

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*from*



**WOLLONGONG  
CAMERA CLUB  
INC.  
MOVIE MAKERS**

**75** EST 1944  
YEARS



**December 2019**

# **MOVIE MAKERS NEWSLETTER**

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**Movie Makers' Facebook Page:**

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

**20 YEARS**



This current Newsletter replaced a previous Club publication called **VIEWFINDER** that existed in the latter years of the twentieth century. The first issue of the current newsletter appeared in April 2000 on an A5 sized page. Copies of the Newsletter were photocopied from the original master, assembled and handed out to members at the monthly Club meetings. The February 2002 issue saw the first colour picture to appear in the Newsletter and as home colour printers had become an economic reality, the Newsletter was from then on printed on a home colour printer.



The next change was in March 2002 when the Newsletter went out for the first time in electronic form as an email to Club members already on the internet. The November 2004 saw the A4 page size replace the A5 size format. This change was in recognition that almost all members were now receiving the Newsletter as an email rather than as a booklet.

In June 2007, with the 75<sup>th</sup> issue, a more colourful layout was adopted as a digital newsletter.

Finally from December 2016 issue, hyperlinks were introduced to allow more ready access to the different sections of the newsletter.

As the 100<sup>th</sup> issue was reached in the tenth year, I had hoped to reach the 200<sup>th</sup> issue this year. However, the travelling bug put an end to that and so this issue is the 186<sup>th</sup>.

## **MEMORABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND EVENTS IN THE LAST 20 YEARS**

### **Artistically - The Dynamic Movie Making Duo – Elizabeth & Brian McCauley**

With their best Video of the Year for 2003, *Cormorant Fishing at Guilin*, Brian & Liz McCauley cemented their position as the early premiere videomakers of our Club. For four years (2000 to 2003) in a row this dynamic duo dominated the Video of the Year competition.

### **The Most Successful Movie Maker**

Max Davies is the Club's most successful movie maker, winning the Video of the Year competition 9 times in the last 13 years. This is an extraordinary achievement and also a feat of endurance, for many of Max's movies take considerable time to complete, as he is often chasing the seasons to get the right shot.

### **The Most Successful Audio-Visual Maker was a Team.**

Since the re-introduction of A/Vs in 2013, the Shaw team of Bruce and Sue, either individually or together have won every year.

## ***Organisation & Guidance***

The elder statesmen of the group are its founding fathers Tom Hunt and Brian Harvey and keeper of the purse, Don Estell. Tom guided the group from its Audio/Visual beginnings into a fully functioning video movie making group and has become the longest serving leader of the group with various stints as chairman. Tom was also responsible for the Movie Makers Group having a presence on Facebook, created in 2015. Brian provided the technical guidance as the hobby became more computer based and guided the Club through some difficult times and introduced the current form of the Club's website. Don for a number of years kept the Club on an even financial keel. The other steady guiding hand on the group was John Devenish who served as leader for 9 years from 2005 to 2013.

## ***Promotion, Education and Community Involvement***

Since assuming the position of Movie Makers Chairman in 2005 John Devenish has expanded the group's activities. In 2006 he embarked on a yearlong education programme which included the production of 9 booklets. Beginning in 2007 John got the members involved making videos for community groups and to date 19 activities have been covered by members (see following table). Then in February 2009 John headed a team that ran a 4 week Starters Course that attracted 44 interested members of the public of which, because of limited space, 21 attended the course.

Innovation has been a key hallmark of John's tenure as chairman. Aside from his promotion of community activities, John, with the help of Ruskin Spiers from Sydney Video Makers Group, introduced an online, paperless video judging system for our club competitions in late 2015. After setting up the Club's own YouTube channel in 2010, in 2015 John created an online catalogue of members' videos on Vimeo going back to the dark ages when videos were produced on tape formats.

Then in his already restricted spare time, John in 2006 designed the Movie Makers T-shirt, later helped clarify the competitions rules and oversaw the running of the two annual video competitions. Also with the help of Tom Hunt, he revitalised the Movie Makers Facebook page so as to drum up interest in the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019.

## ***Experimental & Innovation***

Rob Van Petersen led the way in software trialling, widescreen videos and his well-made videos often using a unique approach. Elizabeth & Brian McCauley with their Casablanca, an all in one box digital editing equipment, introduced many members to the digital revolution. Tom Hunt showed us PC users the other side of the computer world, with his iMac computer and iMovie editing software. Whilst the late Keith Brooks brought all his considerable experience of movie making in the cine era to videomaking and so guided many of us with his humour and encouragement.

We, all in the last 20 years, have changed how we produced our entries for the annual competitions. Firstly we recorded our videos on VHS or SVHS tape, then it was on DVDs, then on a USB drive and now it can be via the internet and our own personal Vimeo site.

The viewing of our videos has also changed over the years; from a 29 inch cathode-ray tube TV to a HD projector. We have gone from viewing movies in a home-like environment to that of a cinema environment with a large screen presentation of our videos. Thus all our movies have benefited from this better presentation.

THE PRODUCTION PROCESS  PART 0  <b>INTRODUCTION TO 2006</b>
THE POST PRODUCTION PROCESS  8  <b>EDITING GUIDELINES FOR VIDEO</b>

Organisation/Production Link	Year Produced	Video Length	MMCrew Size
Seniors Week Demonstration Show-reel	2005	15 Mins	NA
Expo Video for Volunteering Illawarra <a href="https://vimeo.com/144086724">https://vimeo.com/144086724</a>	2007	3 mins	3
Mount Kembla Festival Committee <a href="https://vimeo.com/144087972">https://vimeo.com/144087972</a>	2007	12 mins	2
SCARF (Refugee organisation promo) <a href="https://vimeo.com/148972919">https://vimeo.com/148972919</a>	2008	3 mins	2
Illawarra Canoe Club 'Ocean Race' <a href="https://vimeo.com/144051797">https://vimeo.com/144051797</a>	2008	10 mins	7
Illawarra Canoe Club Marathon <u>2008</u> <a href="https://vimeo.com/144053229">https://vimeo.com/144053229</a>	2008	9 mins	6
North Wollongong & City Surf Clubs. 'Centenary of Surfing' <a href="https://vimeo.com/275456737">https://vimeo.com/275456737</a>	2008	9 mins	6
North Wollongong & City Surf Clubs. 'Centenary Statue Installation' <a href="https://vimeo.com/148972185">https://vimeo.com/148972185</a>	2008	9 mins	3
Illawarra Live Steamers - Safety video. <a href="https://vimeo.com/144053230">https://vimeo.com/144053230</a>	2008	4 mins	5
Video Making 'Basic Beginners Short Course' with 21 attending	2009	8 hours	NA
Illawarra Canoe Club Marathon	2009	2 mins	5
SCARF 'African Women's Sewing Circle'	2009	6 mins	2
Illawarra Riding for the Disabled Promo/History <a href="https://vimeo.com/275451850">https://vimeo.com/275451850</a>	2009	12 mins	3
Wollongong Workshop Theatre. With special needs performers.	2009	2 hours	4
A Midsummer Night's Dream' a four camera shoot			
SCARF 'Freedom from Fear Concert'	2010	78 mins	2
IPAC Drama Studio interaction with Green Screen exercise	2010	Hours?	14
Illawarra Historical Society. 'The Upstairs Rooms' <a href="https://vimeo.com/145750508">https://vimeo.com/145750508</a>	2010	11 mins	5
Proposed 'Volunteering Illawarra' Promo	2011	3-6 mins	3

Table Reference: 75 Years Through the Lens: 1944 – 2019, Wollongong Camera Club Inc, 2019

**VOTY WINNERS 1999 to 2019**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
1999	<i>Flying Porcupine</i>	Ian Simpson
2000	<i>SILK</i>	Liz & Brian McCauley
2001	<i>The Yangtze River</i>	Liz & Brian McCauley
2002	<i>Pot Luck</i>	Liz & Brian McCauley
2003	<i>Cormorant Fishing at Guilin</i>	Liz & Brian McCauley
2004	<i>Snapshots in Time</i>	Ian Simpson
2005	<i>Walks in the Warra</i>	Ann Devenish
2006	<i>The Lady of Shalott</i>	Annick Gouw
2007	<i>Whistlefield</i>	Max Davies
2008	<i>Veras Cap</i>	Warren Flinn
2009	<i>Superstition</i>	Annick Gouw
2010	<i>Tumut</i>	Max Davies
2011	<i>Products of a Pine Plantation</i>	Max Davies
2012	<i>The Hills of Wildes Meadow</i>	Max Davies
2013	<i>The Absurd Fear</i>	Ian Simpson
2014	<i>Glenbernie Apple Orchard</i>	Max Davies
2015	<i>Marine Rescue – Port Kembla</i>	Max Davies
2016	<i>The Birds of Wollumboola</i>	Max Davies
2017	<i>Underwood Ark</i>	Stacy Harrison
2018	<i>Storybook Alpacas</i>	Max Davies
2019	<i>The Illawarra</i>	Max Davies

