

ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY

**SYDNEY VIDEO
MAKERS CLUB**



ELECTRONIC EYE

N E W S L E T T E R

June 2012

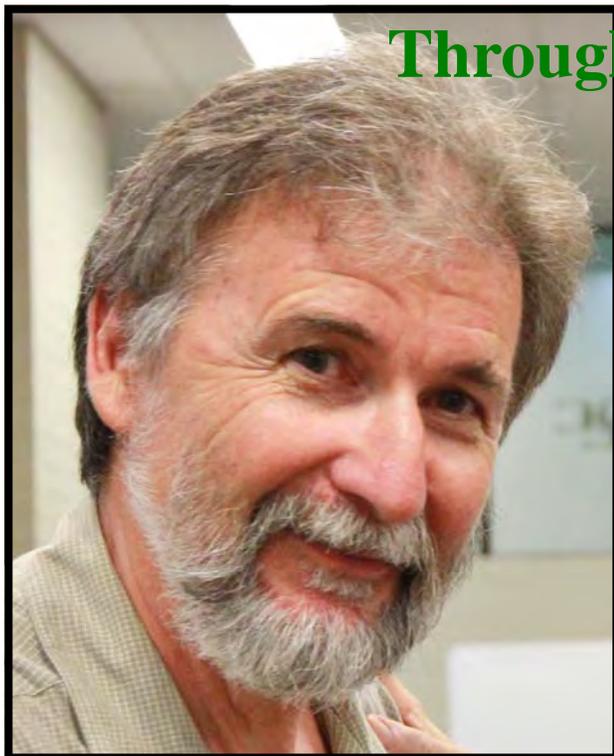
2012

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**Next Meeting
Wednesday
27th June, 2012**

www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au



Through the Presidents Lens

Welcome

The Piet de Vries workshop was on Saturday, 26 May. We had fifteen attend and it turned out to be a very worthwhile day. Piet has a wealth of knowledge, a very relaxed style and is a great teacher. He was able to use a variety of his material to demonstrate ideas and ways of putting stories together. The one day workshop is a really good way to learn, there is plenty of time to digest ideas and to ask questions. Everyone rated the day highly so

we could make it an annual event if enough members are interested. This would allow more members to take advantage of it.

A few members contacted me following our last club competition, in regard to judging. The committee discussed this at our last meeting and decided to provide feedback on all entries. I volunteered to review all judges comments and select a representative positive and negative comment so that we could all get a better understanding. I have included both the high and low score which gives a feel of where each entry stands. This feedback is in this edition. Let me know if you think this information is helpful, as it is a trial for this competition.

The renewal of the AMCOS/ARIA license is coming up and is due at the end of the financial year. The committee reviewed whether this was value for money – it would cost the club \$512.47 for another full year. The reality was there has been relatively little use being made of this license, only one or two club competition entries have used copyright music. The license imposes certain restrictions on usage e.g. no publishing to YouTube and a limit of twenty copies of any DVD made. The committee decided not to renew the license and felt the money could be better spent elsewhere.

This months club meeting will be about “Developing Ideas through to Production” led by Ian Scott. So if you have a great idea for a video and am not sure what to do next this could be the night not to miss.

If anyone has any contacts in the Video or Film industry, please mention it to any of your committee. We are always looking for club speakers. I am pleased to announce that an Australian Film Director will be presenting to the club later this year. I think it is a first for the club to have a Director speak.

I have been attending the Sydney Film Festival, as we do every year. This is a chance to see non mainstream films both dramas and documentaries. It is a chance to see some innovative films and cinematography. Many of these films are never released commercially, although some do appear on SBS. While some films are outstanding there are a few that would benefit from more critical editing. If the film doesn't grab me then I find I start to analyse what is wrong, this can be a great exercise in understanding the components of a story. They all should fit together, the characters, the plot, the locations, the look, ... You can learn a lot when it works and also when it doesn't work.

I will be away from the end of June to mid July, we are off to the Kimberley. Gerry Benjamin, our Vice President will take over while I'm away.

Stay Focused

**Andy
President**

June 2012

Focus Night Presentation, June 13th.



Ian Scott

The theme for this evening's presentation was a dissertation by Ian Scott on Codecs and formats used in the processing of video data. Twenty five stalwart members attended on a rather cool and rainy evening and were treated to a very entertaining explanation of some of the factors involved. Aided by a well illustrated Power-Point presentation, Ian was able to show how data is handled and transmitted between the

various pieces of equipment involved.

