

October
2015



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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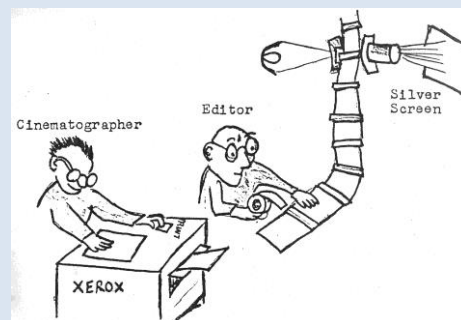
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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

by Ian Simpson



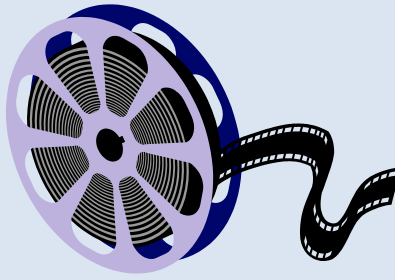
For over ten years the NSW FAMM clubs south of Sydney have conducted biannual meetings and a part of these meetings' agenda was the viewing of videos produced in response to a challenge set at the previous meeting. These challenges, over the years, took many forms; they were videos made by individual club members or club teams to a theme, a word or a phrase, a script and even required the inclusion of specified objects. No matter how the club challenge was set, the purpose was always the same; to encourage members to improve their movie making skills and to stimulate their creativity. Having attended almost all the meetings over the last decade, I have observed a steady and remarkable improvement in the movie making abilities of our clubs and their members. During this period, although many of the videos produced have been shared between the clubs, there have been only limited discussions or critiques of these videos at these meetings. It was initially suggested that these video challenges be undertaken in the spirit of fun and creativity and not be forged in the heat of competition fervour.

Now it has been suggested that this entrenched biannual club movie making challenge be transformed into a biannual, inter-club competition with judging conducted at each meeting and a perpetual trophy be awarded to the winning club until the next meeting. Competitions are great motivators. They can focus the collective minds of club members. They can bring out the best in individuals and teams. They can also, depending on the judging process, reduce video critiques to an audience appeal vote. The need to win can also direct members to make only certain genres; those that have high audience appeal. Experimental genres and movies made to inform not entertain are less likely to be made in this competitive environment. So there are positives and negatives whichever way the clubs vote on the establishment of a competition.

Whatever the result of the vote, what should not be lost is the need for more discussion and critique of the movies we show at these meetings. It seems that politeness in the past has limited conversations to such 'safe areas' as "how we made it" or "what was the equipment we used" or "what we learned from the exercise." Though these are all good discussion points, we need to give the author(s) of these videos better quality feedback. We need to provide comments on such matters as; did the movie successfully achieve its purpose? Was the story or argument successfully developed? Did the sound track and images embody the mood of the movie? Was the editing creative or merely competent? Did the sound track contribution enhance the movie or let it down?

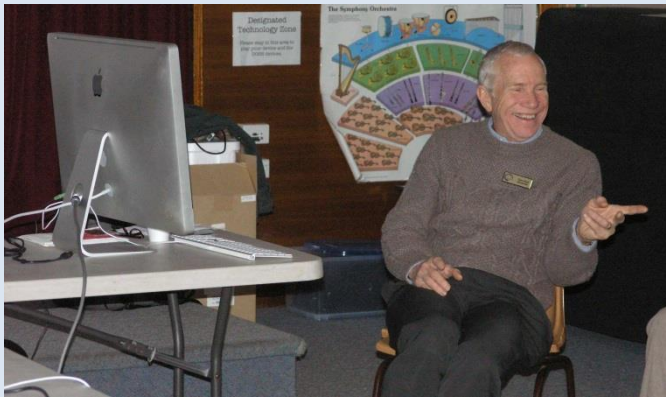
Good quality, constructive critique is not the same as sniping criticism or uninformed opinion. Imagine how devastating it could be if you spent two years making a film only to have the critics say, "Setting to one side the obligatory, contemptible music, the film never decisively makes up its mind what it's after .." or "Dull, overlong and coldly impersonal". None of these statements of opinion are genuine constructive feedback. There is no "why" nor "how it could be improved." I recently prepared a draft video which I showed at our club meeting and asked members for suggestions for improving it. After two viewings of the video, I received many useful suggestions which I incorporated in the final version. Some of these suggestions inspired me to other improvements, a snowballing effect, leading to a better version of the video than I had at the rough edit stage.

So competition or not, at our Combined Club Meetings can we have two viewings of each video with genuine critiquing of the video so that the author(s) can learn from their peers and so can improve?



