

ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY

**SYDNEY VIDEO  
MAKERS CLUB**



# **ELECTRONIC EYE**

**N E W S L E T T E R**

AUGUST, 2015

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**NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY**

**26th AUGUST, 2015**

**[www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au](http://www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au)**

# Presidents Message

Thanks to Paul for running the last focus night, it was an interesting evening made all the more interesting by the debate, led admirably by Rob as to what depth of field is and whether it's the same as depth of focus?

If you weren't there - or to be honest even if you were - then reaching for Wikipedia or heading for Google won't help, I'm as confused now as I was beforehand but entertained and amused nonetheless!

We had a brief discussion about kit the club might buy for members and, in brief, the conclusion, in order of priority seemed to be; a 3rd light for the lighting kit and a 2nd radio microphone kit.

After those two there was some discussion between a good quality audio recorder in the \$1,000 type price window, a slider (\$200) a teleprompter (\$200) and possibly another LED lighting kit (\$1,200).

If you have any further suggestions or comments let someone on the committee know.

This week I tried out Windows 10, taking up Microsoft's generous offer of 'upgrading' free. I did it on both my desktop and my laptop and, to cut to the chase, have since reverted to Windows 7 on both.

It was nowhere near as unpleasant an experience as Windows 8 but the mad thing seemed to be they had made the colour scheme on the interface much harder to use. They also removed any easy control of it to change it something you liked - or more importantly, which follows the basic rules of usability colour schemes - contrast.

I'm sure that lurking somewhere inside Windows 10 was some form of upgrade to some feature that matters to someone for some reason but, unless you just want to be on the latest version for the sake of it, I have no idea why you'd bother. It's free of course. But that's possibly a good summary of what it's worth! And, just to be clear, I can't stand Apple, awful things for 1,001 genuinely good reasons but Microsoft are working hard to persuade me that's for sure. Windows 7 on the other hand - excellent.

## ABC Tour

If you'd like to join us on the tour of the ABC Studios please come along to the next Club Night with your \$9 per person. Also, please note the date has changed to Tuesday the 8th September. The tour starts at 12.20pm so please aim to get there around midday.

If you are coming please read the ABC's rules on photography which are published in this edition of EE. In summary, no video at all may be shot, including in the ABC Foyer. Only one person from the group is



allowed to take stills - we will nominate someone to do this but please DO NOT bring your camera with the hope of being able to film or snap inside the building.

### **AGM and helping run the club**

The AGM is not far away and as ever we will need volunteers to nominate to join next years Committee. The Club simply can't function without the generosity and effort of everyone on the committee and so please do try and give some of your time to help.

As ever, a number of Committee members, myself included, will be stepping down this year and so if you'd like to get involved and contribute there will certainly be lots of opportunities to get involved.

### **VOTY Update**

It seems we're having date changes all round! After having had the date and the reservation confirmed we've now been told that the room is not available. So, we have agreed to move the date forward by 1 week to the 4th December.

As you'll have seen if you were at Focus Night and also from elsewhere in this EE, the theme for this years VOTY is Gangsters. In terms of entries to VOTY this only affects the 1 minute advertisements which must have some form of a gangster theme / element.

### **This weeks Club Night**

This weeks Club Night promises to be excellent, we have an experienced documentary maker coming to talk to us about how to make better documentaries. What to think about, focus on, pitfalls to avoid, essentially how to tell powerful documentary stories.

Hope to see you there.

Cheers  
Ruskin



SYDNEY VIDEO MAKERS PRESENTS

# **VIDEO OF THE YEAR 2015**

**INCLUDING THE NSW INTER-CLUB DRAMA COMPETITION**

Showing at the Dougherty Centre, Chatswood: **4th December 2015**, doors open at 6.00pm  
more info: [www.sydnevideomakers.org.au/Voty2015](http://www.sydnevideomakers.org.au/Voty2015)

**THIS WEEKS CLUB NIGHT - 26<sup>TH</sup> AT 8PM**



**External Speaker: Ian Cooke**

# **Making Great Documentaries**

At Club Night this week we will have the pleasure of welcoming Ian Cooke, an independent documentary maker who will share his experience and expertise on how to make great documentaries.

So, if you're interested in hearing some of the key lessons gained from lots of real experience, come along.