Starting with the camera and its storage method, tape, hard-disc or flash memory and downloading and re-formatting into the NLE, subsequent editing and outputting to whatever target media chosen, the complete chain of events was explained.

Some interesting discussion followed as the pros & cons of progressive and interlacing frames was considered and most of us in the audience learned quite a bit. Although, at times the level of some of the discussions left some of us, to say the least, a little baffled!

Mnemonics were the order of the day; we had JPEG 2 & 4, AVCHD, H 264 and others. Members were advised to avail themselves of the plentiful amount of information readily to hand on the net if they wished to delve a little more deeply than Ian had time for.



Ami Levartovsky talking to Ilma Cave

Judging by the lively discussions during the tea-break, great interest had been shown and the members were keen to learn more. During the next session, a question was asked “ was there a non-linear editor available” Which took me back to the days of VCR's and even earlier of open tape reels, scissors (razor blades) and adhesive tape. Thank goodness those days are behind us!

All in all, it was an entertaining evening and many thanks to Ian Scott.



Phil Brighton

FOCUS NIGHT 13TH JUNE



Eddie Hanham & Graham Sainty



Ami Levartovsky & Ian Scott



Mr. Cave & Ruskin Spears



George Karadonian



Jim Whitehead, Elmaz Kavaz & Lee Crispe



Clare Waterworth, Gwen Roberts & Beryl Stephens



Don Read talking to Phil Brighton



Stuart Plant with Barry Crispe

May Club Night on Lighting

Here is a screen grab from the Lowel EDU site I used at the May Club night. There are a few different drop down selections on the RHS under "All Foundations"

try this link - pretty nifty and so much quicker than moving lights around!

http://www.lowel.com/edu/foundations_of_lighting.html

then just click on the 'hour' - it's great seeing the set up and the result on the same image

e.g.

Key @ 7:00



Andy Doldissen

President

CLUB MEETING 24th MAY



Jim Whitehead with our man from Hong Kong



John Maher and Barry Crispe



Colin Cooper & Chris Saville



Ruskin Spears & Elmaz Kavas



Don Reade



Michael O'Leary & Stuart Plant



J Whitehead, E Cheung G Karadonian & G Benjamin



Kent Fr, Chris Saville, Neville Clare & Ian Scott

Club Night Continued



Clare Waterorth & Ami Levartovsky



Andy Doldissen, Joy Saunders testing the lightening



Kerry Gibson



Leonard Lim



Andy Doldissen with Chris Saville



David Rogers & Gerry Benjamin



Male Model Ian Howard



Ian Scott

PROBLEMS WITH COMPETITION ENTRY FORMATS.

Thank you to all the competition entrants who adopted and submitted AVI or MOV format files on a separate disc. The screening at the Club Night Competition session did move along more smoothly when we had the “consolidated DVD” up and running. The time consuming loading and unloading of separate entries was replaced by simple DVD menu selections for the entries on the DVD.

Not all entries were able to be screened this way as there were still a couple of problems. Two entrants did not provide a separate file and relied on DVD, so please have a go this time and submit a copy as AVI or MOV.

MOV is an Apple format and in will run on a PC or a MAC in a **Quick Time Player**. Folks with a MAC do need to ensure that they export in **Quick Time Format** and not in Mp4. The Mp4 version of MOV is not guaranteed playable on any PC. Two entries were submitted as Mp4 straight off the Timeline and were unable to be assembled into the Consolidated DVD as Mp4 has an altered audio format. If there is any doubt export as an AVI.

There were two entries on Blue Ray Disc, these were and need to be screened separately.

In case you have any concerns about screening quality, remember that the judge gets one of your DVD copies, which will have the same compression as that on the final consolidated DVD.

In any case keep those entries rolling in.

Marg Tulloh
Competition manager

How I came to join the Sydney Video Makers Club

By Graham Sainty

I was advised by a friend of mine Kevin Middleton of the South West Video Club who meet at Liverpool to contact the then North Side Camcorder Club that meet at Chatswood nearest to where I live at North Ryde.

I was born at West Ryde Sydney on the 4th January 1939. I attended West Ryde primary school, my parents moved to Gladesville and finished Primary School there, my parents then moved to Eastwood and I finished my schooling at Eastwood Junior Tech.

