



WOLLONGONG CAMERA CLUB INC. MOVIE MAKERS

March 2020

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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/2020/01/20191231-catalogue-by-year-to-end-2019.pdf>

Movie Makers' Facebook Page:

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



LAST MONTH at the CLUB

Meeting Minutes – 4th February 2020

Eight members met and reluctantly accepted Max Davies apology for wishing to take a break from the Club. He is still a financial member and we hope to see him back at the Club soon.

The items discussed important for the conduct of this year.

MM involvement in PG Activities

In a previous email to members, Ian Simpson had suggested, in addition to the current Programme for 2020, that members consider being more active with the Photographic Group. Ian list three possibilities:

- As Max Davies originally suggested that the MM members make videos of joint Club activities so as to provide a memento of that activity to enjoy both now and in the future, (say) 25 years' time.
- That MM members run one or two workshops for PG members to introduce them to the fundamentals of using the video component of their cameras.
- That a MM member do a presentation to the PG on basic movie making.

Action:

- After considerable discussion it was agreed that first listed item was the most viable. Especially as the Max Davies and John Devenish production; *Callemondah* was so well received by all who attended the Annual Dinner & Awards Night last December. This video captured a combined Photographic Group and Movie Makers activity.

The Club activities coming up in February are

- The 16th of February – a Kanahooka Bird Walk 8am – 11am,
- The 23rd of February – Motocross meet at the Mt Kembla Hotel at 8am.

Screen Videos of Club Activities

If MM members capture Club activities throughout the year, the question arose – when could the edited videos be shown?

PG Meeting Night

- For each activity it was suggested that a 5 to 10 minute slot be made available in the PG programme about a month after the activity to show the edited video.

Action:

- Bruce Shaw and Brian Harvey to seek if such an addition to the PG programme was possible.

Annual Dinner & Awards Night

- It was suggested by Brian Harvey that a compilation video of the Club's various activities and meetings that MM members have captured throughout the year be shown at the Annual Dinner and Awards Night during the meal – replacing the display of EDIs.

Action:

- Bruce Shaw to take this up with the Committee of Management.

More Public Exposure of WCCMM

Tom Hunt suggested that the MM members should hold a *Movie Night* and invite the public via an extensive advertising of the event.

Action:

- Tom Hunt to examine when such a night could fit into our existing programme.

Newsletter and Social Media

The ready availability of various types of social media from blogs to *Facebook* groups and pages means it is timely to reassess the role of the traditional MM newsletter. For the past 20 years the MM newsletter has recorded members' activities both during the programmed monthly meetings and of other activities, principally the making of different team videos. The newsletter has also kept members up to date with recent technological advances in the hobby and the editor has tried to contribute to the understanding of different aspects of the hobby.

The major advantages of social media are its immediacy in communication and its ability to allow interaction between members.

Members discussed the various alternatives to the newsletter which the Club has either trialled or adopted.

Action:

- Bruce Shaw & Brian Harvey to raise the matter at the management committee of what social media platform will become the approved one for posting meeting minutes, activity reports, technological advances and any other items of interest to members of both the PG and MM groups.

- Ian Simpson will continue producing the newsletter during the transition period until a social media platform is decided on.
- John Devenish will examine the existing closed *Facebook* group and see if all MM members are will to join and participate in such a group for all their MM Club information.

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Meeting – 18th February 2020

The meeting opened with 5 members in attendance, with apologies from Chris Dunne, Peter Brown, Brian Harvey and Max Davies. Ian Simpson conducted the meeting beginning with notices for two forthcoming events.

- 1) Club activity – Motocross on 23rd February from 8am to 3pm at 340 Harry Graham Drive, Kembla Heights
- 2) A free movie making course in Sydney on 26th March - ILLUMINATE An Event for Filmmakers

The *Hot Spot* was given by John Devenish where he showed how effective the follow autofocus was on his Panasonic G95 camera. At the previous Sunday's Club activity to Kanahooka for a Bird Walk, John captured a group of members in the distance walking towards the camera. When one of the group dropped out to attend to her camera, the remainder of the group continued to walk on. John's camera retained focus on the group. This simple example indicated how sophisticated modern cameras are in retaining focus on moving objects.