**A/V WINNERS 1999 to 2019**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
2007	<i>A Glimpse of Brisbane</i>	Ann Devenish
2008	<i>Paronella Park</i>	Max Skee
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012		
2013	<i>The West MacDonald Ranges</i>	Bruce Shaw
2014	<i>Belmore Basin</i>	Bruce Shaw
2015	<i>Nhuddgang – The Essence of Life</i>	Bruce Shaw
2016	<i>A Tale of Two Villages</i>	Sue & Bruce Shaw
2017	<i>Kata Tjuta</i>	Bruce & Sue Shaw
2018	<i>Age of Dinosaurs</i>	Bruce & Sue Shaw
2019	<i>Hobbiton An Unexpected Shire</i>	Bruce & Sue Shaw

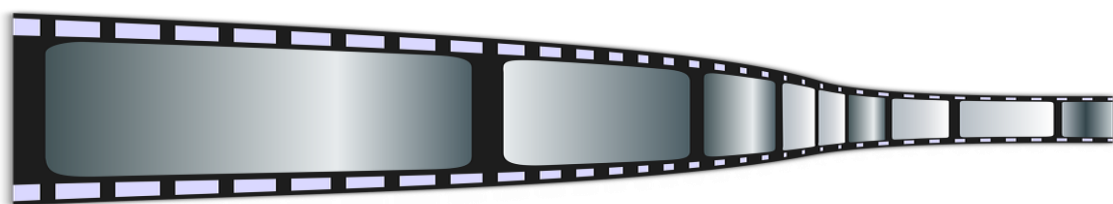
**First Video Shown at the Club**

According to Brian Harvey the first video shown at a Club event occurred at the Annual Dinner in 1991. Hence by the Annual Dinner in 2019, the Movie Makers Group is 28 years old.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AUDIENCE APPEAL on GALA EVENING.</b>	<b>VOTY WINNER (External Judges)</b>
1999	<i>Between the years 1999 to 2007 there were no audience appeal voting.</i>  <i>The VOTY year entries were shown without comment.</i>  <i>The Audience Appeal voting was introduced by John Devenish in the VOTY competition in 2008.</i>	<i>Flying Porcupine</i> by Ian Simpson
2000		<i>SILK</i> by Liz & Brian McCauley
2001		<i>The Yangtze River</i> by Liz & Brian McCauley
2002		<i>Pot Luck</i> by Liz & Brian McCauley
2003		<i>Cormorant Fishing at Guilin</i> by Liz & Brian McCauley
2004		<i>Snapshots in Time</i> by Ian Simpson
2005		<i>Walks in the Warra</i> by Ann Devenish
2006		<i>The Lady of Shalott</i> by Annick Gouw
2007		<i>Whistlefield</i> by Max Davies
2008	<i>Vera's Cap</i> by Warren Flinn	<i>Vera's Cap</i> by Warren Flinn
2009	<i>Lawrence Hargrave Private Hospital</i> by Max Davies	<i>Superstition</i> by Annick Gouw
2010	<i>Turn of the Tide</i> by Ray White	<i>Tumut</i> by Max Davies
2011	<i>Louisavale</i> by Ian Simpson	<i>Products of a Pine Plantation</i> by Max Davies
2012	<i>The Hills of Wildes Meadow</i> by Max Davies	<i>The Hills of Wildes Meadow</i> by Max Davies
2013	<i>The Absurd Fear</i> by Ian Simpson	<i>The Absurd Fear</i> by Ian Simpson
2014	<i>Glenburnie Orchard</i> by Max Davies	<i>Glenburnie Orchard</i> by Max Davies
2015	<i>Smooth Water</i> by Peter Brown	<i>Marine Rescue Port Kembla</i> by Max Davies
2016	<i>The Paint Job</i> by Stacy Harrison	<i>The Birds of Wollumboola</i> by Max Davies
2017	<i>Underwood Ark</i> by Stacy Harrison	<i>Underwood Ark</i> by Stacy Harrison
2018	<i>Storybook Alpacas</i> by Max Davies	<i>Storybook Alpacas</i> by Max Davies
2019	<i>Magpies at Corrie Road</i> by Max Davies	<i>The Illawarra</i> by Max Davies



## Movie Makers



## Through the Last 20 Years

### Beyond 2000

When the first issue of this newsletter appeared in April 2000, our hobby was in transition from the known analogue world to the unknown digital world. For example, the March issue of *Australian VIDEO CAMERA and Desktop Video* listed: one VHS format camcorder, ten VHS-C, one S-VHS, thirteen Video 8 and seven Hi8 camcorders. That is a total of 32 analogue camcorders. In the same listing there were only 27 digital camcorders. The preferred recording medium for the edited video was either VHS or S-VHS tape. In June 2000 the Club bought a new S-VHS tape recorder to show competition entries.



The computer was slowly replacing the edit controller and Video Cassette Recorder of the analogue days. Now horizontal and vertical resolutions are fixed by universal standards (HD and UHD) and not by the manufacturer's knowhow. More importantly to members who regularly entered the Club's competitions, no longer were their competition videos a poorer copy of our original footage.

The hot topic in 2000 was the making of VCDs and SVCDs as guest speaker Gino Spinelli discussed in the August 2000 Club meeting. At that time CDs cost \$3 each and S-VHS tapes cost \$13 to \$26, so there was a cost incentive to try the new optical disc medium. The limitations of the VCD and SVCD formats were evident in Brian McCauley's presentation in June 2002. So many members awaited improvements in technology and lower costs before they moved from tape to authoring their movies on DVD discs. But gradually over the next two years competition entries moved from tape to DVD disc.

However, it was not until July 2004 that changes were made to the Club's by-laws to recognise this change in the display medium.

Panasonic introduced their first DVD recorder in May 2000 and by the end of 2001 it was estimated that there would be 150 million set-top DVD players and DVD-ROM readers.

### Non-Linear Editing Software & Hardware

The year 2000 was also the time when non-linear editing (NLE) systems were starting to replace the linear editing (LE) systems. In the October 2000 newsletter a comparison was made of the pros and cons of the two editing processes. Also in the July Club meeting Tom Hunt showed three new NLE software; *Videowave*, *Premiere* and *Ulead MediaStudio*. The very buggy *Pinnacle Studio DV* was leading the low cost stakes, but as the reviewer in *Australian VIDEOCAMERA and Desktop Video* stated, "The Internet has become



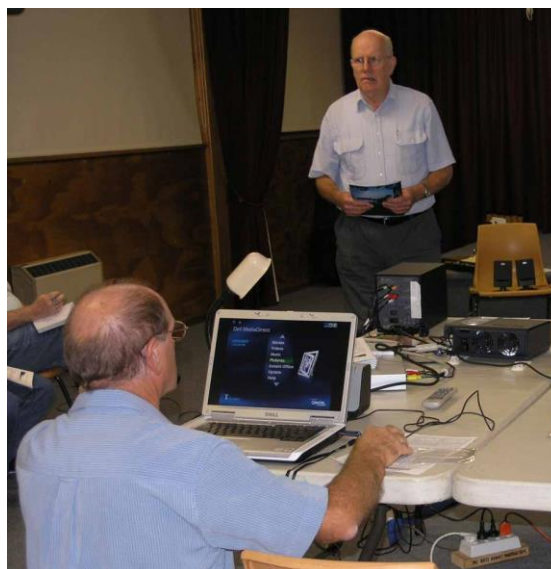
absolutely indispensable" in downloading "bug" fixers for earlier versions of this program.

So not surprisingly 2000 was the year when members used the *Hot Spot* segment of the meetings to display the results of their new NLE systems. In July, Uwe Von Der Burg showed the results of his computer editing; in August Peter Brown showed his first video edit of a paddle steamer ride; in September Rob Van Petersen showed images of Canada edited on his *DC30* analogue card; and in November Warwick Hilton showed images of Dubbo edited using his new *Pyro* Digital Capture Card & video editing software.

Such was the growing interest in NLE that an extra night was incorporated into the 2001 programme, the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, where members met at a member's home to see how NLE really worked. Then in July that same year in the *Hot Spot* segment, Ian Simpson demonstrated a useful feature of *Pinnacle Studio DV*, where the software captured low resolution video for editing purposes and then captured the full resolution when outputting the edited video to DVD or tape.

At the August meeting in 2001 members were still trying to get their heads around the use of computers and so Tom Hunt introduced members to the new jargon of the internet. Members learned new words and phrases such as; cookies, URLs, web pages and "Google". Then in July 2002, Tom Hunt took on the teacher role again when he hosted the members at his home to show them *Premiere 6*.