I left school in 1954 and started work with my parents in their Baby Wear clothing manufacturing business and was there for 10 years, I then joined our main opposition Maude Wilson Pty. Ltd. also Baby Wear Manufactures, and I was there for 30 years as production manager, when it was decided to close down the manufacturing business in December 1995. I then joined Avtronics (Aust) Pty. Ltd. At Gladesville, I have been there for last 16 years, I now only work two days a week.

I married in September 1963 and I have two Daughters and now have two grandchildren.

My interest in videoing came when on holiday in Hawaii in 1992, there had been a Volcano eruption earlier, we went

and saw, and was watching LAVA still flowing through the scrub, as still cameras cannot capture sound and

movement, I was sold on the idea of a camcorder. In 1995 I bought my first video camera recorder a SONY TR440E super 8 which I used on our next trip away to Norfolk Island in February 1996 which I used on every trip away until I joined the club in 2004 and I bought my second Camera a Sony HC30E a smaller camera using a mini MV Tape which I still use.

But I am thinking of buying a third camera only with a memory card.

I am enjoying helping make video movies with my PHOENIX group, since this idea came in 3 years ago I have learned a lot, and made some very good friends. I am still learning how to edit using Pinnacle Studio version 14. I am now on the committee, as Library Manager.

Happy Videoing.

Judges Feedback for Club Competition

Our last competition was “Excellence in Audio” – following some feedback from members the committee decided to extract selected judges comments to give all members a better understanding of judging. If you think it is worthwhile we can do it for other competitions.

I have made a selection of positive and negative comments, some suggestions, and tried to present a variety of different things that the judges pick up on in entries. It is not meant to be a definitive list but just a sample.

So here are the entries in no particular order.



Title: Jenolan Thunder

Range scored: 75 / 95

Feedback:

Continuity of sound beat well done with visual synch

audio - *Outstanding—had my sound room drumming—great work. Balance and levels excellent*

This was one of the better multi-camera shoots I have seen

What a great video!! It caught me right from the start! I watched it twice because I wanted to! A great venue for a great act and beautifully recorded in such difficult lighting. My expensive sound system loved it!



Title: Cycle Centennial

Range scored: 72 / 90

Feedback:

"A good documentary with a message but opportunity for excellence in sound limited by subject matter"

audio - *"All good but the background music did not cover the interview background rumble. Perhaps a*

'fuller' sound background track would have helped and in some places if the background track was higher in volume level better cover may have been achieved"

audio - *"good clear audio, unfortunately a vehicle sound in one interview, otherwise good"*

"A video which enables an interest group to have its say, successfully!"



Title: CHANNEL 12 NEWS

Range scored: 84 / 89

Feedback:

audio - *THE DIALOGUE FOR THE LONG SHOTS WAS OUTSTANDINNG AND THE AUDIO LEVEL WAS EXCELLENT*

A well made production, although the content was not particularly entertaining. Camera work and audio in this was a highlight in this video.

A very entertaining video with an opening scene that grabbed attention. Well presented and generally kept my attention.



Title: THE ASTHMATIX

Range scored: 69 / 90

Feedback:

ORIGINAL APPROACH WITH IMAGINATIVE VISUALS.PERHAPS A LITTLE LONG FOR THE SOUNDS PROVIDED.

audio - *AT TIMES THE VIOLIN WAS OVER- AWED BY THE BASS*

Uneven camera framing: mostly good but occasionally one camera gave wobbly pan or soft focus

A different piece of music made interesting and entertaining by creative use of camera and special effects special effects.



Title: THE INTERVIEW

Range scored: 65 / 80.5

Feedback:

MOST ACTING CREDIBLE EXCEPT THE INTERVIEWEE WHO WAS A LITTLE WOODEN, WHICH MAY HAVE IMPROVED WITH A LITTLE MORE REHEARSAL?

audio – *Fadeout of music at beginning a bit abrupt. Could have continued at a low level until entering the room. Some of audio between clips a bit sharp, maybe could have done a slight fade out. Unfortunately the best audio was from the two audio guys. This should have been able to transfer to the main players at the end to bring it altogether. Bit of an echo throughout.*

Humorous portrayal of difficulties in getting good audio at an interview situation



Title: MEG WITH DOPPLER MAGIC

Range scored: 58 / 73.5

Feedback:

SOME CUT-AWAYS TO ALPINE, OR SIMILAR SCENES WOULD HAVE GIVEN THIS PERFORMANCE GREATER VISUAL IMPACT., ONCE THE ORIGINAL SOUND HAD BEEN CAPTURED.

