuesday's meeting of the Photographic Group.
- Suggestions were called for the programme for next year. It was suggested the Port Kembla Billycart Race be made a Club event.
- John and Ann did the green screen videoing of the Year 9 drama students at the IPAC on the previous Tuesday night. Seven scenarios were videoed and footage will be given out to members to add their own backgrounds.

The video challenge for this meeting was to capture "Birds in the Backyard". Four videos were shown:

"Bird Flu" produced by Max Davies which told of the trials and tribulations of trying to organise the videoing of an egg farm.

"Who Ate the Sultanas" videoed by John Devenish was a 28 second time lapse video that revealed that an Indian Myna bird was the culprit.

"Birds in the Backyard" produced by Chris Dunn showed the variety of birds that visit his backyard. However, his wife was very annoyed at the damage down by the visiting bush turkeys.

To complete the evening Max Davies showed his video where he matched various bird calls to pictures of these birds.

## ***November 21<sup>st</sup>***

In the presence of 8 members and 2 visitors the meeting was opened with an announcement from the WCC President, Brian Harvey. He said, "It is with great sadness that I have to report on the passing of a long term member of Wollongong Camera, Lloyd Robinson, after a long illness." Lloyd, although a still photographer, regularly attended Movie Makers' meetings and showed great interest in our activities and our videos. His interest was such that he would always have a keen question to ask which tested our knowledge of our hobby. As Brian added, "It was a great privilege that our Club was asked to photograph his last lecture in April this year on the 50th anniversary of the Illawarra Speleological Society". Here in both still and moving images we have a record of Lloyd's adventurous life, photographing and discovering caves. Truly his like will not be seen again.

In response to a question raised at the last club meeting, John Devenish showed how, using the software Photoshop Elements 4, he could produce an animated line over a map to show where one's travels took them.

Tom Hunt showed his updated version of his award winning, "Saving with my Car."

The rest of the evening was devoted to "brain storming" a story that would fill the gap left by Shoalhaven Movie & Multimedia Club set challenge. The Shoalhaven Club had given us the opening and closing discussion and the challenge was come up with a script that would join these two discussions. Four major ideas were floated and Tom Hunt was charged with scripting one of them.

# In Search of Story Tellers

by Ian Simpson

Where are the Photojournalists, who told stories with still images?

Where are the Video-journalists, who told stories with moving images?

Can anyone tell a good story?

The current political malaise in this country, Paul Keating has blamed on the inability of present politicians to clearly recount a narrative. According to Keating they are poor story tellers. However, it is not just the politicians who have lost this ability; this deficiency runs throughout our society and it is affecting our hobby also.

Picture taking has become so easy. Cameras are either so compact or so conveniently incorporated into our mobile phones that everyone can take a photograph anytime, anywhere. With the democratisation of photography, still images and videography have come image banality. This awful, mindless approach to capturing images has been promoted by the all-embracing automation in these digital image making devices. Human thought and involvement in the photographic process has been replaced by automation that ensures the creation of uniformity; well exposed and focused images in good conditions and uniformly bad ones in poor conditions. The mass production of this mindless uniformity of images is only limited by the capacity of the solid state memory cards used to store the images. Has photography in general been brought to low average level? Has the democratisation of photography meant that, as so little thought or effort is needed to take a picture or a video, none is taken? Have holiday snaps or video footage become nothing more than a random collection of impulses? Is there no planned narrative that links the product of these photographic impulses?

We need to become better storytellers. But first we need to find a story to tell. When on holidays, travelling the world or in the Australian bush, it is hard to find a new way of presenting the scenes we see. For family consumption, the chronological assembly of footage from a trip or holiday may be adequate enough so that family members can relive their travel experiences. For a general audience something more is required; a good story is required. But is a good story enough to achieve a prize winning travel video? No! It has to more than a good story or new information, it must have an original approach or presentation of the subject matter or the story must have real drama associated with it.

