



# WOLLONGONG CAMERA CLUB INC. MOVIE MAKERS

**April 2018**

## ***66 YEARS of the FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN MOVIE MAKERS***



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The Club's new Website: <http://wollongong.myphotoclub.com.au/>

Movie Makers' News &

Views: <https://wccmmmaterial.wordpress.com/>

Movie Makers' Members' Video

Catalogue: <https://wccmmmaterial.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/video-catalogue-by-year.pdf>

Movie Makers' Facebook Page:

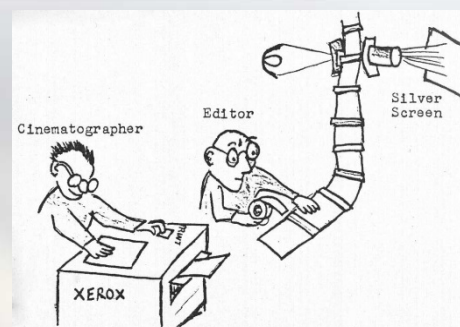
<https://www.facebook.com/wccmoviemakers/>

# **MAKE MOVIES MAKE FRIENDS**



## FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

by Ian Simpson



The fade out of FAMM will no doubt inspire many recollections from those intimately involved with its organisation and its biennial conventions. For the rest of us, the members of the affiliated clubs, we may not appreciate what we have lost until after the first of May this year. We may only recognise two or three activities associated with FAMM: namely, the convention, the AF&V newsletter and the insurance coverage organised for the clubs.

I first became aware of FAMM when I joined Wollongong Movie Makers in 1977. This was a cine club and like many other cine clubs, it did not make the transition to video. As we had a young family and the ubiquitous mortgage, money was tight, Super 8 film was expensive and so film cartridges were saved for family birthdays, Christmas and the annual holiday. No money was spare for other filmmaking endeavours. Likewise the biennial conventions over Easter were also beyond the budget of this young family. Our holidays were always more modest camping holidays.

So the only aspect of FAMM I could relate to was the magazine; initially *Australian Movie World*, then snippets incorporated in the then dominate Sydney Club, the Australian Amateur Cine Society, newsletter the *Movie News* and finally in the form of again a separate magazine, the *Australian Film and Video*. The pages of these magazines told the story of a multi-club world of which WMM was just a small cog. These pages also introduced me to the key people in FAMM over the years.

It was only in 1987 when Gary Peterson took over as editor of the newly floated *AF&V* magazine and asked for contributions that I got involved. I supplied a few articles and eventually got my own "column" of "Pot Shots." I have only attended three conventions; one of which our club organised; so conventions for me were only a late FAMM experience. A chance to put faces to those names I had read about in the pages of *AF&V*.

After the first of May only *AF&V* will remain; the last active organ of a 66 year old organisation, FAMM. It will remain as an organ of communication between people who love the hobby of movie making. So we need to cherish it and support it, lest it also fades out.

I have already witnessed a club literally die out. The cause is often failure to adapt to change. First FAACS and then its transformation into FAMM have survived a number of "disruptive" events before; Super 8, Video and the internet being the three most destructive. The social upheaval wrought by social media seems to have called time on organised clubs. Organisation and communication has become more immediate. No need for monthly meetings; just Google it if you do not know something and use *Facebook* to talk to other likeminded people.

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# LAST MONTH at the CLUB

## *6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 Club Meeting Minutes by Max Davies*

The meeting once again was held in the rooms of Dr. Chris Dunn at 368 Crown Street Wollongong.

**Present:** Just two members were present, Chris Dunn and Max Davies. Other members were away holidaying in this wonderful world of ours.

**Business:** From the previous meeting, Max reported to Bruce Shaw that Stacy Harrison was not in possession of the VOTY trophy. Bruce to follow up on the whereabouts of the trophy.

**Works in Progress:** Max shared that a friend of Stacy Harrison took some drone video of the farm where Max was endeavouring to produce a movie about alpacas. Max was disappointed in the quality of the drone video clips. Chris discovered that the clips were recorded in 4K. Chris was able to convert the clips down to 1920 x 1080 thus making the clips suitable for Max's video.

Chris then screened an old video of his entitled "Birds in my Backyard". It was felt that it would be a suitable contribution for the next combined Clubs meeting with the suggested theme of "feathers". Max shared that several of his movies would also be suitable. It was decided to leave selecting the movies till the April meeting.

**Tutorial:** Chris then played a tutorial on "the importance of manual focus" when producing videos. The tutorial demonstrated the advantages of using manual focus and the use of "peaking". The tutorial also demonstrated the advantages of using a production monitor rather than relying on the camcorder's smaller LCD monitor.