By September 2006 the digital era had firmly arrived at the Club. The Club management committee decided to buy a laptop computer. Now electronic digital images (EDIs) replaced slides in the Club's competitions and Audio-Visuals (A/Vs) became digital too. An article had appeared in the May 2005 newsletter suggesting it was time to "Re-birth" the A/V. The motivation for this was the power of the new NLE software and the very successful work of Ken Burns, who had given new life to old photos and presented them in a very entertaining way.



Brian Harvey operates the new Club laptop during Chairman, John Devenish's presentation

### ***The Shiny Disc***

In May 2002, Brian McCauley gave a presentation to members on the making of VCDs and SVCDs. This presentation had been prepared by himself and Rob van Peterson. For members this was the new way to store their finished videos.

At this time there was a battle going on between *Pinnacle's Express* and *Ulead's DVD MovieFactory* for the easy way to author VCDs, SVCDs and DVDs.

In October 2002 *Philips* cracked the 2 grand barrier with its \$1999 DVDR890 DVD recorder and DVD-RW discs cost \$15 each. Whilst *Sony* in February 2003, neutralised the DVD-R versus DVD+R war by introducing a DVD recorder that could handle both.

Also in April 2003 the question was being asked, "Is widescreen the next DV format?" At that time to achieve a 16 x 9 aspect ratio one had to letterbox the output image, crop the incoming image to the camera or use a squeeze lens on the front of the camcorder.



Rob van Peterson had shown at the Club many videos which had been letterboxed to achieve this wider format.

By the end of 2003 the Club's by-laws were out of date with the developing optical disc technology. Changes needed to be made before the 2007 VOTY competition so that members could enter their videos on disc rather than on VHS tape. As John Devenish said, "Most of the Club's competition entries are on disc."

By June 2005 Sony, with its *Blu-ray*, was locked into a HD format war with Toshiba's *HD-DVD*. Sony's *Blu-ray* was to win this battle in March 2008 even though Toshiba were the first to market their *HD-DVD* player in March 2006, beating Sony by 3 months



### ***The Arrival of the Editing Computer***

In 2001 manufacturers started producing "editing computers". Apple had its *G4 PowerMacs* with a built-in DVD writer, Compaq offered a DVD-R drive in its *Presario 7000* and Packard Bell released its "Video Dream Machine" a 1GHz Pentium III processor, 128MB RAM, a NVIDIA GeForce 2MX graphics card and a DVD burner.

How our concept of a video dream machine has changed over the years!



John Devenish gives a presentation using his "dream video machine".

From the left: Annick Gouw, Philip Richardson, Ian Wilson, Max Davies Warren Flinn, Keith Brooks, Don Estall

Hard disc storage was getting bigger in 2001 when Maxtor introduced its 80GB EDIE drive and Western Digital had its 45GB FireWire compatible drive.

Also a new compound word entered the NLE jargon, *RealTime*, the meaning of which was that playback from the timeline and/or of effects was instantaneous. The limited computer power of the day often meant that such playbacks experienced considerable delays as rendering was done to allow natural moving images to appear on the computer monitor or TV screen. History is repeating today as computers struggle to process 4K footage on the timeline.

### ***The Rise of the Big Screen.***

For most of the year 2000 the Club members viewed their competition entries and videos on a 29" CRT, but in November that year a second-hand video projector (from Cronulla Movie Makers) was trialled. It was to remain the main screening equipment

until the November 2004 meeting when members “road tested” three video projectors from two local electronics retail stores.

The chosen one, a *BENQ* PB6100 DLP projector, was purchased for the screening of the VOTY entries at both the December meeting and Annual Dinner in 2004. Also a six speaker surround sound system was purchased. Both items plus the *LG* DV7711P DVD player completed the Club’s viewing equipment and they have proved themselves many times over, not only at the monthly Club meetings, but for screening Club items at the biannual Combined South Coast Club meetings which began in May 2005.

When it was obvious that High Definition video had arrived, the Club, on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2012, bought its HD projector, an *Epson* TW6000W. This model has served both groups faithfully to this day.

### ***The Rise and Rise of Higher and Higher Definition Video***

At the Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show in early 2003 *JVC* announced its first consumer HD camcorder, the GR-HD1 which recorded on mini-DV tape an image of 1280 x 720p in MPEG-2 format, whilst in July *Sony* announced its first *Blu-ray* DVD recorder. Also in late 2003 dual-layer recordable DVDs become available, whilst in April 2004 *Pioneer* and *NEC* released DVD recorders capable of burning DVD+/-RW discs at a 8x speed.

When one format arrives others leave and so it was in 2002 when *Sony* stopped production of *Betamax* VCRs in October and in April that year it produced its last Hi8 camcorder.

In late 2003 *Panasonic* introduced a camcorder that recorded video on a 512MB solid-state card in MPEG-2 format, so signalling that tape as a record medium had a limited life. Media manufacturers were quick to recognise this possible trend with *Lexar Media* supplying a 4GB *CompactFlash* card in September 2002.

### ***HD comes to Wollongong***

In November 2004 *Sony* introduced the world’s first HD camcorder to record on HDV format at 1440 x 1080i at a cost of \$3700US. Movie Makers members saw this camcorder “in the flesh” when Marilyn and Erin from *Sony* demonstrated it at the July 2005 meeting.

*Sony* called it “the world’s smallest High Definition Handycam,” and Marilyn explained that the camcorder was developed in response to the world-wide move to widescreen high definition television. So we were told we could now shoot our home videos to the same quality we see on our new plasma or LCD screens. As *Sony* puts it, this is “future-proofing” your family videos.

As most Movie Makers members were still using Standard Definition (SD) camcorders the big news for them in December 2004 was that *Adobe* released a lower cost version of its *Premiere Pro*, this being *Premiere Elements*.

In November 2007 the HD format, AVCHD, received mixed press; easy to shoot, impossible to edit. A frustrated writer on the *Pinnacle* webboard wrote, “AVCHD is NOT a quality standard, it is a compression format.”

In September 2008, *Canon* released a camcorder that could record at the maximum rate of 24Mbps in the AVCHD format.

In October 2008, *Premiere Elements* in version 7 finally got AVCHD capability. Its competitor *Pinnacle Studio* had achieved that capability in its version 11 one year earlier.



Brian Harvey introduces Adobe's budget priced video editing software, Premiere Elements.

### ***The Hybrid Camera – The Camera of Choice of Most MM Members***

In November 2008 *Nikon* released a D-SLR that could record HD video at a resolution of 1240 x 720p, (the D90). *Canon* quickly replied in February 2009 with the D-SLR 5D Mk II that recorded at the higher resolution of 1920 x 1080p. So successful was this camera with semi-professional movie makers that you can say that the revolution began here that begat the mirrorless hybrid cameras that shoot video equally as well as still images.

So now at the end of 2019 most Movie Makers members use a mirrorless hybrid camera to shoot their movies rather than the traditional camcorder. Also these hybrid cameras, as well as the members' smartphones, can record video in Ultra High Definition (or 4K as it is commonly called) which has a resolution 4 times that of HD.

### ***No Club is an Island unto Itself***

In the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the Movie Makers often visited other clubs. For example the Cronulla Movie Makers were visited on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2000 and again on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2003. Whilst on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2002 Cronulla MM visited Wollongong and put on a video festival by showing us ten of their best.

The Milton-Ulladulla club visited Wollongong on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2000.

Sometimes members, whilst on holidays, visited other clubs. Such was the case when Brian Harvey visited Devizes Club, UK, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2008. During the visit Brian showed a collection of 9 WCCMM members' videos on a specially prepared DVD. This visit was part of an ongoing exchange of members' videos between the clubs that had been going since 2001.

### ***Combined Clubs Meetings***

The culmination of these individual club visits was the First Combined Clubs Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2005. The idea for this meeting arose as a result of a conversation held between the then leaders of the Milton-Ulladulla, Shoalhaven and Wollongong clubs at the end of year screening of the Shoalhaven competition videos in Nowra in 2004. Tony Mann from Milton-Ulladulla, John Hussell from Shoalhaven and Ian Simpson from Wollongong agreed to hold a meeting at the Shoalhaven club's meeting venue in May the following year, 2005.

Thus began a bi-annual event that initially was held at the Shoalhaven City Arts Centre, 12 Berry St, Nowra with each club in turn chairing the meeting. However, with the ACT Video Camera Club joining the group, from the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2009 at Western Creek Community Centre ACT, the clubs decided to host the meetings locally on a rotational basis.

Also when the ACT Video Camera Club joined the group at the Combined Clubs meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2008, these meetings took on an additional facet. They became also a meeting of the Southern NSW Division of FAMM.

The meetings quickly settled into a standard format that involved one or two guest speakers; a show and tell session where members talked of recent acquisitions or discoveries; the showing of members' videos and a club video challenge. The latter developed into where a topic or subject was chosen by the club hosting the next meeting. Then in the intervening 6 months each club was required to produce a video or videos (maximum 10 minute allocation per club) to incorporate that topic or subject.



WCCMM members at the ten year anniversary of the Combined Clubs Meetings in October 2014.

