

ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY

**SYDNEY VIDEO
MAKERS CLUB**



ELECTRONIC EYE

N E W S L E T T E R

2009

June 2009

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**Next meeting
Wednesday
24th June**

www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au



Through the President's Lens

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same god who endowed us with sense, reason and intellect has intended us to forgo their use".

Galileo (1584-1642) said those words and it seems to me that our members are applying a fair bit of intellect, as the following good news stories seem to indicate.

I am delighted to see Clare Waterworth emerge as the most improved member with her one minute production "Toast, the Movie". She inspired all of us so much that I will be showing it a third time for the benefit of those who didn't attend the focus night, (and Jim was os).

Using just her consumer camera and Windows Movie Maker she managed a pace that resulted in an 'on screen' suspense. I was amused as the slice of bread slowly and sensuously emerged and revealed itself as naked Toast :-)

Leonard Lim and Clare Waterworth were last month's President's shooters, great job.



Incidentally, I have used the footage from all of the “president’s shooters” to create a short promo which I used on my TVS appearance a couple of weeks ago. That clip is now uploaded onto our new website:

www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au

I put the Clip together in order to entice prospective members to join us before the commencement of the second round of our Focus programs (July). Peter also needs your assistance to stick a few leaflets on community notice boards in your local shopping area / libraries, these will be available club night.

By the way, Ch 31 needs support to go digital which will improve reception no end, it’s the fastest growing free to air TV and at times more watchable than main stream TV. We can potentially have our own show on air in future if TVS survives. A simple email to senator Conroy via www.tvs.org.au may make a difference.

Most people can get TVS at varying strengths, it tunes on UHF 31 just past SBS on your analogue TV, I can assist members in that regard.

NEW WEBSITE

Club secretary Kent Fry has stepped in and created our much awaited SVM Website using a very basic program. The site will improve with time, any talented Web builders that can assist in this regard may contact the committee.

Kent also massaged our membership list into various groupings that are now displayed on our notice board, please refer to them on club nights to identify who uses Mac or PC, specific NLE’s and what suburbs they live etc. These lists will further enhance communication between users of specific applications based on their geographic locations.



“yippee, I have found another use for the latest version of my already completed spreadsheet!!! and I just can’t wait for the next version to come out”

LET THE SHOW BEGIN

All this talk about Teams finally came to fruition as we screened the inaugural films much to the delight of the members.

As of now, all films will be screened on their respective closing dates so you no longer have to wait to see it, you will also vote on it on the night, only the judge’s results will be available later..

I know this adds a bit of pressure on some to get cracking in the cold of winter to finish the films on time but we are Radioactive, and just like Cod liver oil .. very good for you.

But everyone is a winner, we hope you are encouraged to try harder and beat the ‘Nuts’ who still remain untouched! Who will be the first to smash their record?

Mike Elton Awarding certificates to...



Glenn Booth: “you checking my pulse Dr. Glenn?”

Eddie Hanham: Our city correspondent.



Trevor Vanzell: Well done Trev..

Malcom Thirsk: “let go of my hand you so and so”



Remember, The Judges are not professionals, I don't even know who they are, it's up to Mike. But I want to thank them as they do their best to assess your films voluntarily. They do their bit to promote Video making in general and allow us to have fun in the process.



The Audience favorite vote provides an opportunity for members to have bit of a 'dig' at their opponents.

I am looking forward to the screening of "Green Screen" entries with you this club night after we listen to Guest Speaker Christine Leaves.



Special Thanks to professional editor Walter McIntosh, a great guy who showed us how he rescued a family film clip he shot when he was only eleven and edited it 22 years later.

AUDIO MIXER

It is with your generosity that the club was able to purchase our new Audio Mixer which I just picked up. Thank you Marianne and Beryl for doing the raffle, this means that our Audio Engineer Gary no longer has to cart his own gear to the club, so don't say no to the ladies when they approach you with the tickets.



Marianne picking a winner

CATERING

Margret Tulloh provides a constant variety ensuring members are well catered for.



SVM Helps the Government

The Willoughby Spring Festival enters its 13th year. Last year's festival attracted 240,000 people across 45 events ranging from visual arts, botanics and theatre to music, cultural celebrations and outdoor leisure activities. Many of these events were organised by the local community and this year Sydney Video Makers Club is such a community.



The Council has selected us to be one of the official contributors this year and we are delighted to be involved with such a major event along with other well meaning groups.

Elvio Favalessa managed to secure a grant from the council which he will tell you about this club night so we have assigned him as the manager for this event.

This means a couple of things, one of which will be to engage the public one day at the council building for activities only SVM knows how to do very well.

All members (and their families) are encouraged to assist on that one Saturday in September as the committee will be stretched to the limit.

We will need volunteers to approach the public at large in the shopping precinct with leaflets and SVM Tee-shirts directing them to our exhibition at the Council chambers (also located in Victor st) where we will be conducting seminars /screening films.

Details will emerge by Elvio however this is for you to mark in your calendar as the success of our involvement will be measured by how wide we cast our net and how many people we can engage on the day.

It's a rare opportunity for us to put our club on the map like never before as we will be in all the festival promotions and local papers.

We can promote the club and VOTY while providing knowledge and entertainment to the masses.

This is also a challenge for us to show Aussie generosity and help people, encourage those who are becoming introverted in the neighbourhood and often alone, to enjoy more of life and be part of main stream. If we can spread some of our enthusiasm around and make a few happy it will perpetuate with good karma.