## *Add Drama and Suspense*

A few years ago our Chairman, John Devenish, made a travel video of a group of rail enthusiasts travelling by train around Tasmania. For train enthusiasts this video would be of great interest, however, for the rest of the population, with little interest in trains, it would be a bore. How did John gain the interest of the general population for his video? He introduced drama and suspense. Was the group's aim of travelling around Tasmania by rail going to be dashed by a number of unexpected incidents and breakdowns? He introduced "Murphy" or "Murphy's Law" – "Anything that can go wrong,



will go wrong”, and by the end of the video the audience was cheering for the rail enthusiasts in their endeavours to overcome Murphy. With this simple construct, John turned a limited audience video into an award winning general audience video.

### ***Think Differently***

In May 2001 my family and I travelled across Canada and also took a cruise up the Inside Passage to Alaska. Even then this was a very popular holiday combination, so any video produced from the trip would have little if any uniqueness or originality. Hence I was initially at a loss as to what story I could tell with these images that would interest a general audience. On any overseas holiday, no matter how well you plan it, you are always subjected to the vagaries of the weather. This gave me an idea.



So for the whole trip I took note of what the weather was like at each place we visited and also on the day after our visit. I then had a story to tell. My video, “One Day Later” contrasted what we had experienced during our holiday with what we would have experienced if we had begun our holiday one day later. A simple idea but it proved a successful idea as all travellers know what weather conditions can do to their holiday.

### ***Tell a Part not the Whole***

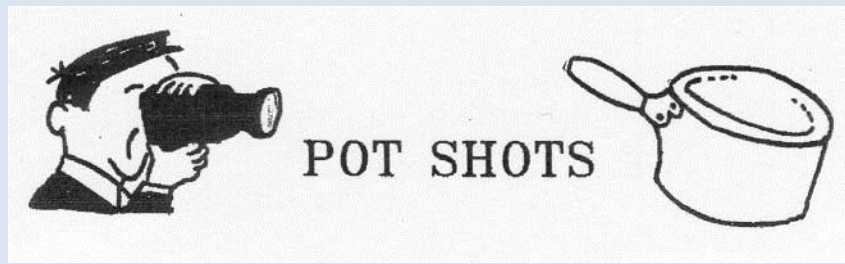
When our Chairman and his wife Ann went on a holiday to Canada and Alaska, rather than present the general audience with a visual diary of their travels they chose instead to give us the coverage of just one event, the Great Klondike International Outhouse Race of 2012. By reporting only on one event, they were able to



concentrate the audience’s focus and they were able to retain the viewer’s interest by not revealing the winner of the race until the end of the video. Sometimes telling only part of your holiday is more effective than trying to tell the whole travel story. It also helps when the story you are telling is a unique event as this event was; you gain the attention of a general audience immediately.

### ***Train Your Creativity***

Once it was thought that creativity was something that you were born with and not something you could learn. But ideas have changed. If you had been watching Todd Sampson’s series on, “Redesign My Brain” on the ABC recently, then you will have discovered that creativity can be learned and that practice can improve your creativity. In the second episode of the series, Todd found his creativity was enhanced by mental challenges, such as, divergent thinking and lateral thinking. Both mental challenges ask us to come up with so called “left-field” ideas. By practicing daily to come up with “odd” or “different” ideas then we train our brains to search for these strange ideas more easily. Remember it is these “odd” ideas when further developed can become award winning movies.



### ***It's Hip to be Square!***

In August 2013, Canon released a special version of its PowerShot N—it has a Facebook Connect button for uploading your photos and video directly to your Facebook account. Inside its square shape Canon has fitted a 2.8-inch tilting, capacitive touch screen LCD. It has an 8x optical zoom lens for providing a 5-40mm (28-224mm equivalent) focal range along with Canon's Intelligent IS image stabilization system. The lens is matched to a 12.1-megapixel CMOS sensor and DIGIC 5 image processor which allows Full HD 1080p video recording at 24 frames per second.



### ***Nikon Redefines what it means to be Retro***

Nikon gives added meaning to what retro stands for. The latest Nikon DSLR, looks like an old Nikon film camera but it has a 16.2 megapixel full frame sensor, a 100% pentaprism optical viewfinder, a 3.2 inch, 92k dot LCD monitor, a 39 point autofocus system with 9 cross-type points, a 2016 pixel 3D colour matrix metering II system and *for the first time a Nikon DSLR can do what every other non-Nikon interchangeable lens camera could do*—it can take any of the Nikon's lenses—even the 50 year old non Ai lenses—Now that is back to the future!