Back Row from left: John Devenish, Max Davies, Tom Hunt, Ian Simpson

Seated from left: Brian Harvey, Noel Gibson, Ann Devenish, Chris Dunn

The first challenge set at the first meeting in May 2005 was a very ambitious exercise. It involved members from all three clubs shooting footage on the topic of *Water*. All the footage was then distributed between the clubs and at the next Combined Clubs meeting videos from each of the clubs were shown.

The following was how the WCCMM members organised themselves.

## **WATER**

**It's not only the Topic on everyone's lips at present but is also the topic of the Combined South Coast Video Clubs Activity**

At the Combined Clubs meeting in Nowra on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May it was agreed that the topic of the combined activity would be water. These shots would then be shared between the Clubs for editing and then we would meet again in November to show the best three videos from each Club.

### **Time Table for Interested Members:**

*June & July* – Shoot scenes on the theme Water

*August Club Meeting* – Bring in your footage so that be compiled onto one tape to send to the other Clubs

*September Club Meeting* – distribute other Clubs video footage for editing.

*November Club Meeting* – select our best three videos to show at the combined Club meeting later in the month.

At the second meeting of the Combined Clubs in November 2005, WCCMM took out the first three places in the audience appeal score. The score is given in brackets below.

*A Meldrew Moment* - John Devenish (7.9)

*Playing Hide & Seek with Our Fears* - Ian Simpson (7.6)

*Power Break* - Anne Devenish (7.2)

However, the club video challenges were not intended as entries in a competition and so from then on the videos were viewed and discussed but not judged. The video challenges have varied considerably over the years from documentaries to dramas, comedies and 30 second commercials. Interestingly the most popular approach by clubs has been to make a fictional drama or comedy.

Documentaries were on a topic such as “Why I Live where I Live”, or were a promotion of a local organisation, or were based on the popular ABC series, *Australian Story*.

The dramas varied from written scripts (*Murphy's Law* and *Prince of Thieves*) to storyboard prepared scripts (*Change/Point of View*, *The Last Word*).

There were also challenges with very odd topics or subjects, such the saying, “Cheers Mark” and a video that had to include “a lighthouse or similar, a power-point or light-switch and an egg.”

The most important feature of these challenges, however, was not the videos themselves, but that their production to a deadline provided the stimulus for club members to team up and make a club production.

### **Federation of Australian Movie Makers (FAMM)**

At the WCC management committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2005, it was agreed that the WCCMM group could apply for membership of FAMM. Then in June 2006, after a long road travelled by John Devenish to achieve all the joining conditions, WCCMM became a member of FAMM.



The FAMM President, Ron Gregson visited Wollongong on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 and had talks with WCCMM Chairman, John Devenish.

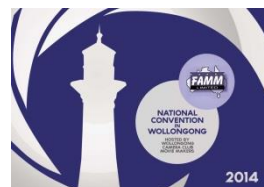
From the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 the FAMM biannual convention was held in Canberra. Four members of WCCMM were first time attendees; Ann & John Devenish, Max Davies and Ian Simpson.

Then in 2013, the WCCMM members were asked to host the upcoming FAMM convention in 2014.



## **CONVENTION 2014 in WOLLONGONG**

**31<sup>st</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April**



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 overhead 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.



WCCMM Committee for the 2014 Convention

From the left: Tom Hunt, Ian Simpson, Max Davies, Ann Devenish, Brian Harvey, John Devenish

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!

Elizabeth & Brian McCauley's video *SILK* came 8<sup>th</sup> out of 37 in the Queensland Movie Makers Competition and also won the Documentary Section of the *Short Sighted Film Festival* in 2001.

In August 2005 John & Ann Devenish won the Travel Section of *MUDFEST* with the video, *Murphy v Volunteers*.



In 2006 WCCMM gained second place in the Drama – Fiction section of the Newcastle National Video Festival competition for *Murphy's Law* from the script by David Standen. *Murphy's Law* also gained the *Camera Craft* award.

Annick Gouw and John Devenish rehearse lines before cameraman Max Davies, sound man David Simpson and director Ian Simpson

In 2007, Annick Gouw with her video, *The Lady of Shalott*, was awarded a Silver Diploma in the Cotswold International Film Festival in the UK. Also Ian Simpson gained a Silver Diploma for *Taxing Times* in the same festival in 2008.



The Club production, *Prince of Thieves*, gained 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the General Section of the Queensland Movie Makers Competition in 2009. Annick Gouw won the Joy & Col Tretheway Trophy for Best Actor Shooting Star Award.

Annick Gouw being interviewed by Brian Harvey & Kari Hill with Max Davies on camera and Ray White observing

In 2011, Ian Simpson gained third place in the Queensland Movie Makers competition for the video, *Louisavale*.



John Devenish, (foreground), checks cables whilst cameramen, (background), Chris Dunn, Anthony Howes and Max Davies setup cameras

Our club activity in 2013 was to make a fictional drama on the subject of *CHANGE*. In its 5 minute version, *Perceptions*, it came second in the drama section of the FROME Five Minute Video Festival in the UK in 2014. This festival was in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year and attracted entries from around the world.

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## ***The Hot Spot***

The *Hot Spot* has been a consistent segment of the monthly meeting agenda for over 20 years. Its popularity with members resides in its diversity. During this segment members can display and demonstrate new equipment or handmade devices; it can be where members show their current works in progress and ask for comments or where they show their final finished video.

Once members were allocated a *Hot Spot* in the annual calendar but in recent years the *Hot Spot* has become an irregular occurrence, based on when members have something to show or present.

## ***Members' New Equipment***

In the year 2000 almost all of the *Hot Spots* were devoted to exhibitions of videos produced with the aid of the increasing number of computer editing software and hardware. The members in the forefront of this latest technology were Uwe Van Der Burg, Peter Brown, Rob van Peterson and Warwick Hilton.

Members' interest in technological advances was a re-occurring theme in the *Hot Spot* segment throughout the last 20 years. In September 2001 Peter Brown was comparing camcorders with either one CCD or 3 CCD sensors, as did Ian Simpson again in August 2005. Steve Dawson in February 2003 talked on *Video for the Internet*.

Before drones, Brian Harvey let his son Stephen present his images taken from a model aircraft in April 2003.

A revolutionary talk was given by Tom Hunt in February 2007, when he showed how his new Canon digital camera took both still and moving images.

John Devenish on occasions discussed the limitations of technological developments, such as *The Bad and The Ugly of Optical Image Stabilisers* (November 2007) and the weaknesses of auto-focus systems in camcorders (October 2008).

Showing newly purchased equipment was a staple item of the *Hot Spot*. There were the newly purchased cameras / camcorders (Ian Wilson – February 2012; Tom Hunt – May 2012; Peter Brown – July 2015) or accessories such as Chris Dunn's ring light (June 2014); Tom Hunt's flexible Velbon tripod (July 2013); Chris Dunn's new AR Drone 2.0 (April 2013) and his steady-cam in May 2017. Then in the last few years there were the apps for smartphones, such as what John Devenish demonstrated in July 2018, a simple teleprompter for his phone.

## ***Members' Videos & Works in Progress***

Another popular use of the *Hot Spot* by almost all members was the showing of their latest videos or works in progress. In the period 2001 to 2004, thirteen members premiered their latest videos.

These videos could vary from recent travels such as the McCauley's trips to NZ (October 2000) and China (November 2001); Peter Stanhope's *Wind Power* (April 2002); Peter Brown's *Skye Henness* (October 2002).

Often members would show only a snippet of their much longer travelogue, as did Warwick Hilton in September 2002, when he showed 10 minutes of his 20 minute epic of his cruise in the Buccaneer Archipelago in WA or when Eric Taylor in March 2003 present a segment of their trip to Lord Howe Island.

There were also instructional videos such as Barry Unsworth's 3 minute video on how to make cherry jam (October 2001).

Between August 2004 and March 2005, Keith Brooks took the members through his experiences with his scripted video, *A Matter of Belief*; and his editing of a video for a Christian Missionary called, *Out of Africa*.

Often videos shown were of members' experiences such as Tom Hunt's hang gliding video, *Jumping from a Great Height*; and Norm Melvin's Illawarra Live Steamers video (April 2001).

Often the videos were documenting Club or community groups' activities such as Max Davies' video, *The Making of Murphy's Law* (August 2006) or Ann Devenish's works in progress in June 2007 for SCARF or Georgina Wilson-Greene's video she made with 6 year old students of Warilla Public School (April 2003). In October 2008, Tom Hunt reported on his interview with Joy Curran for his documentary on Ivo Bunker, an historical figure in Wollongong's recent history.