**Conclusion:** Though few in number the meeting was worthwhile and enlightening for those that attended. The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm.

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at a location to be announced.

## *Up there in Dawson City with Ann & John*

After experiencing low negative temperatures in Dawson City, Yukon Canada, John & Ann are now in the midst of the "Thaw Di Gras". In Canada's north they do some strange things such as "Lipsynch," which John describes as "Karaoke on steroids" at the casino; snowshoe baseball; street hockey and dog sledding.



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# ***Federation of Australian Movie Makers***



**1952 -2018**



***As recorded in the pages of its magazines***

Technically FAMM was an organisation of clubs, but clubs are made up of people. Thus FAMM over the years has been an expression of the efforts, the enthusiasm and the visions of many people. Their thoughts, hopes and achievements are documented in the pages of the many magazines it supported over the decades. These magazines were:

January 1977 to November/December 1979 - the *Australian Movie World*.

March 1984 to August 1986 - *Australian Film & Video* incorporated in *Movie News*, the newsletter of the Australian Amateur Cine Society (AACS).

March 1987 to May 1994 - *Australian Film & Video* as a printed magazine.

Spring 2008 to present - *Australian Film & Video* as a electronic magazine

## ***Origin of the Foundation***

From the pages of these many magazines we can trace the present FAMM back to its origins as the Federation of Australian Amateur Cine Societies {FAACS}. Contrary to two articles in *Movie News* in April 1987 and September 1988, which attributed the origin of FAACS to NSW clubs in the late 1950s, the real story was been told many times of how one Federation inspired the formation of another.

As Brian Bennett explained in the November issue of *AF&V* in 1991; "In 1951 the Commonwealth (of Australia) ran a Jubilee Film Competition to celebrate the 50 years since Federation. The winning films and others were shown at Olinda as part of the Olinda Film Festival organised by the Victorian Federation of Film Societies" on Australia Day weekend in 1952. Olinda is a township in the Dandenong Ranges about 35 kms east of Melbourne.



**Brian Bennett**

As Brian further explained, "An invitation was extended to the Victorian Amateur Cine Society to take part on behalf of the cine amateurs of Australia. Although there had been sporadic talk of an Australian cine federation, nothing concrete had come of it." The story of the formation of the Federation was detailed in the December 1984 issue of *Movie News* of AACS when discussing the passing of Brian Bennett. Alan Bresnahan related that Brian, "As secretary



**Alan Bresnahan**

of the Victorian Amateur Cine Society in 1951, he was responsible for contacting interstate and local movie clubs with the view of them supporting the Olinda Film

Festival.”

The VACS offered to pay the enrolment expenses of one delegate (£5-5-0) per club. As a result 38 attended from 9 clubs or societies and were housed at Harewood Guest House. After many late nights after the film screenings, the Federation was born. Later at the Perth convention in 1972, for his services in helping 9 clubs get together, Brian was referred to as “The Father of Federation.”

### ***Origin of the Easter Convention***

Another story from that first get together of the cine clubs and societies was how the first convention was decided. As Brian Bennett relates it in *AF&V* in November 1991, “Names of the states were placed in a camera bag and that of Queensland was pulled out. Alf Bartlett (delegate with Len Pass) had previously stated that the next convention if held in Queensland would be at Easter – ‘The time is longer and the weather is better.’” So began the tradition of conventions over Easter. Another decision made in 1952 was that, “the conventions would circulate clockwise around the state capitals.”

### ***A Name Change***

At the Perth convention in 1984, the name of the Federation was changed from the Federation of Australian Amateur Cine Societies to the Federation of Australian Movie Makers, effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1984. As stated in *Movie News* June 1984, “The removal of the word ‘CINE’ is a welcome sign to video, the change in name was almost unanimous. With a new image in the making, I trust all Clubs and Societies will endeavour to increase membership in film and video.”

This name change did inspire clubs to look at their own names too. In *AF&V* May 1987, the Queensland Movie Makers were celebrating their 50 year anniversary, starting back in 1937 as the Queensland Amateur Cine Society = “in the days when ‘amateur’ did not mean ‘second rate.’”

In the March issue of *AF&V* in 1987, when the FAMM subscription was \$1 per member, the Tasmanian Amateur Cine society changed its name to the Tasmanian Movie Makers and Ivanhoe Movie & Video Club announced their new name.

Another motivation to change a club or society’s name to include video ( or drop the exclusiveness of cine), other than for increased membership, was that in October 1991, Kodak closed the Melbourne Processing Laboratory for film and K40 film had to be sent on to Dallas for processing; a three week turn around at best. Also in 1992 Kodak stopped selling Standard 8 mm film.