Club Night will start promptly at 8pm this Wednesday, 26th August







# VOTY 2015

INCLUDING THE NSW INTER-CLUB DRAMA COMPETITION

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 28 Oct. 2015

RUNNING TIME: 2 HOURS TICKETS INCLUDE: DRINKS & NIBBLES TICKETS: \$25

MORE INFO: [www.SYDNEYVIDEOMAKERS.ORG.AU/Voty2015](http://www.SYDNEYVIDEOMAKERS.ORG.AU/Voty2015)

CHATSWOOD DOUGHERTY CENTRE - 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015

 SYDNEY VIDEO  
MAKERS CLUB 

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

## ABC Ultimo Studio Visit

# CHANGE OF DATE

Tuesday, September 8th, 12.20pm



### Sydney Video Makers Dedicated Tour

Please come along to the next Club Night and bring \$9 per person who will be attending (\$8 for pensioners). Alternatively, if you can't make Club Night and would like to come please contact Ruskin. Only SVMC members and their guests will be on our tour.

**Details:**

Date: 8th September

Time: Tour will **start at 12.20pm**

Location: ABC Studios in Ultimo, 700 Harris Street

Meet: At the entrance to 700 Harris Street at 12 midday.

Don't be late, if the Tour starts you may not be able to join later.





## ABC Ultimo Studio Visit

# PHOTO & VIDEO RULES AT ABC

### Please note the ABC's rules on Photos & Videos

Still photography only permitted during your tour with the following conditions:

- Permission to take photos is granted on a **daily basis and is not permitted on all tours.**
- **You must not video any part of your tour (including the ABC foyer).**
- Only one person per group can take photos – these can then be shared with other tour participants after your tour.
- **You must only take photos with the tour guide's permission.** The guide will let you know where, and if, it is appropriate in each tour area. The guide has the right to refuse permission at any time.
- You must not take pictures using a flash, unless the tour guide gives express permission.
- You must not take pictures of any person (including ABC Staff members or members of the public) without their permission.
- Any pictures taken are for personal use only and must not be printed or published in any form. If you wish to publish any pictures from your tour (i.e. in a community newsletter, on Facebook or social media sites, school websites etc.) **you must obtain written permission from the ABC Tours Manager.**



Videoring  
is not allowed

# All Judging Sheets since January 2013

In case you didn't know, the Club Website has all the judging sheets / results from all the competitions held in 2013, 2014 and this year.

They are available as pdf's to download. To access them simply go to Downloads which is in the Resources menu and then click Judging Sheets / Results - see the pictures below.

You will need to be logged in as a member to access them, if the list appears in grey text then this indicates you are not logged in. If you need to lookup your password there is a lookup link at the bottom of every page.

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**Resources**

Downloads Library Useful Links Club Mentors Questions & Ans. Photo Albums

**Assets** (9 items)  
**Competitions** (4 items)  
**Club Calendar** (2 items)  
**Judging Sheets / Results** (12 items)  
**How to Guides** (3 items)  
**Membership** (1 item)  
**Club Equipment Manuals** (2 items)  
**Club Management** (9 items)  
**Useful Articles** (6 items)  
**Club Audio Kits, Manuals & Guides** (6 items)

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**Judging Sheets / Results** [back to full list](#)

**2015**

- Sydney Travel Documentary - July 2015
- Science Fiction Drama - Apr 2015
- Open Competition Feb 2015

**2014**

- VOTY 2014
- Documentary Competition - Sept 2014
- Murder Mystery June 2014
- 1 minute Ad April 2014
- Open Competition January 2014

**2013**

- VOTY 2013
- Daylight Robbery Competition - Sept 2013
- Ad to Sell Bank Fees - July 2013
- Lost Competition - May 2013



# ***AGENDA FOR SYDNEY VIDEOMAKERS CLUB***

## ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

**To be held during September SVM club night meeting**

**23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2015**

### ***1. Call to Order***

The President to establish that there is a quorum of members present.

Apologies to be noted

### ***2. Previous minutes***

*2.1 Corrections:* A copy of the previous minutes will be posted on the notice board prior to the meeting commencement. Corrections or amendments if any, are to be noted for the record prior to acceptance.

*2.2 Acceptance:* Of previous mins as tabled or with any amendments noted.

*2.3 Business arising* from the previous mins.

### ***3. President's report Highlights.***

The president's AGM report will be published in the September issue of EE the Club journal.

### ***4. Treasurer's report.***

Report for financial year ending 30 June 2015. Copies of the report will be posted on the notice board during the September Club night prior to the AGM. Interested members can study the report prior to the meeting.

*4.1 Acceptance:* Treasurers 2015 report.

### ***5. Election of Officers and Management Committee for 2016***

President will hand over the meeting to a meeting chairman, usually a Past President.