### *A Sound Interest*

A perennial interest of members throughout the last 20 years has been sound for videos. The *Hot Spot* segment thus often became the arena where members demonstrated their efforts or discoveries. Examples through the years are:

- Keith Brooks in June 2003 demonstrated the software, *Band in a Box*, with which you could create your own musical soundtrack.
- In March 2007, Max Davies compared an external microphone to that built into his camcorder.
- Brian Harvey in August 2007, introduced members to the sound editing program *Audacity*.
- In September 2012, Max Davies discussed how the professionals post-record sound for his favourite TV series.
- In October 2012, Tom Hunt tried to answer the question on most members' lips; *how to get good consistent sound on our videos*.

### *Home-Made Devices*

The *Hot Spot* was also the forum for members to show their home-made devices, such as when Ian Wilson displayed his dowel and O-ring addition to his tripod to achieve smooth pans (April 2008).

However, in the area of home-made devices two members were quite prolific. Ray White's first production was water-proof legs for his tripod (June 2008); then in May 2009 Ray showed his screen hood for his camcorder screen, in November 2010, Ray demonstrated his 3-wheeled dolly for his tripod and in November 2011 Ray showed his audio box.

On the question of keeping the camera steady. John Devenish showed his simple cord mono-support solution in April 2010; then at the other end of the complexity scale, he and Bob Kennedy, in August 2009, demonstrated their camera jib, and back in May 2003 John demonstrated his *WormCam* for taking low level shots, a dog's eye view of the world.



### **Guest Speakers**

The WCCMM members have benefitted from the knowledge and

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experiences of many guest speakers who have given their time to talk at Club meetings.

In the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Gino Spinelli gave members advice on basic camera craft and showed the latest technology in optical disc production. On the same theme of the latest technology, Marilyn and Erin from Sony Australia demonstrated the latest camcorder technology, the High Definition camcorder, Sony's HDR HC1 model in July 2005.

Some guest speakers promoted their own businesses or products. Examples were:

- September 2005 when Melanie Jones presented the *Home Brewed International Film Festival*,
- September 2004 when Martha Mollison promoted her book, *Producing Videos*,
- Rie Natalenko demonstrated the software CELTX (October 2008), and
- Laszlo Varga who showed how to calibrate your monitor (November 2012).

Other guest speakers spoke of their experiences:

- Tim Tozer as a news cameraman for WIN News (May 2003),
- Greg Lacey from *Crystal Clear Productions* on interviewing for documentaries (August 2006),
- Phil Harris a local filmmaker (October 2009),
- Glenn Hanns on industry developments (September 2010),
- Peter Fackender on bird photography (March 2011),
- Gary Barnes on his transitions from still photographer to time-lapse to video (November 2012),
- Shawn Burns on interviewing techniques – *"Interviewing is a conversation not an interrogation"* (April 2013) and
- Noel Downey on drone photography (November 2015).

Finally there were guest speakers who presented what other amateur moviemakers were doing, such as Sean O'Brien with the ABC Open programme (March 2013) and Ruskin Spiers on what the Sydney Video Makers Club were producing (April 2015).

### *Members' Presentations*

Through the years members have given presentations comparable to that of guest speakers. For example Bob Kennedy in May 2011 gave the Holidays Movie genre a twist when he based his presentation on, *"I don't make holiday movies as documentaries. I make mementos."*

At the October 2014 Combined Clubs meeting, Max Davies in his presentation, *"I did it my way"*, talked about what he had learned and adapted from the ABC's *Australian Story* format. In August 2014, Max with his talk on, *"Interviewing Techniques for Documentaries"*, took members through his accumulated experiences in the making of his many award winning documentaries.

At the May meeting in 2010, John Devenish took members through *Moviemaking 1.01*; the importance of having a shooting script and then showed how that script can be broken up into shots / camera angles.

In September 2014, Tom Hunt led a workshop on how to create an Audio-Visual.

## **Movie Makers in Recent Years**

### ***Report for 2016***

The programme for 2016 was built around the skills needed to produce a video and team club productions. The year began with chairman, Tom Hunt, leading the members in a brain storming session on the roles and skills needed to produce a video. This was a preparatory exercise for what the rest of the year held in store for the members. Firstly there was the challenge to produce a video to answer the theme "Finally Finished" for the Combined Clubs meeting in May. Members produced the video, *The Paint Job*, to Stacy Harrison's script. Then later on in the year, members were taken through the various stages in the production process of a video, "Wrong Number", to suit the theme of the Combined Clubs meeting in October. Tom Hunt handed over the role of group chairman to Chris Dunn after the March elections and sadly in October a very active member, Noel Gibson succumbed to cancer. On a club basis Movie Makers members contributed to the Club's exhibition at the Old Court House with a video programme of their efforts as well as a collection of electron display images from the Photographic Group members. The two competitions held during the year had good support with 7 entries for both the Mid-Year and end of year, VOTY, competitions. The results were; Mid-Year - *Ghosts of Hobbies Past* by Ian Simpson; Gala Night - *The Paint Job*, script by Stacy Harrison and the VOTY - *The Birds of Wollumboola* by Max Davies. The best audio-visual of the year went to *A Tale of Two Villages* by Bruce Shaw. Stacy Harrison received the Most Improved Movie Maker Award for 2016.

### ***Report for 2017***

Attendance at club meetings has been between 7 and 9, except for 3 meetings where, due to some members' travel plans, attendances dropped to between 4 and 6. Considering the Movie Makers' group has only 9 members on the books, this attendance, as a percentage of membership, is very high, at between 80 and 100%. Sadly the move to Tuesday night meetings did affect the membership with 4 long term members having to drop out. This was a loss not only to membership numbers but a loss of their knowledge and their assistance in club activities.

The year 2017 also saw the passing of two previous members of the club, Philip Richardson and Keith Brooks, who had made very important and significant contributions and had helped encourage and guide some current members.

Although small in number, the enthusiasm of the current members has not diminished as was reflected in the number of videos produced during 2017. There were 42 videos and 5 audio visuals shown during the year. These were made in answer to the many activities and competitions; the June Mid-Year competition and the end of year (VOTY) competition, the challenges set at the two Combined Clubs Meetings and the limited duration movie challenges.

The programme for 2017 had as its aim to promote the development of members' movie making skills and to encourage them to try new approaches. To this end use was made of the tutorial DVDs purchased from *Videomaker*. Topics such as Voice-Over, Exposure and Depth of Focus, Time-lapse Photography, making a Music Video and Video Editing were presented in a workshop environment. A participation challenge was set at each workshop and members were encouraged to show their efforts at the following club meeting.

On the club management side the Movie Makers members wish to thank and acknowledge the efforts of John Devenish in clarifying the competitions rules and for his continuing overseeing of the two competitions. We also would like to thank and acknowledge Brian Harvey's efforts in establish the new club website and Tom Hunt's organisation of the Combined Clubs meeting in October which the Movie Makers hosted.

Two general observations are that members' videos have shown a high stand this year culminating in the outstanding Video Of The Year for 2017, Stacy Harrison's *Underwood Ark*, and there has been a marked increase in the production of audio-visuals in 2017.

### **Report for 2018**

2018 proved a challenging year for the Movie Makers Group in many ways. Meeting attendance dropped sharply as many members undertook extensive travels both around Australia and overseas. FAMM, the federal body that the Movie Makers were affiliated with ceased on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May after 66 years.

However, 2018 was also a busy year for members as they took on the challenge of conducting interviews with current and previous members of the Club in preparation for the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April 2019. The Movie Makers programme for the year was built around the *Videomaker* DVD tutorials that had been purchased.

Although down in membership, the number of entries in the two competitions remained high; with 7 entries in the Mid-Year competition and 9 videos and 3 audio-visuals in the end of year, VOTY, competition. The Mid-Year Competition was won by Chris Dunn with *Snake*. For this year the audience vote at the Gala Night and that of the external judges were in agreement; the audio-visual of the year went to *Age of Dinosaurs* by Bruce & Sue Shaw and the video of the year went to *Storybook Alpacas* by Max Davies. At the Annual Dinner, John Devenish received the President's Award for service to the Club and the Movie Makers Group.

### **Report for 2019**

The first few months of the year were devoted to the preparations for the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition at the Wollongong Art Gallery

## **WOLLONGONG CAMERA CLUB**

Presents

# **THROUGH THE LENS**

An Exhibition of Members' Work

## **WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY**

**2nd APRIL to 26th MAY 2019**

**Entry Free**

On display are members photographic prints from the film era of the 1940's through to the present day digital medium

Two video presentations exhibit members' digital images, audio-visuals and movies as well as introducing members and the club's history.

For more information:

secretary@wollongongcameraclub.com  
<https://wollongong.myphotoclub.com.au/>



The MM group's contribution to this event was the compilation of all the interviews with present and past members of the Club; the compilation of all the VOTY competition winners from 2000 to 2018 together with the Audio-Visuals of the Year from 2013 to 2018 and a selection of members' videos and still images over the years.

The highlight of all the members' efforts was the opening of the exhibition by Wollongong's Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2019. Together with a display of WCC PG members' prints through the past 75 years, there were two TV monitors set up that played on a continuous loop. One monitor presented all the interviews with Club members and some of the history of the Club whilst the other monitor presented the members' videos and images.