— Photo "Cinepix"



### ***The formation of the State Divisions***

In the July issue of *Australian Movie World* in 1978, Allen Wilson explained, "The disadvantage of having the executive move from state to state and a two year period between conventions led to the formation of State Divisions of the Federation with the aim of providing closer and more frequent contact between clubs. Where such Divisions are active they have led to lively inter-club meetings and mini-conventions."

### ***Past Challenges Faced by FAMM***

In *Australian Movie World*, January 1977, Trevor Letty, then President of FAACS, highlighted what he saw as a problem with the current executive structure, "there has been no continuity in the Federal Executive itself." Trevor saw that, "The Federation must grow and change from within to the benefit of those who currently ascribe some value to it and to the additional benefit of the vast majority who don't. This can come about only if we first introduce some thread of continuity to the elected executive."

At the Brisbane convention in 1994 (AF&V May 1994) under the topic *Future Directions* it was discussed that two committees be formed – "one to run the Federation and one to organise the convention." This was recognition that the running of the Federation was more than just organising a biennial convention.

#### *Wollongong Camera Club 1944 to 2018 – Video in the 1980s*

Then in *Movie News* August 1985, Merv Cahill from AACCS, which was the oldest cine society in Australia and the third oldest in the world (*Movie News* May 1986), described the 'crises' that had been faced and met; "Over the last thirty years the amateur movie making fraternity have been confronted with three major crises. Two of them we have learnt to cope with, the discontinuance of 9.5mm and the advent of Super 8mm." But Merv said there was a new crisis to be confronted; "Now we have to deal with the third, possibly the greatest threat yet to our hobby - TV/Video, but we will master it - we will survive by working with it."

### ***The Faces behind the Pages***

We are probably aware of the current members who have devoted a considerable amount of their free time to help support and direct FAMM over recent years; be they Treasurers, Secretaries, Divisional Directors or Presidents. Since the change from Easter conventions with its clockwise rotation about the country, there has been increased stress placed on the executive and especially the President to find a club to host the biennial convention. So you would have Presidents visiting clubs to personally encourage their support, as Ron Gregson did with WMM; or the President would nominate his own club as Mark Tunningley did; or almost organise the whole convention yourself as Laurie Chesterfield did. These people we can say thanks to, but there many others in past decades that also deserve to be once more remembered for their service.



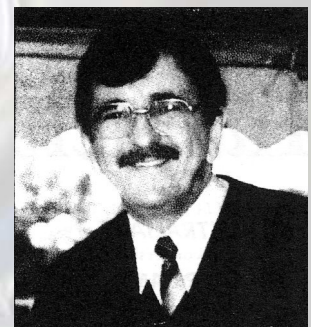
One that stands out is Barbara Fuller, the first female president of FAMM 1987 to 1988, and Vice-President 1994-6. Her achievements were listed in *AF&V* May 1994; she was State President of the NSW Division of FAMM for seven years; 5 terms as President of AACS; 21 years as Director of the Australian International Film Festival and 2 years as President of the International Film & Video Festival.

Another from the cine days who was every influential through his writings and advocacy for the magazine, *Australian Movie World* was Trevor Letty. Trevor was born in Pinner, north-west of London and emigrated to Australia in 1963 with his wife Joan and three children. Trevor joined the AACS and when he went to Canberra he was instrumental in the formation of the Canberra Movie Makers. He was President of FAACS from 1976 to 1978.



Trevor Letty as his pseudonym Ben Treale

There is one name that was around in the cine days, saw the transition to video and has been the editor of two versions of *AF&V*, the printed version and the electronic version; that name is Gary Peterson. Originally a member of the Newcastle & Hunter Valley Cine Society since 1978, Gary was a founding member of Newcastle Video Makers.



Gary Peterson

There are many other long serving members of FAMM mentioned in the pages of its magazines. Many like Jim Dunn and Merv Cahill were the dominate leaders both in their clubs and in the Federation. Merv was the President of FAMM, 1986, Chairman of the Honours Committee in 1986 and still found time to help guide AACS. Jim was Vic-President of FAMM in 1994, member of the NSW Division of FAMM for many years, took over from Arch Day as Executive Purchasing Officer, was president for many years of Bankstown Movie Makers and a member of Cronulla Movie Makers.

Many other members are mentioned in FAMM's magazines for both their skills and their service. Such as Max Judd who was awarded a Fellowship FAMM in recognition of his "contribution to the skills in the movie making arena." However, for most readers of these magazines Max will be remembered for his witty and insightful cartoons. Then there were the outstanding films of Joe Laughton who was also a good DOP, directing 14 cameras in a shoot of a murder-thriller at the NSW mini-convention in 1977 (*AMW* Jan-Feb 1978).