The meeting chairman will declare all Committee positions vacant from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, and will call for nominations to the following positions:

*President*

*Vice President*

*Secretary*

*Treasurer*

*Publicity Officer*

*Editor, Electronic Eye*

*Membership Secretary*

*Librarian*

*Competitions Manager*

*Media presentation team(2)*

*Other Ordinary members (up to a further three)*

### ***7 Other business***

Any other business or proposal to be discussed at this AGM must be lodged with the Secretary in writing by 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 to allow fourteen (14) days for final notice of meeting agenda to the Members as required by our constitution.

No items have been received as at 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

### ***8 Close meeting.***

The meeting will close when all business is completed.

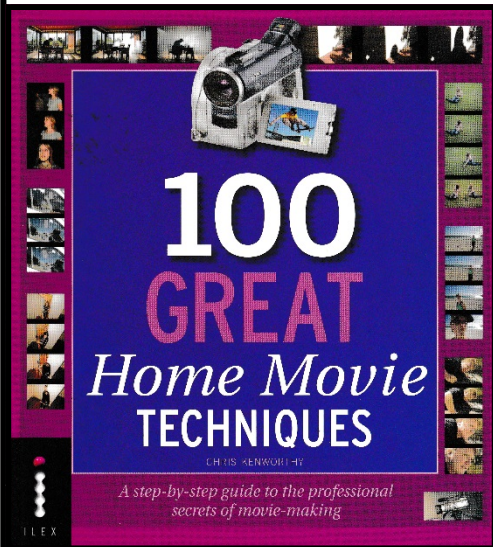
This is a draft agenda the final agenda will be published Sunday 20th September 2015

I Scott

Secretary SVMC



## INTERESTING SELECTIONS FROM THE CLUB LIBRARY



I found this to be a surprisingly interesting and useful book. It is just full of “How to Do” many of the things you will need as you shoot and edit videos.

Subjects range from special visual effects to creative lighting and even make up for your actors.

What if you need rain and it is as dry as a bone? Borrow the book and find out.

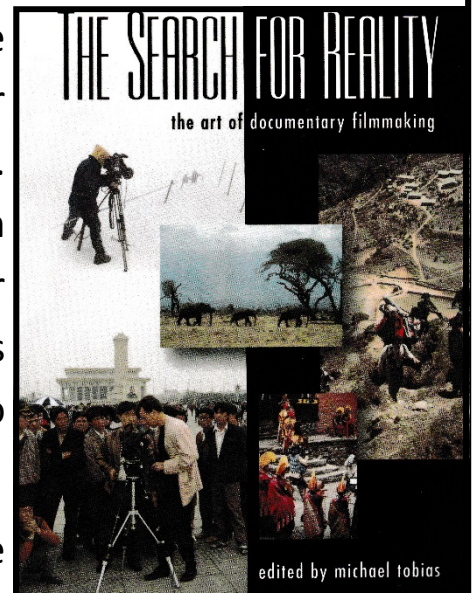
There are lots of easy to do very effective camera techniques to produce vision that you may not be able to produce any other way, even with a top class program like After Effects.

.....

A great deal is written about drama. Extensive information and advice abounds. I went looking for similar “how to” information about documentaries. First discovery was that there is nothing much written on the subject, however, hiding in our library there is on book on the subject which really is a collection of experiences of competent doco producers.

Whilst a doco must indeed be a story all of the writers make two very valid points. First you only find out what the “real story” is as you get deeper into the project. Second and most significant observation is that it is impossible to do a substantial doco without becoming a participant in the subject. How so? Try a doco on climbing Everest without being a serious participant in the team of climbers.

Borrow this book it is interesting and informative.





## FROM THE MC

I need your help to screen your clips. At every club meeting space is potentially reserved to screen any member's clips brought along.

Our projectionist needs to know about any clips as early as possible so that a spot can be reserved in the night's program to accommodate their screening. Early advice to the MC ensures that the evening's program is adjusted accordingly. If no member's clips are available the potential space allocation will be filled with something else to ensure that there is a full program. So if the MC is unaware of your clip at the start of the evening you may well end up being disappointed because there is now no space available to accommodate the screening.

Don't forget to provide any copyright declarations required when you give the MC your information. If you don't want your clip retained in the Club library just make that known as well.

Now keep those clips coming in. Anything of interest is welcome. Perhaps you can pass on some good solutions to particular shooting problems, or maybe you have a problem that could benefit from some helpful advice and input from fellow members.