To help advertise the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition, John Devenish reinvigorated the Club's Facebook by posting advertisements and Club activities on a regular basis. This Facebook page had been originally set up by Tom Hunt.

As interviews were clearly in members' minds at the beginning of 2019, the February meetings was devoted to testing various microphones for clarity and freedom from extraneous noises.

The general agreement was that the shotgun microphone on the boom pole was the best, recording less room noise. Whilst the lapel microphone suffered from clipping. The interviewee for these tests was Ann Devenish who placed against a blue screen.

The April meeting conducted by John Devenish looked at the effect of lighting. During the exercise the distance between subject and camera was kept constant and but the intensity of the single light source and its distance from the subject were varied as was the distance of the subject from the background wall. This exercise visually demonstrated the inverse square law for a light source as well as depth of field.



On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019 was the first Combined Clubs meeting for the year. This was the 29<sup>th</sup> biannual meeting and was held at the Bomaderry Bowling Club hosted by the Shoalhaven Movie & Multimedia Group. Four clubs were represented on the day; the host club, Milton-Ulladulla Video Club, SouthWest Video Club and Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers, with a total of 25 attendees. The afternoon's video segment was a new innovation to the Combined Clubs' programme. The first CCM of the year would screen the previous year's VOTY from each of the clubs. The WCCMM contribution was Max Davies award winning *Storybook Alpacas*.

At the May meeting two videos were shown from the Club's recent visit to the old historic property of sculptor, May Barrie (1918 - 2014) on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April. This was a combined Photographic and MM groups' visit. John Devenish presented his *Callemondah* footage and showed how the free video editing software DaVinci Resolve 16 can stabilise handheld footage.

Max Davies also showed his version of *Callemondah* where the present owner, May's daughter, Tori de Mestre, gave the history of the house and property and its contents.





Many of the meetings were spent getting ideas for the next Combined Clubs challenge on the topic, CRISIS.

The Mid-Year Competition in June was 13 entries from six members. The members, using an “audience appeal” type vote, recorded a value between 1 and 5 for each video. After a cuppa, much appreciated on such a cold winter’s night – a cold snap had brought snow to the tablelands and the Blue Mountains - the winner was declared.

First was Tom Hunt with his video - *Cradle Mountain*. Second was Max Davies with his video - *Magpies of Corrie Road*. Third was Ian Simpson with his video - *Mother Russia*.

The free download software *DaVinci Resolve* was creating a lot of interest between members, especially after version 16 passed beta phase testing. So much so that John Devenish, who had testing it out intensively, at the July meeting gave an introduction into this software and shared many of the short-cuts and foibles he had experienced.

In tune, with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year one of both looking backwards and forwards in our hobby, members to the November meeting were asked to bring an old video and a recent video to the meeting. Then members were asked to talk about their hobby journey from the earliest to the latest video.

### **Gala Night 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019**

The Gala night on the third of December saw 13 videos and 2 audio-visuals screened. Once again the audience was asked to vote and the winner was Max Davies with *Magpies at Corrie Road*. Second place went to *Callemondah* by Max Davies and John Devenish and tying for third place was Max Davies’ *The Illawarra* and Tom Hunt’s *Springtime in the British Isles 2018*.



Photograph by John Devenish)

The screening of the videos was in the following order, first the two audio-visuals:

1. *Impressions of the Seine* by Ian Simpson. This short video used one of the special effects in *Pinnacle Studio 21* editing software to turn digital photographs into pseudo paintings.
2. *Hobbiton An Unexpected Shire* by Bruce & Sue Shaw. After an introduction to world of the Hobbits via the map of Middle-earth, we are taken on a visit to all the well know buildings and sites of J R R Tolkien’s books and Peter Jackson’s films. This is a beautifully produced and narrated audio-visual and well deserving of the audience vote for best A/V.
3. *Buying Art* by Peter Brown. This is part of a series made for a YouTube channel on art. It is a well-produced video for this genre.
4. *Callemondah* by Team: Max Davies & John Devenish is a documentary of a historic house and studio of one of the Illawarra’s famous artists. The high



quality of the sound from the lavalier microphone set the bar for this polished production. Although shot on location and unscripted and unrehearsed, it flows like a planned production. It is also a very good record of a combined Club activity.

5. *Callemondah for Facebook* by John Devenish is a 43 second snippet of the visit and as such serves as an advertisement for the above full coverage of the event.
6. *Climate Crisis* by Team: Ann & John Devenish. In the News Reportage genre this video not only reports on a Climate Crisis rally held in Wollongong but also emphasises the urgency for action through the comments of some attendees.
7. *WCC Club Membership, Competitions & Activities* by Team WCCMM. This video was prepared for the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition during April & May this year and consists of interviews with Club members on different topics.
8. *From the Darkroom to the Computer Room* by Team WVVMM. This video was also produced for the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition and using comments from two Club members plots the change in photography from darkroom developing and printing to digital creations on the computer.
9. *Magpies at Corrie Road* by Max Davies. Here Max takes a break from his traditional interview-documentary genre, and charts the lives of a pair of magpies that have taken up residence in a tree in his street.
10. *Mother Russia* by Ian Simpson is the story of how three strong leaders have shaped the Russia we know today.
11. *Murphy's Haystacks* by John Devenish. In this one minute video John shows us an oddity in the landscape and gives us the historical reason for its common name.
12. *Springtime in the British Isles 2018* by Tom Hunt. This video is a collection of beautiful images set to a sound track of music and natural background sounds.
13. *The Illawarra* by Max Davies. This is another compilation video edited to a solitary music sound track. Here Max has presented the Illawarra both by night and day. The visual variety was further enhanced by the excellent drone photography by the late Noel Downey.
14. *This is a Crisis* by Tom Hunt. On a gorgeous sunny day with the backdrop of Illawarra's fine beaches, Tom alerted us to the four reasons why the world in crisis.
15. *WCC News Portrait Shoot* by Ian Simpson. Another video produced for the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition which documents a Photographic Group outing where members had instruction in how to shoot good portraits in daylight.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**MAX DAVIES and BRUCE & SUE SHAW for WINNING the  
AUDIENCE APPEAL VOTE for THEIR VIDEOS**

### **Annual Dinner 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation brought a successful end for a very busy year for the Club. This year due to unforeseen circumstances and the fact that it was the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, the Movie Makers had increased screen time during the event.

The Photography Group members were shown examples of the interviews taken with some of their members to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> and later were shown four videos instead of the usual two; the winning Video of the Year and the winning Audio-Visual of the Year. The two additional videos were the Audience Choice at the Gala Night and the Max Davies and John Devenish production; *Callemondah*. As the latter was a combined Photographic Group and Movie Makers activity, members enjoyed re-living the visit.

Once again congratulations go to the team of Bruce & Sue Shaw for their very entertaining video of *Hobbiton An Unexpected Shire*. What more can you say of these two Audio-Visual masters than what the facts depict. They together or individually have won every AVOTY competition since it was re-introduced into the competition schedule in 2013.



The winner of the prized Video of the Year was again Max Davies with his video, *The Illawarra*. Again facts speak best. Max has won the VOTY nine times in the last 13 years. This is truly an exceptional achievement and one that will take a lot of effort to better in the future.



## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**MASTERS of the AUDIO-VISUAL FORMAT – BRUCE & SUE SHAW**

**MASTER of the VIDEO DOCUMENTARY – MAX DAVIES**

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# 30<sup>th</sup> COMBINED CLUBS MEETING

25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019

*Hosted by*

## **WOLLONGONG CAMERA CLUB MOVIE MAKERS**

With 38 members from five clubs in attendance, the 30<sup>th</sup> Combined Clubs meeting got under way. The video clubs represented were Milton-Ulladulla Videography Club, the Shoalhaven Movie & Multimedia Group, Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers, the South-West Video Club and the Sydney Video Makers Club. After a welcome cup of coffee or tea and some nibbles, Tom Hunt called the meeting to order and introduced the first guest speaker,

### ***Steven Piggott from Vitec Imaging Solutions.***

Steven originally from the UK has experience in still photography but today was discussing tripods. His company deals with Manfrotto and Gitzo. He began his presentation by discussing the key features of a tripod. First was the safety payload rating of the tripod head. This is the breaking pressure the tripod/head will accept before the head starts to move. For a light tripod this should be 4 Kg.

When determining a tripod for your camera, the combination of camera plus lens is important and often if you use large telephoto lenses then the lens will determine the tripod.

Steven then discussed the question of tripod construction; carbon fibre or aluminium? Carbon fibre tripods are lighter in weight, stiffer and absorb vibrations better than an aluminium tripod which will just be dented. So if the tripod is going to be thrown around in back of a ute or truck, it best be made out of aluminium.

For the Manfrotto and Gitzo tripods servicing and spare parts are available at the service centre in Melbourne.