Members' Movie Making Journey

One theme of this year's programme is the opportunity for members to present their movie making journey. Members can discuss their particular likes and dislikes and how they have developed over the years. This self review process not only helps the member reassess their works but also gives other members the chance to better appreciate the member's overall body of work.

First up was Ian Simpson who introduced his history of movie making by first listing the many formats he has used over the last 52 years:

Filmmaking - Super 8: 1967 to 1989

Analogue Video (Hi 8): 1989 to 1999

Digital Standard Definition Video (D 8 and mini DV): 1999 to 2011

Digital High Definition Video: 2011 to 2017

Digital 4K Definition Video: 2017 to 2020

Ian got his first PC in September 2000 and so from then on was able to experiencing the joys of non-linear editing using the various changes in the Pinnacle Studio software.

Ian then discussed his first two films:

First Movie: Super 8 film documenting Christmas Day 1967

Second Movie: Super 8 films of Wollongong Presbyterian Fellowship Association activities: Wallacia 26-12-67

First film shown publicly was at Wollongong Movie Makers was of a family visit to Old Sydney Town - shot in February 1977. This was his first sound synchronised film using a mechanical / electrical Sychrodeck connecting a portable reel-to-reel tape recorder to a Bolex projector. The sound for the film was shot wild using the same portable reel-to-reel tape recorder.

Ian began his movie making journey, not to mimic the professional cinema, but to just record the people and times he lived in and lived through. In other words to make home movies. Whilst he was busy capturing the activities of his family, unconsciously he was beginning to experiment with a different genre. He only realised how far he had progressed along this path when he was getting his thoughts together last year for this presentation. The different genre he was experimenting with was the *video essay*.

So what is a Video Essay?

Ian explained that the video essay according to Mike Wilhelm is “a regular essay, but with accompanying visuals and music.” (<https://www.creatorhandbook.net/what-makes-the-best-video-essays-so-great-b9d310ec1b74/>)

Or as *Wikipedia* defines a *video essay* “as a piece of video content that, much like a written essay, advances an argument.”

So a *video essay* is like a written essay in that it is a short personal video. It is a video format where we can express our feelings or opinions on almost any topic or subject. The home of the video essay now is the internet and as the attention span of most viewers is very limited, online video essays must be short in duration, concise in presentation and often very opinionated. A popular type of online video essay is the critique of films and their directors.

Four Forms of the Video Essay

Ian explained that the video essay can take on four different forms and he proceeded to explain each of the following forms and screened a selected video that that best fitted each of these forms.

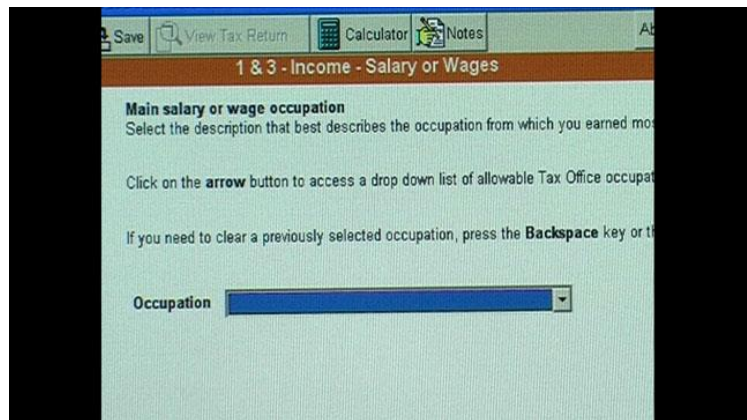
The Narrative Video Essay— Here the narrator tells of real-life experiences, presents them as vividly as possible and ends with a personal conclusion.

