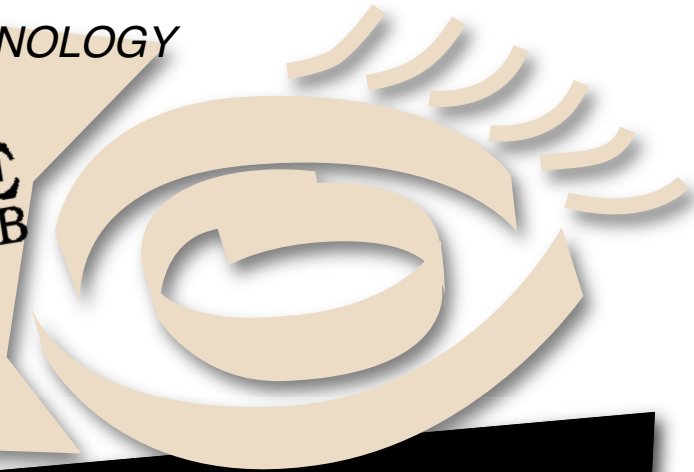


ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY

**NORTHSIDE  
CAMCORDER CLUB**  
S Y D N E Y



# ELECTRONIC EYE

N E W S L E T T E R

2008

**February 2008**

- 2 Through the President's Lens
- 3 February Meeting
- 4-5 A New Tripod
- 6-7 Focus Night - Know Your Camera
- 9 The End of HD DVD
- 10 Competition Corner
- 11 JVC New HD Offering
- 12 Club Diary 2008



**Next Meeting  
WEDNESDAY  
27th February**

[www.ncc.asn.au](http://www.ncc.asn.au)





# A NEW TRIPOD

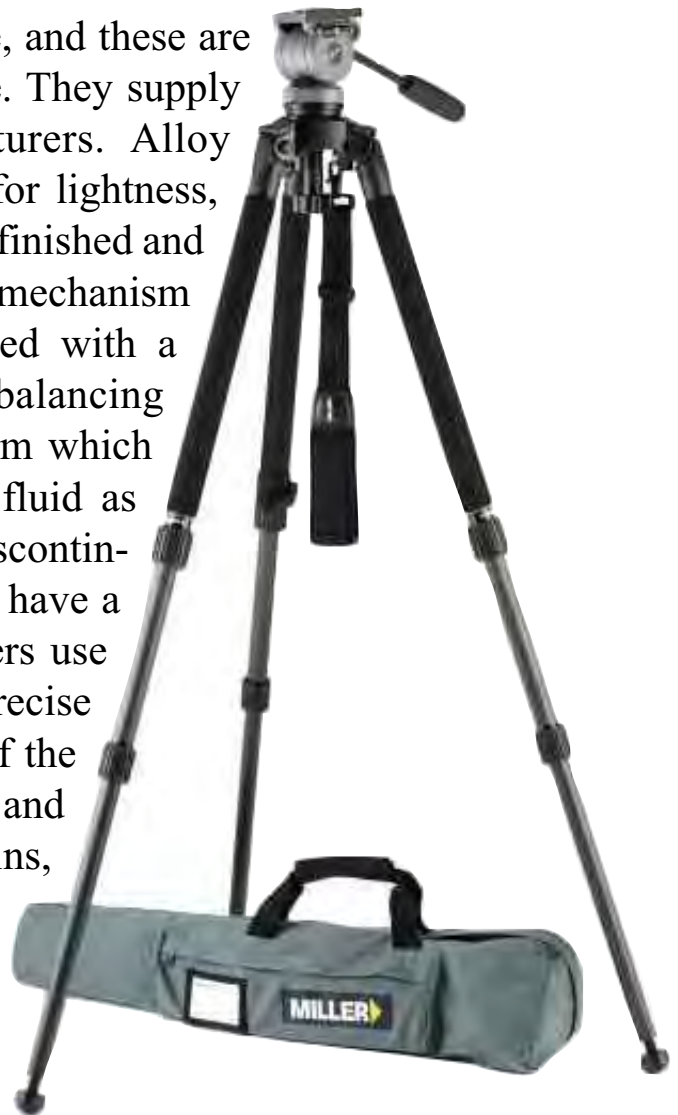
*Andy Doldissen and Chris Saville*

The voice on the phone said “I’m thinking of buying a Miller tripod, would you like to come and look at them, and can you also bring your Sony PD170 camera along to try”.