Steven then moved on to discuss the types of tripod heads; fluid or friction. Fluid heads are obviously best when attempting pans and tilts, however, Steven reminded the group that not all fluid heads contain fluid. He made the point that the head should have a separate lock to the friction control. He liked the half ball head design as it allows levelling of the camera at the head position. The flat head, being more flexible, has other uses such as on sliders.

Steven then talked about counterbalancing that neutralises the weight of the camera and lens, you can tilt the camera forwards or backwards and let go and the head should remain in the tilted position without having to lock it. This counterbalancing works for a camera up to 2.4 Kg in weight.



Steven Piggott with a light weight Manfrotto tripod

Previously tripods with fluid heads were used by movie makers but now still photographers are using them as they find the fluid head makes it easy for them to follow the action.

Steven made the point that there was no difference in stability between 2-frame leg construction and the single frame leg construction.

Steven then moved on to lighting and the main need for additional lighting; that being to reduce the contrast within the image so that the camera's sensor can cope with that brightness range. To reduce contrast you need to make the light source bigger in size. Brollies or soft boxes spread the light hence increasing its size. Brollies transmit 60% of the light forward and 40% is back reflected, hence a lot of the light is scattered. Sometimes this scattering of light can be beneficial, as you can get light around objects. Brollies with a silver surface cover stops the back reflected loss and can add 2 stops to your exposure.

A light soft box has the light contained in a sealed box, so no back scattering can occur. Hence the light is more controllable.

Steven then talked about the practical ramifications of the inverse square law for light. As you double the distance from the light source to the subject you get a 2 stop fall off in exposure. As you move a light source further away from the subject the shadows are less but are harder edged.

### **Glenn Hanns - Cinematographer**

After a break for morning tea, Tom Hunt introduced the second guest speaker, Glenn Hanns. Glenn was a familiar face to many, especially the members of WCCMM. Glenn had first given a talk to the WCCMM members way back in 2010. Then at the 2014 FAMM convention held in Wollongong, Glen enthralled the audience with his descriptions of the shoot of *Forbidden Ground* in 2013.

This time Glenn's subject was *The Changing Landscape of Technology in the Professional Film Industry*. Glenn is ideally suited for this presentation as he has worked on projects over the years for Discovery Channel, Netflix, Disney, ABC and SBS.



The switch from film to digital was the most dramatic change in the last 10 years. The early digital cameras produced poor images compared to Super 35 mm film. The transition from film to digital has been gradual, with Imax being replaced by digital systems (the Alexa65) only last year. In the film days all the technology was in the film. Now the technology is in the camera design.

The word "broadcast" has changed its meaning over the years due to the delivery platforms such as Netflix and AppleTV+. There are no standards for delivery now on platforms such as YouTube.

On the subject of cameras, Glenn ranked three cameras in the following order for use in the industry. A GOOD camera is the Sony A7S MkII; a BETTER camera is the Canon C300 MkII and BEST camera is the Arri Alexa LF. Interestingly as you move from the Sony to the Arri the camera automation drops to none. The Arri is fully manual so you need at least a focus puller to successfully operate it.



For the feature film, *Moon Rock for Monday*, Glenn mainly used two cameras, the Arri and the Sony, with some scenes shot with an Alexa Mini. Such is the digital world today that the camera lens now feed a data to the video signal, plus ASA, focus, etc. Then it is the job of the Data Wrangler to transfer the data from the card to a HDD. A Digital Image Technician then grades the images.

As the cinematographer, Glenn tries to capture the least compressed images. When working in a CGI environment, you need to capture not only the lens data mentioned before, but also camera movement data.

Drones are the new crane shots. In the documentary, *The Good Cop*, he used drones. This video won a Logie this year for best documentary series and was shown on Fox.



Lunch Time (photo by John Devenish)

### **Lunch**

Many thanks go to Tom Hunt for the organisation and the collection of the food for lunch.

### **Show & Tell**

John Devenish demonstrated his new radio microphone, Rode GO (\$250 well spent.)

Peter Brown showed his Light Brolly which is black on the outside and silver on the inside. With a light the unit cost \$80.

### **Video Challenge – Topic is CRISIS**

The club video challenge has always brought out the inventiveness and creativity of members in their interpretation of the theme or topic. This year was no exception.

### **Milton-Ulladulla Videography Club**

*A Raw Deal* was presented in B&W and consisted almost completely of close up shots. The close framing and Film Noir treatment gave this video grittiness. Tension was built up throughout the video but although “crisis” was the last word uttered we never found out what was the crisis that the three card players were all so concerned about; a failure in storytelling 1.01. This video was all style with very little content.



### **Shoalhaven Movie & Multimedia Group**

With their video, *Destination Unknown*, the Shoalhaven Movie & Multimedia Group's private eye solved a double crisis. This was a well-constructed storyline with the solution appearing at the last minute like in all good detective stories.

### **South-West Video Club**

The South-West Video Club members reminded us in their video, *It was the Night of the AGM and we have a Crisis* of a club's worst nightmare. John turns up for the AGM and finds he is alone. This crisis is not resolved until the end when we find John is a week early.

The South-West Video Club then had us rolling in the aisles as we watched their Making of video. All in all this was a very entertaining contribution from the members of the South-West Video Club.

### **Sydney Video Makers Club**

The crisis in the Sydney Video Makers Club's *The Cyclist* was of the man's own making. Made in the horror genre, this gripping video holds you in suspense as the male tries to avoid the consequences of his criminal actions.

### **Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers**

There were three short videos from the members of the Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers, all of the documentary genre; two of which talked to the global crisis of climate change and the third dealt with a personal crisis. Of the two videos on the climate change crisis and lack of governmental actions, the one from Tom Hunt was a persuasive video essay and the other by Ann & John Devenish was a news report covering a rally in Wollongong. The third video by Max Davies looked at the ramifications of a personal health crisis on his favourite sport; golf.

The diversity in approaches by each club to the topic CRISIS shows that movie making creativity is alive and strong within these clubs and is a testament to the continuing need to have forums where club members can come together and share their love of this hobby.



The two guest speakers, Glenn Hanns (left) and Steven Piggott in deep discussions at the Combined Clubs Meeting (photo by John Devenish)

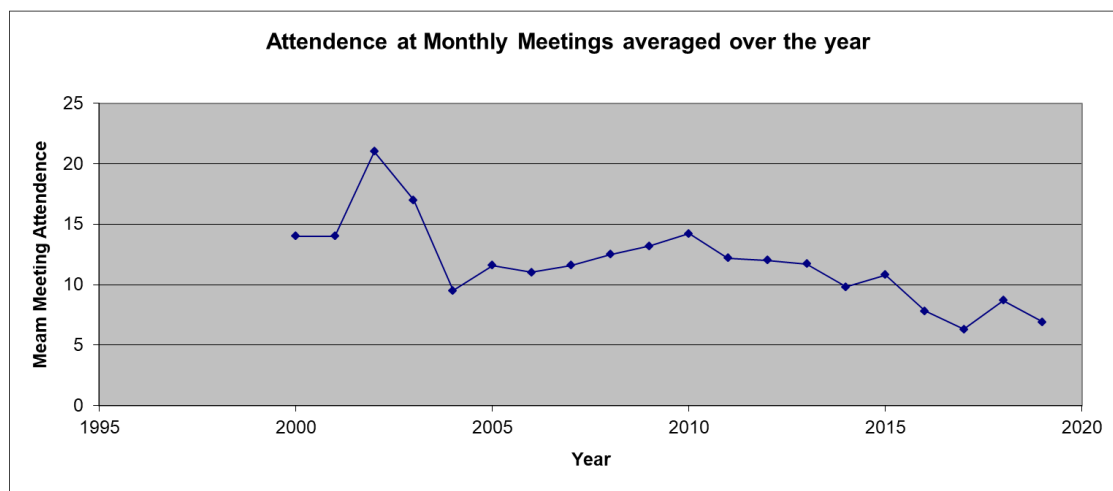
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## Two Decades of Members' Achievements & WCCMM's Membership