Last Month at the Club

3rd September 2015



The topic of the first meeting in September was a workshop on editing videos. Tom Hunt conducted the meeting and drew the audience of 13 members and 1 visitor in a recent project that he and Noel Gibson were involved in. The project was to make a video about the life of Greg Dennis. As good editing always depends on good preparation, Tom began his presentation by going through the

steps needed to get good footage of the interview with Greg. Knowing what you want to achieve with your movie was top on Tom's list of things to do. To know the story you want to tell often requires you to do some prior research and prepare some notes to guide you in



the interview. On a more personal note, Tom remarked that at the start of the interview Greg was very nervous but as the interview progressed he relaxed and that when completely at ease he offered more and more information. The initial nervousness was in spite of Tom having met him during their art classes.

Tom then discussed how many cameras are needed for an interview as more than one increases the editing time. Both Tom and Noel settled on using two cameras; one which ran continuously and a second to get different angles. Both cameras were set on tripods. Other comments Tom made of the interview were the benefits from letting the interviewee "roll on"

and not interrupting the flow. Also the challenge was not to ask direct questions that require simple “yes”, “no” answers but rephrase in such a way as, “Tell me about ...” Both focus and audio levels were set manually so as to avoid distracting variations from the automatic systems “pumping”.

On the editing of an interview, Tom discussed if and where background music might be added. Also the length of the edited interview was discussed with the length depending on the final audience; 5 to 6 minutes for a general audience and up to one hour for the family.

After the coffee / tea break, Tom gave the intimations; the next meeting would on the topic, “How do you do that?” a sharing of information on the more technical side of movie making.

1st October meeting will be the One Minute Video Night.

9th October is the Bunnings BBQ for fund raising for the club.

10th October is the Combined Clubs Meeting – hoisted by us. The proposed agenda developed by Tom follows this section.

15th October is the deadline for VOTY entries. Also we plan to draft out the programme for next year.

The evening was then completed by the screening of two videos:

- 1) The rough edit of our Combined Clubs entry; *The Last Word*, and
- 2) Peter Brown showed some initial footage shot with his *Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera*.

The Last Word video was critiqued by the members and provided the editor with some valuable suggestions on how to improve the video.

17th September 2015

Text and Photograph by Ann & John Devenish

The mid month meeting featured Max Davies and his journey. Fourteen members accompanied him on the ups and downs of his life in the Movie Makers.

In 2005 when Max joined, his equipment consisted of a Sony Hi8 Camcorder accompanied by a new Dell Desktop Computer. Editing was achieved using Premiere Elements 1.

From early beginnings he picked up the pace and won VOTY in 2007 with Whistlefield.

However water damage, while on assignment in Wollongong, saw the demise of his trusty Sony Camcorder. A Panasonic GS 400 was the solution. No change of computer or editing programme was necessary.



A steady output of top quality videos showed his skills in video production; **Whistlefield**; **A Boat, A Woman and a Dream**; and **The Hills of Wildes Meadow** not to mention travel and documentaries followed. He thanked several members of the club for helping through the rough patches with uncooperative software.

After seven years HD presented Max with a fork in the road; to continue on with SD or upgrade not only his camera but computer and editing Ap. This was a time for significant decision.

Max took advice from members and finally a decision was made ... onwards and upwards.

The purchase of a new Sony CX900 Camcorder along with a new purpose built computer started his HD journey. Fortunately Max had a complementary editing programme, Power Director 11, from the FAMM Convention 2012; this completed the changeover to HD. Unfortunately his new equipment was on standby until projects started with his old gear were completed.

Max then raised the question of archiving. Many opinions were contributed with the outcome being inconclusive. Mentioned were HDD, SSD Thumb Drives, DVD, BD; all with questionable life spans and ability/non ability to be accessed. The newish DVD-M has great potential but needs a BD burner capable of dealing with DVD-M.

Max finished his presentation with the premiere of **The Life Of Colin**, a pigeon fancier, made using his new equipment.

After supper two films from the UK were viewed.

Hope, about the manufacture and fitting of artificial limbs in Asia.

Followed by **Birdwatching with Priscilla**, a doco in the style of the forties.



WOLLONGONG CAMERA CLUB

MOVIE MAKERS

22nd Combined Clubs' Meeting – Figtree 10th Oct 2015

For members and visitors of ACT Video Camera Club, Milton Ulladulla Video Club, Shoalhaven Movie & Multi Media Group, and Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers
With a special invite to members of Sydney Video Makers Club and Southwest Video Club (Sydney)
at **FIGTREE HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL HALL**
driveway entrance from Lewis Drive, opposite Mary Ave, Figtree

On Saturday 10th October 2015

9:30 am Arrive for a cuppa and chat

9:50 am "The wonders of wildlife and macro videography"
Be inspired by the fantastic footage of renowned videographer, photographer and author, Nic van Oudtshoorn (Associate of the Royal Photographic Society)

10:40 am Morning tea

11:00 am "The technology for wildlife and macro videography"
Get the low down on the "Red" camera, Magic Lantern, 4K resolution, macro, slow-mo, and other technology and techniques used by Nic van Oudtshoorn

11:40 am "Telling engaging stories – scripts, teams and the obstacles we all face!" Ruskin Spiers, president of SVMC shows how small teams work so well, and gives an inspiring view of the activities and strategies of Sydney Video Makers Club.