The example video shown was ***One Day Later*** – made in 2001 –The idea investigates and compares travel experiences for holidays started on the day planned and if started one day later.



The Descriptive Video Essay— Here the movie maker presents a place, an object or an event and tries to provide a deeper meaning. This personal probe for a deeper meaning separates this type of video essay from the factual documentary.

This video, ***Taxing Times*** - <https://vimeo.com/144087975> investigates the proposition that one's occupation determines / makes the person.



The Expository Essay—Here the movie maker presents a balanced argument on a particular topic that interests them. The attempt to be even handed separates this essay format from the last category.

The video, ***The Absurd Fear*** - <https://vimeo.com/143805280> asks the question; Is life meaningless?

It looks to answering this question from both the religious and the existential points of view.



The Persuasive Video Essay—Here the movie maker, although still using facts to support his argument, makes very clear which side of the argument they are on.

This video, ***Timelessness*** - <https://vimeo.com/144831339> argues that there is no such thing as time. It is a human invention to try to explain our ever changing environment.



Ian's final video was selected to demonstrate that a *Video Essay* does not have to contain the words of a narrator expressing an opinion, idea or argument. Although this had been the key ingredient in all the previously screened videos, Ian instead suggests it does not have to always be so. In this video Ian presents a subtle version of the *Persuasive Video Essay*. It was constructed from historical footage, news broadcasts and music of the period. The video, *Vietnam* discusses the futility of the Vietnam War.



Ian concluded his presentation with two quotes for those who wish to make video essays.

The truth about self-expression is that our own experience only becomes interesting when we transcend it to discover through our private joy or suffering something of universal human interest
Christopher Allen, Weekend Australian Review, December 21-22, 2019

People vote by emotions not on issues. Issues are proxies for their emotions
Howard Dean

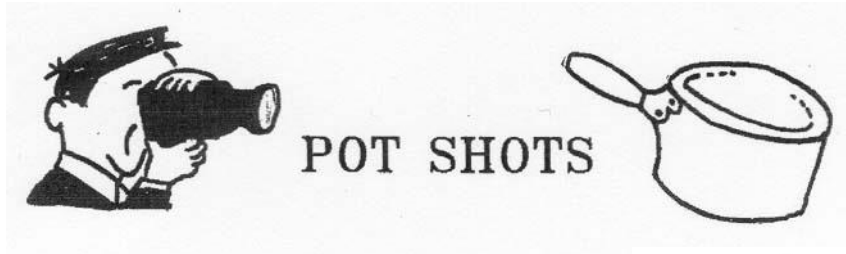
As *Video Essays* are attempts at rational discussion and are not straight-out entertainment, the video essayists need to ensure their video are “*of universal human interest*” and their “*issues are proxies for their emotions*.” Only then will their video essay achieve greater audience acceptance.

Holiday Videos

To finish of the meeting a number of holiday videos were screen as there had not been the opportunity to screen them at the previous meeting.

- *A Glimpse of Brisbane* - <https://vimeo.com/144087969> – An A/V presentation of Brisbane in 2007 by Ann Devenish
- *Cow Eats Car* – John Devenish made a light hearted video from the signs he had seen.
- *Murphy's Haystacks* - <https://vimeo.com/366665472> – A historical look at a rock formation.
- *A Glimpse of Scotland* – One from the archives but nevertheless a beautiful coverage of Bonnie Scotland by Brian Harvey.
- *Ice Cream Delivery by Dog Sledge* by John Devenish was another gem from his time in the far northern land of ice & snow.
- *Project Eagle Plains Day 2* by John & Ann Devenish was another from the land of snow.
- *VH-DAK* - <https://vimeo.com/144086725> Here John Devenish presents a DC-3 on four wheels – or part thereof.

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Fujifilm's new X-T200

Benefiting from Fujifilm's "trickle down" philosophy, the new X-T200 model has the 24.2MP APS-C sensor and features from its bigger and more expensive cousins. It can capture 4K video at up to 30fps. Each video frame is a downsampled version of the original 6K frame. An interesting addition is an internal gyro to calculate and correct for camera movement. The rear screen can be moved in any which way so bloggers can now use this camera.