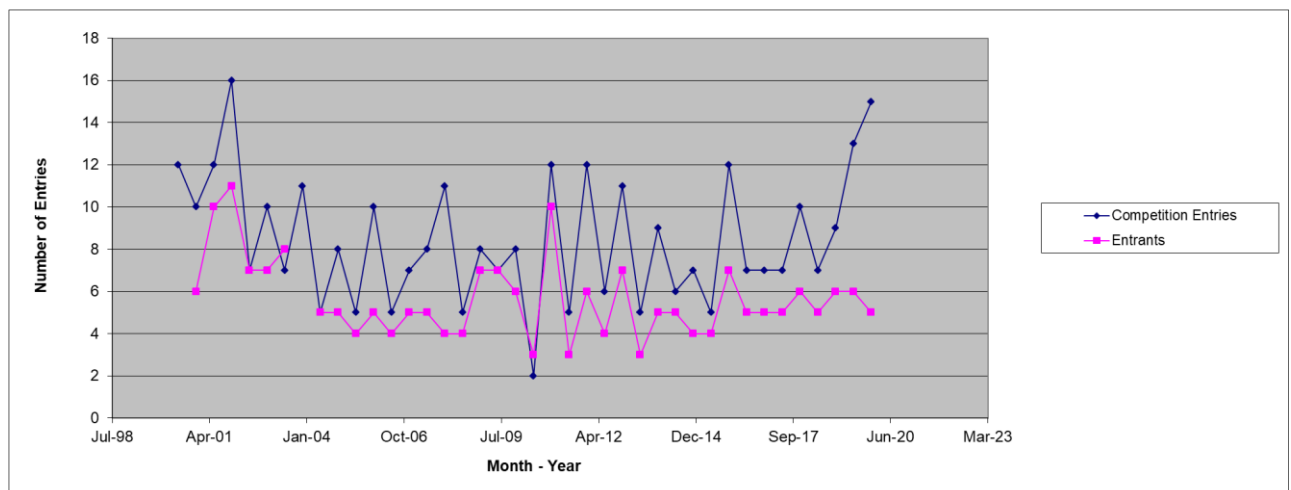
The average number of members attending monthly meetings (averaged over the year) has been slowly dropping for the last ten years. The *Starters Course* run in February 2009 resulted in a few new members and hence the slight increase in the average monthly attendance in the years 2009 / 2010.

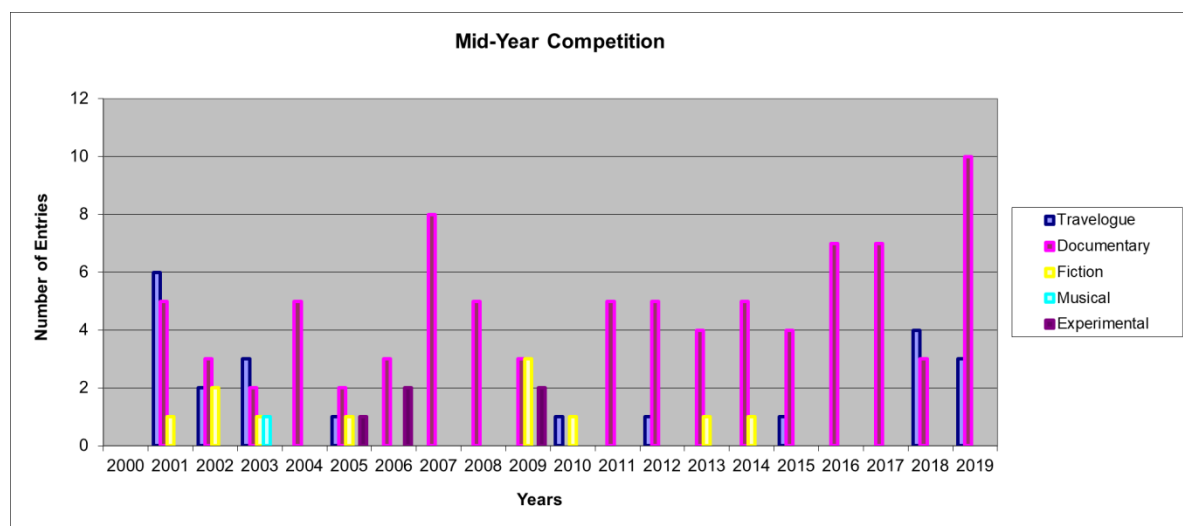
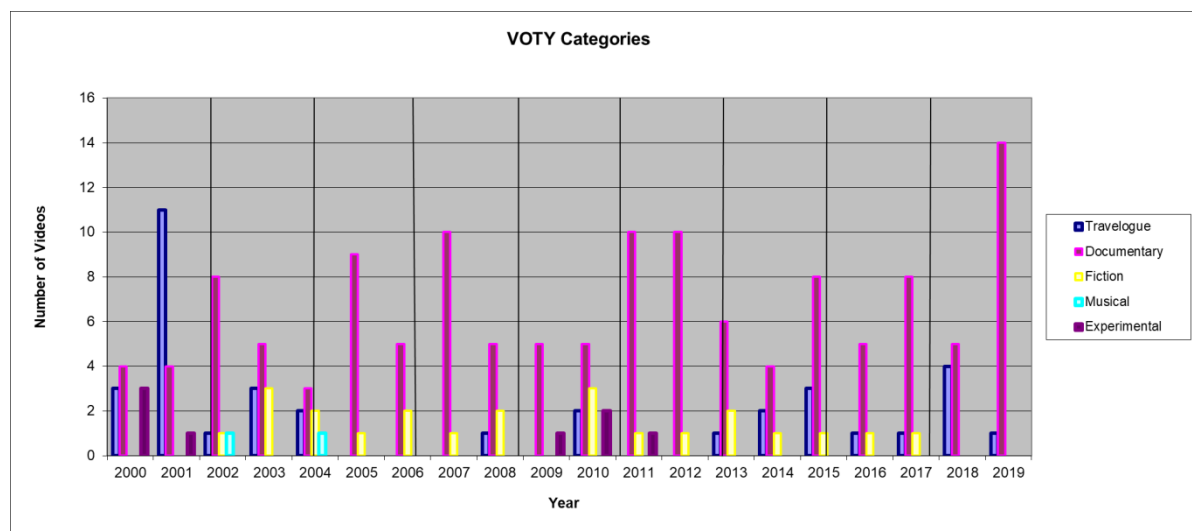
The 2017 saw the meeting nights changed from Thursday to Tuesday and that had the immediate effect of reducing MM group's membership. These were long term members that were solely missed.

The levelling off in the last few years means we are down to membership of eight. This hard-core membership has varied in the last couple of years due to members taking extended holidays. In such situations it was not uncommon to find only three or four members attending the monthly meeting.



The competition entry numbers initially show a drop off with decreasing membership then a stabilisation. The jaggedness of the graph represents the generally lower number of entries in the Mid-Year competition compared to the end of year, VOTY competition. For the years 2004 to 2008 it is interesting to notice that between 4 and 5 members were submitting videos to the two competitions; that is about half the number of members who regularly attend the monthly meetings. Whilst in the last three years there have been 5 to 6 members entering competitions which is about 75% of the membership.





The type of videos that members have made has also changed over the years. The initially popular travelogue videos have been replaced by the more focused topic documentary videos, whilst fiction / scripted videos were consistently being produced throughout the decade.

Number of Videos Screened in the Period: 2000 to 2019		
Video Entries in Mid-Year Competition	Video Entries in VOTY Competition	Members' Videos
110	168	259

The number of members' videos shown is an "at least" estimate based on the records available which are by no means complete.

In 20 years there has been at least 83 Hot Spots presented by members, at least 20 guest speakers at the monthly meetings and at least 128 visitors attended our monthly meetings.

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# ***2020 Programme***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Responsible Member</b>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>Members' Holiday Videos and Audio-Visuals</i> <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>18<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>Member's Video Journey – Ian Simpson</i> <i>Members Videos – Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>IS</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> March</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Illawarra Coastal Bays</i> <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>17<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>AGM</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>7<sup>th</sup> April</i>	<i>One Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Water with Music</i> <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>21<sup>st</sup> April</i>	<i>DaVinci Resolve Tutorial 2</i> <i>Members Videos – Hot Spot – Review of team activities</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>5<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Portrait with a “piece to camera”</i> <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>Combined Clubs Meeting- Milton Ulladulla Bowling Club</i>		<i>All</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>Member's Video Journey – Max Davies &amp; Peter Brown</i> <i>Members Videos – Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>MD &amp; PB</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> June</i>	<i>Mid-Year Competition – Open Subject – 7 minutes max.</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>7<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>One Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Open</i> <i>CCM Planning- Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> August</i>	<i>Four Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Grand Pacific Drive with Interview &amp; Voiceover</i> <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> September</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject - Time-Lapse</i> <i>CCM Planning - Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>15<sup>th</sup> September</i>	<i>Member's Video Journey – John Devenish &amp; Chris Dunn</i> <i>Members Videos – Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>JD &amp; CD</i>
<i>6<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – The Changing Cityscape of Wollongong in 2020</i> <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>Combined Clubs Meeting</i>		<i>All</i>
<i>20<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Member's Video Journey – Tom Hunt</i> <i>VOTY &amp; AVOTY entries close, Members Videos – Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>TH</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> November</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Faces of the Illawarra on a mobile phone</i> <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>17<sup>th</sup> November</i>	<i>Member's Video Journey – Brian Harvey &amp; Bruce Shaw</i> <i>Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>BH &amp; BS</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> December</i>	<i>Gala Night</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>8<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>Annual Dinner &amp; Awards Night</i>	<i>Fraternity Club</i>	<i>All</i>

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

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*The project this year - 2020 view of the Illawarra*