### ***Pinnacle 17 – How much better than 16?***

According to reviewer, Jeff Naylor, “If you don’t own S16 but were considering upgrading from Avid Studio, then you have been saved a purchase cycle, with the promise of 4K to come. If you use GoPro footage you should wait for the trial version to check you can actually render it. If you already own S16, then unless the Solo button being the wrong way round drives you up the wall or you want to make full HD 50/60p BluRays, I would suggest you wait. The main new feature, Smart rendering, seems to be an incomplete, badly executed basket case of a function. Almost all my AVC camera files are MTS or MOV, and it doesn’t work with either type.



I can only assume that the program has been released in the state it's in because they wanted to have new product to sell for the “Holidays”. I don't doubt that work will continue on the program though.”

### **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.

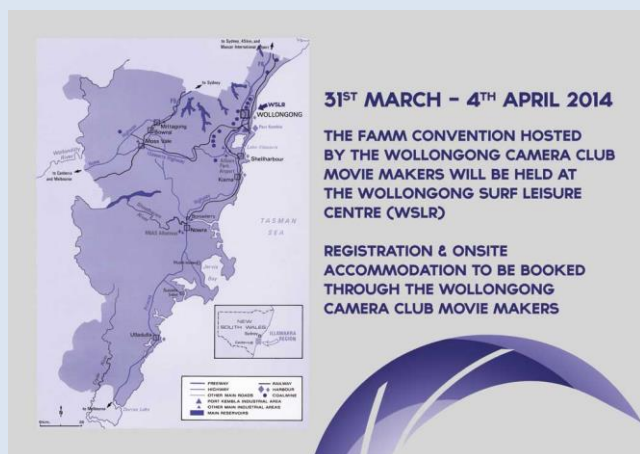
# 2013 Programme

Date	Meeting Agenda	Place	Responsible Member
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Annual Video of the Year Competition Screening Gala Evening * People Choice Awards	School Hall	All Members
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Annual Dinner & Presentation Night	Illawarra Master Builders Club	

# 2014 Programme

Date	Meeting Agenda	Place	Responsible Member
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Outing to gather footage for camera assessment	Wollongong Botanic Gardens	All Members
6 <sup>th</sup> February	BYO Travel / Holiday Videos	School Hall	All Members
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Outcome of January 18 <sup>th</sup> – compare & contrast	School Hall	All Members
20 <sup>th</sup> February	Read through of CCM script, tuning & Storyboard	School Hall	All Members
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Video internal shots of CCM script	School Hall	All Members

Colour Code: **Normal Monthly Meeting**    **Extra Monthly Meeting**    **Special Meeting**



For the latest details on the Convention programme please refer to:  
[www.wollongongcameraclub.com/famm-2014/](http://www.wollongongcameraclub.com/famm-2014/)

**MONDAY (31/3)**

15.00 – WELCOME  
18.30 – DINNER  
19.30 – OFFICIAL OPENING & 10 SHIELD VIDEOS

**TUESDAY (1/4)**

LEARN HOW TO BE:  
A PRODUCER  
A CINEMATOGRAPHER  
A SCRIPTWRITER

18.30 – DINNER  
19.30 – 10 SHIELD VIDEOS

**WEDNESDAY (2/4)**

09.00 – PRACTICE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED ON A BUS TOUR OF THE ILLAWARRA  
EDIT-IN-CAMERA CHALLENGE  
17.00 – HAND IN FOOTAGE DINNER (at own expense)

The challenge is shooting a video of 60 seconds to 200 seconds duration. It must be shot only on the Wednesday that the conventioners travel around the Illawarra sightseeing. No post editing of the scenes will be allowed. The video you create on the day is it.

**THURSDAY (3/4)**

09.00 – AGM  
11.00 – 10 SHIELD VIDEOS  
13.30 – LEARN TO BE AN ADVERTISER  
15.30 – VIEW ONE MINUTE VIDEOS  
18.30 – CONVENTION DINNER  
19.30 – GUEST SPEAKER

**FRIDAY (4/4)**

09.00 – THE ART OF THE EDITOR  
11.00 – THE EDIT-IN-CAMERA CHALLENGE REVEALED  
14.00 – SAD FAREWELLS