Ian Scott On behalf of the MC



# Focus night - 12 August 2015

About 25 members attended.

Paul Szilard presented a very good session on “Know your camera”

Items covered were things that are essential to know versus other things which you may need occasionally.

Essential things like :

- Lock focus
- Manual focus
- A – B focus
- Spot versus zone
- Tracking
- Face Detection

In exposure

- Manual versus Auto
- ISO – Aperture, Shutter, Speed
- Point and lock exposure
- When to under or over expose
- Expose for highlights – zebra option which is to adjust the exposure in extreme light.

Audio was covered

Camera Support

Rob raised the concept of

- Depth of Focus versus Depth of Field

This created some lively discussion of the concepts and their usefulness.

The group broke into a practical session to operate their own cameras

Rob Nercessian presented 3 video cameras – small, medium and large and talked about their relative merits.

The night end with a discussion of suggestions of equipment the club may buy.

This included – a 3<sup>rd</sup> light, a slider, audio recorder, pop-up green screen etc.

# Photos to show the action and effort that was put in for the shoot on 26th July, 2015

*It was a pleasure meeting new faces and such good actors.*



*Rob Nercessian & Chris Saville*



*Chris Saville, Stuart Plant, Terry Wayne, Rob Nercessian  
and Paul Szilard*



*Members working hard.*



*Stuart Plant & Rob Nercessian*



*Many Scenes taken at the Shoot*







*Photos  
By  
Ban Lim*



*Our Audio Man (Kent Fry)*



*Stuart Plant, Chris Saville, Rob Nercessian,  
Terry Wayne with Actors*





Focus Night

# Clip Surgery



Editing



Colour  
Correction



Special  
Effects



Audio



File  
Formats

## Having a problem with your videos?

Maybe it's an **editing challenge, audio problem, colour correction job or special effects** issue you need help with? Of perhaps it's something else, either way the 'Clip Surgery' at Focus Night is designed to help!

At the end of every Focus Night we're going to start running a '**Clip Surgery**' so, if you need help, bring along the clip you're having problems with, hand it in at the beginning and **we'll see if we can fix it** that evening or maybe take it away and solve it by the next meeting.

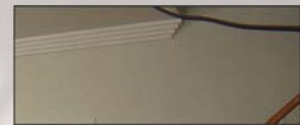
The problem doesn't have to be complicated, it can be anything from exporting a file, removing the boom mike cable from your shot, colour correction or adding special effects.

Whatever it is, bring it along, along with the **source files** on a USB stick and we'll see what we can do to help!

### Example:

Removing Boom Mike Lead.

Here's the before & after but if you need help doing it, just ask.



## Clip Surgery - Every Focus Night



Ruskin Spiers

Vice President:

Ami Levartovsky

Secretary:

Ian Scott

Treasurer:

Elvio Favalessa

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 \$70, Couple/Family\$ 95, Overseas and Country members \$35

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.

All articles in the "Electronic Eye" magazine are copyright. Reproduction is allowed by other video clubs providing both author and The Sydney Video Makers Club are acknowledged.

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<b>President</b>	<b>Ruskin Spiers</b>	<b>0420 834 080</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Ami Levartovsky</b>	<b>0419 041 901</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ian Scott</b>	<b>0419 239 953</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Elvio Favalessa</b>	<b>0438 980 060</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Elvio Favalessa</b>	<b>0438 980 060</b>
<b>Library Manager</b>	<b>Graham Sainty</b>	<b>0412 764 771</b>
<b>Social Secretary</b>	<b>Mike Elton</b>	<b>0401 928 994</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Graham Sainty</b>	<b>0412 784 771</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Paul Szilard</b>	<b>9925 0812</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Stuart Plant</b>	<b>9909 2509</b>
<b>Competition Manager</b>	<b>shared - Paul Szilard &amp; Michael O'Shea</b>	

## **OTHER ROLES**

<b>Presentation team</b>	<b>Phil Brighton, Ian Howard, Stuart Plant,</b>	
<b>Editor Electronic Eye</b>	<b>Margaret Tulloh</b>	<b>9451 9718</b>
<b>Web Master</b>	<b>Ruskin Spiers &amp; Paul Szilard</b>	
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	<b>Stuart Plants</b>	
<b>Team Coordinator</b>	<b>Ruskin Spiers</b>	

**Please address all correspondence for Committee Action to:**  
**The Secretary,**  
**Sydney Video Makers Club,**  
**P.O. Box 1185,**  
**CHATSWOOD NSW 2057**