Always Shoot at the Highest Resolution Your Camera is Capable of

Phil Rhodes in an article in *Redshark* <https://www.redsharknews.com/distribution/item/6625-shoot-at-the-highest-quality-now-and-your-work-will-last-decades> discusses the benefit for the future of shooting in present at the maximum quality / resolution possible. Here he gives the example of a famous TV series, *The Prisoner*, that was shot in 1967 on 35mm colour film. The 50th anniversary of this series was marked by a high quality HD remastered version. All of which was possible because of the quality of the original format used.

Panasonic ceases making sensors

Panasonic's semiconductor division has thrown in the towel on the design and fabrication of its sensors and so has recognised Sony's dominance in this field. Sony supplies about 70% of smartphone sensors and about 50% of camera sensors. Many commentators saw the writing on the wall when Panasonic used a Sony sensor in its S1 series mirrorless cameras.

Panasonic introduces its S1H model

For a long time Panasonic's premiere video capable mirrorless camera was the GH series, the latest being the GH5S. But now Panasonic have introduced their S1H model, a full frame model, and as such has a larger sensor than the micro 4/3 sensor in the GH5S camera. The consequences are that in difficult lighting conditions the S1H will produce clearer, brighter and hence better images than the GH5S. Also for those cinematographers who need and love shallow depth of field shots, then the S1H is your camera. https://www.dpreview.com/reviews/panasonic-lumix-dc-s1h-review/11?utm_campaign=traffic_source&utm_source=self&utm_medium=direct-link

Bait is baiting the critics

The British Film Institute has defined the movie *Bait* as "The definitive British film of the decade." Here is a film shot on 16mm film on a clockwork Bolex camera, films were hand processed by cinematographer / director, with all sound & dialogue post-synced. Read what Redshark contributor thinks of this film and the way it was made; <https://www.redsharknews.com/production/item/6948-the-film-of-the-decade-or-a-technical-catastrophe>

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2020 Programme

Date	Meeting Agenda	Place	Responsible Member
<i>3rd March</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Illawarra Coastal Bays Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>17th March</i>	<i>AGM</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>21st March</i>	<i>Combined Clubs Meeting- Milton Ulladulla Bowling Club</i>	<i>Start: 9:30</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>7th April</i>	<i>One Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Water with Music Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>21st April</i>	<i>DaVinci Resolve Tutorial 2 Members Videos – Hot Spot – Review of team activities</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>5th May</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Portrait with a “piece to camera” Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>19th May</i>	<i>Member’s Video Journey – Max Davies & Peter Brown Members Videos – Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>MD & PB</i>
<i>2nd June</i>	<i>Mid-Year Competition – Open Subject – 7 minutes max.</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>7th July</i>	<i>One Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Open CCM Planning- Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>4th August</i>	<i>Four Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Grand Pacific Drive with Interview & Voiceover Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>1st September</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject - Time-Lapse CCM Planning - Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>15th September</i>	<i>Member’s Video Journey – John Devenish & Chris Dunn Members Videos – Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>JD & CD</i>
<i>6th October</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – The Changing Cityscape of Wollongong in 2020 Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>Combined Clubs Meeting</i>		<i>All</i>
<i>20th October</i>	<i>Member’s Video Journey – Tom Hunt VOTY & AVOTY entries close, Members Videos – Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>TH</i>
<i>3rd November</i>	<i>Two Minute Rough Cut Competition Subject – Faces of the Illawarra on a mobile phone Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>17th November</i>	<i>Member’s Video Journey – Brian Harvey & Bruce Shaw Members Videos - Hot Spot</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>BH & BS</i>
<i>1st December</i>	<i>Gala Night</i>	<i>School Hall</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>8th December</i>	<i>Annual Dinner & Awards Night</i>	<i>Fraternity Club</i>	<i>All</i>

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

The project this year - 2020 view of the Illawarra

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