12:30 pm Lunch

1:20 pm Show and tell – a quick look at your favourite new gadget

1:30 pm FAMM update

1:40 pm CCM planning and discussion on MUVIC's Challenge Video Award proposal

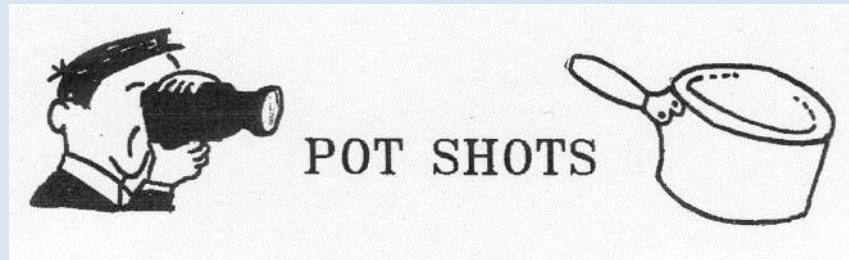
2:00 pm The Challenge Videos - we get to view and review each clubs productions on this meeting's theme of "Over the edge"

3:00 pm Afternoon tea

3:30 pm We wish you a safe trip home



Photography of Nic van Oudtshoorn



Ultra High Definition VideoDoes Anyone Care?

This is a good question with no clear answer ...yet. Is this technology for technology's sake? Or is it as important an advancement as when we moved from VHS tape to DVDs? We all quickly dispensed with our collection of VHS tapes, only to replace them with a shiny disc collection. But things are different now; we collect songs and movies not on individual physical media but on solid state memory or

drives or computers or personal media recorders. Our songs and movies are stored in highly compressed forms which champion convenience over quality. For example, we have become accustomed to listening to the restricted frequency range of a mp3 recording and have forgotten that a 40 year old vinyl record can have a higher frequency response and hence be a better listening experience. But it is much easier to listen to music via your phone than to carry around a portable LP player, assuming you could find one that works.



So in this era, where we are gradually moving our movies from physical media such as DVDs and Blu-ray discs to files, it is interesting that the Blu-ray Association has issued Ultra HD licences which include the production of physical Ultra Blu-ray discs. Why you may ask? The answer lies in the better quality, image wise, that potentially an Ultra Blu-ray disc can offer. Its bit rate is a maximum of 108 Mbps compared to streaming media which at best can reach 50

Mbps but only averages about 16 Mbps. So will its better quality sell the Ultra Blu-ray disc much like it did for the DVD in the latter's early years? That is no longer a positive "yes" as quality, both image and sound, is not only in the realm of the person's perception but also in the type of equipment the person is using. For example the 4 times greater resolution offered by Ultra High Definition (also called 4K) can only be best appreciated if viewed on a large TV screen. Similarly there are other advancements built into the Ultra High Definition Blu-ray standard that even 4K TVs made less than a year ago cannot reproduce. Such is the pace of change in the 4K world.

So what does the new Ultra Blu-ray standard promise?

- 1) Firstly, and most obviously, a 4 times increase in resolution to 3840 by 2160 pixels.
- 2) An increase in colours and a smoother graduation between colours as the technology moves from the current 8 bit graduation to a 10 bit graduation.
- 3) High dynamic range means a broader brightness range will be displayed on the TV screen which will be seen in such observations as "richer textures".
- 4) Will support frame rates up to 60 fps.
- 5) To fit all this data on a Blu-ray disc will require at least a double layer disc (66GB) with the possibility of going to a tri-layer disc (100GB).

What the commercial world is toying with now is will the Ultra Blu-ray disc get general acceptance or will it only become a niche market? What are your thoughts on that? To read more on Ultra Blu-ray:

<http://www.trustedreviews.com/opinions/what-is-ultra-hd-blu-ray>

2015 Programme

Date	Meeting Agenda	Place	Responsible Member
October 1	Viewing of One Minute Movies & evaluation	School Hall	Max Davies
October 10	Combined Clubs Meeting – Hosted by WCCMM – Movie Project “Over the Edge”	School Hall	Tom Hunt
October 15	Q&A – Decide next year’s programme and last chance to entry VOTY 2015	School Hall	Ann Devenish & Ian Simpson
November 5	Guest Speaker	School Hall	Ian Wilson
November 19	Quadcopter Demo & Video Night	School Hall	Brian Harvey
December 3	Gala Evening – viewing entries in VOTY 2015	School Hall	Tom Hunt
December 8	Annual Dinner & Awards Night	TBA	All

Colour Code: Normal Monthly Meeting Extra Monthly Meeting Special Meeting



“The Last Word” shoot: clockwise from top left: The Stars, John the Soundman, Ann’s lunch, Chris the cameraman,.