Max Judd cartoon

There are many more people mentioned in these pages, but space does not permit their mention nor their recognition, but FAMM would not have made it to 66 years without them.

## ***The Biennial Conventions***

Gary Peterson in *AF&V* May 1991, tackled the question of the biennial FAMM Convention. He began by giving the *Collins Dictionary* version of convention: "calling together, assembly." Then he gave a tongue in cheek version; "A calling together of many, who singularly cannot achieve a certain objective, but as a group they agree nothing can be done," before giving his definition of a "reunion of people with a like interest and a chance to exchange on our hobby of movie making through the exchange of ideas." The FAMM conventions over the decades were probably at one time or another embraced all of the above mentioned attributes.

## ***Format Change and Name Changes***

At the Perth convention in 1984, members recognised that movie making was undergoing a fundamental change in format. The cine days would be numbered and video movie making was the future. Those cine clubs that did not accept this reality, as MEMC reported in *AF&V* February 1991, "are tending to become more and more cosy meeting places for old friends, some of which no longer made films." Many clubs followed the lead of the Perth convention and embraced videomakers. In *AF&V* May 1987, Queensland movie makers reported that, "Yes, we do encourage video movie making and for the past two years our internal competitions have been open to movies made on both film and video tape." Even Australia's oldest cine society, AACS, as reported in *Movie News* May 1986, provided facilities for video members in 1982.

Although the Perth Convention initiative was clear, for its clubs the name change added to the confusion of the time. As Bob Cook wrote in *AF&V* May 1993, there were numerous names to pick from, ' "Video camera club", "Camcorder club", "Moviemakers club", "Movie and Video club", "Film and Video club", and "Video club". - as well as the old film and cine clubs. So does this mean that video clubs don't use film, camcorder clubs don't use video cameras, filmmaker clubs don't make videos, and of course video camera clubs don't use camcorders ???' No wonder the Federation kept its new name as simple as "Movie Makers".

However, the transformation to video was a slow process, as Gary Peterson reported in *AF&V* November 1992, "The majority of clubs are sticking to the cine theme and lightly brushing on video." But by the convention in Brisbane in 1994, entries in the Five Best competition started to show a leaning to video. Of the 50 entries, 31 were video and strikingly of the top ten movies, 8 were videos.

### ***Founding Clubs or Societies of the Federation in 1952***

Australian Amateur Cine Society, Adelaide Filmo Club, Ormond Movie Club, Western Australian Cine Society, Queensland Amateur Cine Society, Tasmanian Amateur Cine Society, South Australian Amateur Cine Society, Melbourne 8mm Movie Club, and Victorian Amateur Cine Society

### **Clubs / Societies in FAACS / FAMM**

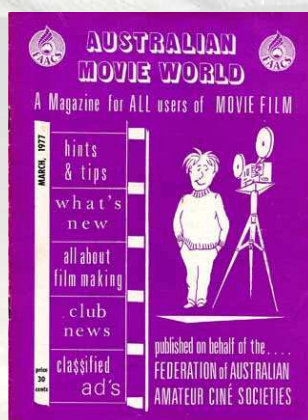
Year	Total No Clubs	QLD	NSW	ACT	VIC	SA	WA	TAS
1979	32							
1984	34	5	8	1	11	4	3	2
1992	27	2	8		11	3	1	2
2008	26	5	8	1	6	1	2	3
2018	18	3	7		5	1	1	1



# 2018 Programme

Date	Meeting Agenda	Place	Responsible Member
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<i>Holiday Movie Night</i>  <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot – Review team activities</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	
17 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Videomaker DVDs – Capturing and Preparing good Sound – Members bring along examples of good &amp; bad sound recordings to discuss</i>  <i>Members Videos – Hot Spot – Review of team activities</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	
1 <sup>st</sup> May	<i>Review of Team Activities</i>  <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot – Review team activities</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	
5 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Combined Clubs Meeting- Milton Ulladulla Bowling Club</i>		
15 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Videomaker DVDs – Creative Editing – Members bring along examples of good editing or problems they have experienced.</i>  <i>Members Videos – Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	
5 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>Mid-Year Competition – One to Two Minute videos on “Animals”</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>JD</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	<i>You be the Judge – A Workshop to develop skills in reviewing videos</i>  <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot – Review team activities</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>IS</i>
7 <sup>th</sup> August	<i>One Minute Movie Night – Topic is WINTER</i>  <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot – Review team activities</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>JD</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> September	<i>One to Two Minute Movie Night – Topic is ILLAWARRA</i>  <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot – Review team activities</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	

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



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Wollongong Camera Club 1944 to 2018 – Video in the 2010s