A few days later we arrived at the Miller showroom in Artarmon which is also, we found, the only factory where the tripods are made. (I was under the wrong impression they were made all over the world). It was amazing just how much is done in such a small space. Miller produce thousands of tripods each year for the global market with the largest market being the USA. Miller target mainly the professional market and the range covers everything from mini DV cameras all the way through to very large studio cameras and jibs.

The Miller family started making tripods in the fifties and today are one of the premier brands on the market so we were very curious to see the inside of a fluid head and the various stages of production. Miller incidentally took out the patent for the world’s first fluid head.

Tripod legs are now made from carbon fibre, and these are imported from a specialist factory in France. They supply carbon fibre to all the tripod manufacturers. Alloy mouldings are aluminium and magnesium for lightness, these are cast in Brookvale and then ground, finished and powder coated at the factory. The Fluid head mechanism consists of many thin brass washers packed with a special grease and then sealed, counterbalancing springs and clutches added to the mechanism which then rotates on ball bearings. There is no fluid as such in the head, apparently the fluid was discontinued many years ago. All current fluid heads have a similar construction, in fact all manufacturers use the same grease made in Germany. The precise surface area of the washers and properties of the grease result in a silken smooth panning and tilting motion. All the smaller fittings, pins, screws are machined in the factory by computer controlled milling machines. We saw brass and aluminium rods feeding in one side of a machine and completed shaped,











to attract attention and the low light shooting was reasonable for shooting inside buildings.

Eddie Hanham discussed the HD camera that was released when standards were being developed and all manufactures were trying to grab market share to force the acceptance of their formats for compression. some of the problems being slow start up times when shooting action sequences or wild life scenes. The backend processing (editing software) was lagging the camera market and he experienced problems with the editing. Sometimes this aspect is overlooked when looking at upgrading your camera.

Rob Nercessian talked on some of the newer technologies that manufactures are offering, such as DVD, hard disc, memory cards etc. Some of the Pro's and Con's for these technologies are cost, fragility, compression quality trade off, etc. It was generally agreed that tape will still be around for the near future due to low cost factor and provides an excellent archive medium. He also explained that manufacturers were "Dumming Down" the camera's at the low end to attract the point and shoot user.

The night was well attended and it was an informative forum that provided some thought provoking ideas from people who had experienced the some pitfalls when selecting their camera.

Our thanks to Joy Saunders for an excellent night.

*Ross Donaldson*





# And the winner is...

*reproduced from dbtechno.com*



*Toshiba Corp. has officially announced the end of the HD DVD format on Tuesday 19th February. They stated that they will no longer be manufacturing HD DVD and will be closing all of their operations for the high-def DVD format, leaving Blu-ray as the official winner of the high-def format war.*

*Toshiba stated that they will stop all research and production of HD DVD equipment immediately. They will also stop selling any HD DVD products as of March 31.*

*Toshiba President and Chief Executive Atsutoshi Nishida stated “We carefully assessed the long-term impact of continuing the so-called next generation format war and concluded that a swift decision will best help the market develop. It was a tough decision. But it would have a big impact on our management if we continued HD DVD.”*

*Blu-ray, led by Sony Corp., has received a lot of support since 2008 began, receiving backing from the likes of studios such as Warner Bros, and retailers such as Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Netflix, and other outlets. It has had a larger installed user base thanks to the fact that a Blu-ray player comes built-in to every Sony PlayStation 3 game console sold.*

*Toshiba has only been able to sell 1 million HD DVD players.*

*Nishida stated that the decision of Warner Bros. may have been the deciding factor in the war. He stated “The impact was large as U.S. retailers reacted.”*



[www.dbtechno.com](http://www.dbtechno.com)