audio - *Audio was fine. The cross fades at the beginning and end detracted from the interview.*

audio - *Recording almost too good, or perhaps too close, as my sound system used to play this back reproduced breathing and other extraneous noises to the sounds of the flute. These noises were intrusive.*

Title: Washed Up

Range scored: 50 / 85.5

Feedback:

audio - **MUSIC WAS APPROPRIATE AND SOUNDS, PARTICULARLY ON CLOSE UPS WAS AUTHENTIC AND THE VOICES, THOUGH SCARCE, WERE WELL ARTICULATED.**

"Crossing the line" evident in shots of gent at dishwasher. Try to avoid reversing direction of action.

A good gag, recently doing the rounds on the internet.

Title: Ave Maria

Range scored: 47 / 88

Feedback:

audio - *The soundtrack to the opening of the production until the organist started playing had lots of noise that was distracting and unnecessary. The rest of the recording was fine.*

THE CONCEPT WAS GOOD, THE LOCALE WAS EXCELLENT BUT THE FRAMING TO INCLUDE INTRUSIVE TRIPOD AND CAMERA DETRACTED FROM THE TOTAL EXPERIENCE WHICH WITH MORE JUDICIOUS FRAMING COULD HAVE BEEN A MEMORABLE AND EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE . THE SINGING WAS SUPERB.

Title: PLEASE EXPLAIN

Range scored: 57 / 83

Feedback:

audio - *. THE LEVEL VARIED. THE MIKE ON THE SCOT GAVE THE BEST SOUND.. THE MICROPHONE WAS TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE LAST PERSON.*



audio - *Again, lots of potential for improvement. Some interviews lacked clarity or had a hollowness to them. Others had extraneous noises—rustling, popping etc.*

COMPETITION CORNER

Our second last Competition is due on Wednesday . The second last for the year.

Then the big one “VOTY”.

Please read the new rules regarding the Voty competition. They were published in the last EE and are on the Web Site.

You will need 5 disc's altogether three for the Judges one for the club and a Mov. or AVI file

I would prefer a Mov. File. Last Competition I was given different excuses for not supplying the Format that was requested. Excuses will not be accepted.
As I send the disc off to the judges the day after receiving them, time is limited.

Please read Page 10.

Margaret Tulloh
Competition Manager.

CATERING

Packers are requested to cater for the Club Meeting on 27th June.

During this month I will make out a roster, this will not only include Teams but Individuals.

Margaret Tulloh
Catering Supervisor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank Lee Prescott and Pip Critten, Editor of SoCo News for the article on pages 19 to 22.

Lee has kindly given his permission for me to Publish his story “**On the Wild Side**”.

Lee lives in Gloucestershire, England and has had a lot to do with our club through members such as:- Bob Hallett, Roger Cowland and Barry McKnight, also just recently John Sirett gained equal 2nd place in a competition in England. I feel honoured to be allowed to reprint Lee’s Article .

Lee has known Noel Leeder for many years starting as part of “The Cotswold International Film and Video Festival”

Pip Critten is also a friend of Noel Leader.

See www.cotswoldfilmvideofest.co.uk

Thank you both,

Margaret Tulloh,
Editor

Lee Prescott on the wild side

LEE PRESCOTT FACI. Writes... -©-



INIQUITIES & IDIOSYNCRACIES (AVOIDABLE) ENGINEERED IN DEALING WITH WILD LIFE.

First we are indebted to Wilbur Smith for the “1960s Report” on which this article is based, -© - and from which, dear exemplary videographers, I am quite sure that latterly you will add to your learning curve on the subject of “How and How Not to Damage your Bodily Comforts”.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION THE HARD WAY!

At the outset, I must emphasise that insemination of any sort can only be performed the hard way,
not-with-standing:---

The Black Rhinoceros comes from stock over millennia. For decades now and unfortunately ongoing the Black Rhinoceros has, entirely due to (in)human interference, become in danger of extinction. This is due to the erroneous belief that its horn, powdered, is a strong aphrodisiac. This in turn engenders ferocious poaching since the animal is (supposed to be) protected.

Another contributory factor in its decline is its completely disorganised mating habits as the female of the species only becomes receptive to the attention of the males once every three years. Correspondingly the males only become “interested” in a female at similar intervals. (Obviously they do not go clubbing as is done in Gloucester)! This condition is known as “Must”. Very appropriate! The problem therefore is one of “synchronisation” – somewhat like some of our ”timelines”! So you will appreciate fully that in their case their amorous intentions do not always coincide.



In the early nineteen sixties Mr. Wilbur Smith was invited along with a host of journalists and other such luminaries to be present and observe at an attempt by the then Rhodesian Game Department to solve their problem of poor synchronisation etc. The proposal was to capture a male Rhinoceros and to induce him into delivering up a quantity of that “which could be stored” until the day when the thoughts of any of his concubines fancy turned to the thoughts of “love”!

The assembled party departed from the Zambezi Valley in an impressive convoy of internal combustion engined vehicular transport. In the centre of this array was none other than the Director of the Game Department, accompanied by a number of his minions, a Veterinary Surgeon, an Electrician and sundry other technicians all of whom deemed to be necessary to acquire the potent harvest!

The local Game Scouts had been dispatched to scout the Bush for the largest, most virile male Rhinoceros that could be found. They did their job to perfection and led to a beast at least the size of a small granite koppie, (comparison for the unleavened – a small Dartmoor Tor), with a nose horn considerably longer than a man’s fore arm.

The essential trick was to get the monster into the robust mobile pen which had been specially constructed to accommodate him.

With the Director of the Game Department bellowing frantic orders from the safety of the largest truck, the hot pursuit was on! The screaming, shouting tumult was “apocalyptic”! Clouds of dust resembling a pea soup fog arose and flew in all directions. Trees and vegetation were completely destroyed. The Game Scouts scattered like chaff.

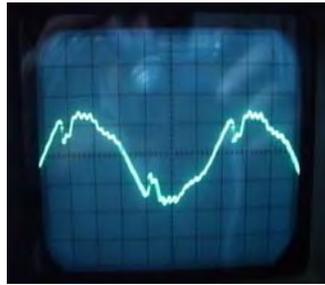
Finally, after a litre of narcotics had been shot into his buttocks, he slowed, his mood became dreamy and benign.

With forty black Game Scouts (and “local” kids) heaving, pushing and shoving and the Director still bawling his orders from his truck, Mr. Rhinoceros was wedged into his cage with a silly, stupid, happy grin on his physog.



At this point the Director deemed it safe to emerge from his truck and came amongst all the sweating labour resplendent in a starched and immaculately ironed Bush Jacket, complete with a colourful silk cravat at his throat.

With a totally Colonial Imperial Gesture, (CIG), he ordered the portable electric generator to be brought into the scene and positioned behind the captured animal. This machine was capable of lighting a small town. It resembled in some respects a Roman Chariot!



The Director climbed up onto the generator the better to address the assembled company. They gathered round to learn what was to happen next.....

It appeared that the only way to obtain what they had come for was to introduce an electrode into the Rhinoceros', a*, sorry, er anus and to deliver a mild electric shock not to exceed a few volts which would be enough to “trigger” him.**

The Director gave yet another order and the Veterinary Surgeon greased an implement that resembled an acoustic torpedo in turn attached with sturdily insulated cables to the generator. The Veterinary then went behind the now somnolent beast and thrust the implement in the Rhino's anus a full arms length. The Rhino opened his eyes very wide indeed!

The Veterinary and his two Black Assistants moved into position with a large bucket and assumed expectant expressions. Everyone moved in closer so as not to miss a single detail of the drama! The Director, still mounted on the generator, nodded to the electrician who threw a switch – chaos exploded....

Mr. Rhinoceros' reaction was utterly spectacular. Four tons of enraged Rhinoceros shot a good six feet into the air.

The mobile pen made of great timber baulks exploded into separate pieces and Mr. Rhinoceros, now completely wide awake, took off at a full gallop.

The audience were no less spritely taking to the trees with alacrity. Mr. Smith reports that this was ever the only occasion when he was passed by two journalists halfway up a Mopani tree!

From the top branches an amazing site was beheld. The “chariot”, (generator), was still connected to Mr. Rhinoceros' rectum. The Director of the Game Department was still mounted upon it very much like a Charioteer in “Ben Hur”!

As the “assemblage” disappeared from view Mr. Rhinoceros was snorting and bellowing like a steam locomotive with the Director clinging on and howling like a North Wind, which, of course, only encouraged the beast to greater speed.....

Mr. Rhinoceros' expression of surprised gratification as the switch was thrown will never be forgotten. You could hear him thinking to himself – “Oh boyo, I didn't think this was agoin' to 'appen ter me for at least 'nuther three years”!

- **FOOTNOTES:- In the subsequent departmental enquiry the blame was placed on the Electrician. It seems that in the heat of the moment his wits deserted him and instead of delivering a 5 volts shock he delivered a 500 volts shock right up Mr. Rhinoceros' rectum!**

The story has a happy ending. The following day when the Director had recovered and returned to his office another male Rhinoceros was captured, caged and the Electrician got his wiring right.

Finally, I would very much like to make a film based on this story IF I can find a co-operative Safari Park together with some “game” guys to take the parts of cast and crew ---- any volunteers????

Outing to Kaiser Stub'n Restaurant Terry Hills.

We are organizing a dinner outing to held at the

**Kaiser Stub'n Restaurant,
205 Mona Vale Road,
Terry Hills,**

on Tuesday 24th July 2012 at 7pm.

Please let Mike Elton know if you would like to attend and how many are attending with you.
9904 6295. Or m.elton@bigpond.com

Starters:

Beef Soup with Meat Strudel

Or Butter Lettuce with Homemade Dressing, Eggs Bread Croutons Crispy Bacon and Parmesan Cheese

Or Cabbage Roll "Hungarian Style" with Sour Cream.

Main:

Vienna Schnitzel with Potato Salad

Or Chicken Breast with Garlic and Thyme on Fried Vegetables and Potatoes.

Or Pork Fillet in a Potato Crust on a light mustard Sauce served with Vegetables

Desert:

Vanilla Ice Cream with Hot Blackberries and Cream.

Or Sugar Crusted Fried Apple Rings on Sauce Anglaise and homemade Cinnamon Ice Cream

Or Pancakes filled with freshly stewed Apricots Served with Vanilla Ice Cream

The restaurant sells wines soft drinks etcetera and is also a BYO with a charge of \$5 per bottle

President:

Andy Doldissen

Vice President:

Gerry Benjamin

Secretary:

Ian Scott

Treasurer:

David Rogers

The Club meets on the **FOURTH WEDNESDAY** of each month (except for November & December) at 8PM at the Dougherty Centre, Victor Street, Chatswood. Tea & Coffee are available from 7PM. **FOCUS** nights, which usually cover technical subjects, are held on the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each month (except January & December) at 7.30PM at the Dougherty Centre, Victor Street, Chatswood.

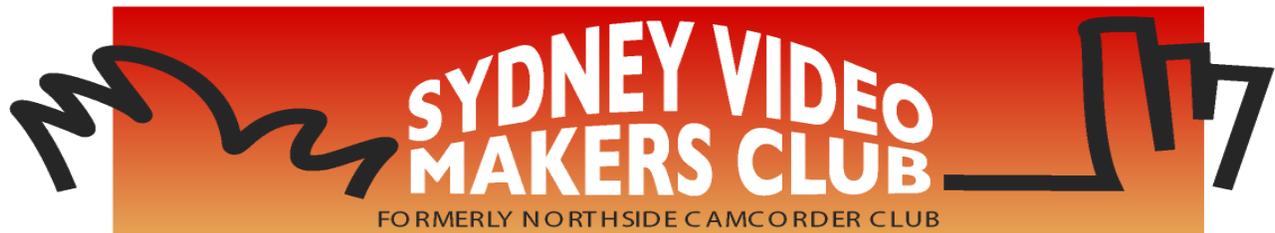
The Committee meets on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of each month. Members are always welcome to attend, and for meeting time and venue, see any committee member.

Member's guests may be invited to meetings; the first visit is free, subsequent visits are \$5. New members are always welcome. Annual membership is single \$56, self and spouse \$76, country member \$28 - with an initial joining fee of \$10.

Note: Equipment brought to a Club night is not covered by the Club's insurance. Members should study their household insurance and check whether their video equipment is covered away from their premises and consider whether their cover should be extended.

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Secretary	Ian Scott	0419 239 953
Treasurer	David Rogers	0428 110 600
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Voty Organiser		
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Social Event Organiser	Mike Elton	0401 928 994
Visitors Coordinator	Gwen Roberts	0422 034 251
Copyright Registrar		
Video Director		
Team Coordinator	Andy Doldissen	0403 838 783
Catering	To be Decided	

Please address all correspondence for Committee Action to:
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