What should we do? Over.

Rob Nercessian
Club President

June Guest Speaker: Christine Leaves

Christine Leaves working career began in the Commonwealth Bank. She has been trained in all areas of administration, bookkeeping and has been a Manager of several Companies, including a Palings Music Store. The other side of Christine has been her professional entertainment career as a singer/dancer, actor, producer, director and choreographer. She studied with Keith Bain, Brian Syron, Amber May Cecil, Madam Mathy, Betty Williams (NIDA) and many others who have contributed to her career. Christine set up her own Resource Agency El Pez in 1982 and worked with people such as Bobby Limb, Tommy Tycho, Clifford Warne and with all the commercial TV stations in various capacities, including as 'a singer'. After 3 years at Theological College she became the Manager of Bible Society NSW/ACT Youth & Children's Dept where in 1997 she created the project, The Christian Rock Eisteddfod for religious education and as a fundraiser. Over ten years this project has grown and networked students with many contacts and career opportunities. Christine has taught drama at Parramatta and Macquarie Community Colleges as well as for gifted children's programmes. She is currently teaching drama at Hunters Hill Public School Arts & Crafts programme.



Christine Leaves Ph: (02) 9653 9261 Email: elpez@bigpond.com

FOCUS NIGHTS

“Telling the Story”

Phil Brighton and Ian Scott helped us to come up with a good storyline for our short movies. Here are the main points:

- Find a good story. What is a good story? It needs to have a beginning, a middle and an ending. You should include conflict and resolution.
- There are many different sources for finding a story, eg joke.
- Take your story and run it through your mind as an audience might see it. If you are working in a group, try it out on the other members.
- Write a ‘Treatment’ of how you propose to film it. This will sometimes point out the sheer impossibilities of some ideas. A ‘treatment’ does oblige you to consider the practicalities of what it is that you are about.
- What about actors? Can you see where you might get such valuable people?
- Where are you going to do your masterpiece?
- Will you need lights?
- What about Props?
- Equipment: camera(s), sound recording, lights (if required).
- All of the above come to light whenever you do a ‘Treatment’.

Having got this far without coming up against any impossibility, you can consider a script.

Suppose that you got your story from a joke, it looks filmable and it made others that you tried it out on laugh. This is a good start and means it might well work. You have found a couple of actors who don’t mind making idiots of themselves. After a location has been found, all you have to do is to get out our camera and any other gear and shoot.

When it comes to writing dialogue, Phil tries to imagine that he is that character and writes down what that character might be expected to say in the particular circumstances of our script. Write it in ‘English as she is spoke’ or in the vernacular if you can spell it. Sometimes he’s quite surprised when the character comes to life in his head and takes over and the dialogue writes itself. The ‘Spell and Grammar Check’ will have a field day, but just ignore it. Try to visualise the scenes and think about the practical applications.

Beryl Stephens

COMPETITION CORNER

*With Mike Elton
Competition Manager*



Everybody seemed to like the new system of showing the entries to competition earlier. Thanks to Rob we now have a new system. We are going to show the entries to competitions on the day they are due rather than after they are judged. Then once they are shown they will be copied and then be sent off for final judging. The certificates will be awarded on the following Club Night. So the entries for Chroma-key will be entered and viewed on the June Meeting 24th June.

A few issues arose with the group entries. First of all we don't need more than 10 seconds of pre-roll. We certainly do not need a minute as it was with one entry. It would be good to have a count down. Many editing systems have a countdown film in their extras files.

I was lucky to be able to get the judging results in early last meeting which allowed me to prepare

Certificates

Because of time constraints and the lack of basic information entered with the club entries I was only able to print one certificate with each prize winning video. If group managers want each of their members to receive a certificate they must make sure that the names of the members involved are included and correctly spelled on the entry. Also be careful to only enter one DVD or film and only one entry form. Because one group had two entry forms and another entered both a DVD and a film, we thought there were 11 entries and not the ten entries there were.

I asked group managers to send me an anecdote about the entries and what was involved with the production. Here are a few replies slightly edited for space.

Eddie Hanham of the TOOLANG Group:

The Toolang Group is named after the street of our first video. We started off as a group of men and Beryl Stevens joined us early in the piece as the production manager even though she was a member of another group. Chris Kembessos volunteered his house as the subject. It was decided to create a dramatisation of both Chris's and Marianne's interests to keep within the theme of "My Home"

Firstly the main actors weren't available on the first available shoot weekend due to illness and were only available for Sunday afternoon for 40 clips before going on holidays. On the day of the shooting some of the sequences were shot in 4:3 instead of 16:9. Not all of the outside sequences were shot.

Despite this the video was edited and handed in on the night.

Trevor Vanzill of the G7 Group wrote:

The home project brought together a group of novices and some more experienced movie makers together. This was a difficult task however Joy managed very well to co-ordinate the project. A number of us had not edited before but were helped by more experienced members. Nearly everybody contributed film clips and helped to edit the final film "Home"

For me it is a steep learning curve. I only wish there was more time in the day to take full advantage of the help so freely given. We are more coordinated now and looking forward to our next project.

Chris Saville of the Packers wrote:

The biggest problem was trying to edit AVCHD High Definition video. Our team Editor Don Read had purchased ADOBE Premiere Elements 7 and his PC is equipped with Intel core duo CPU 6400 at 2.13GHz and 2 GB of RAM. According to ADOBE these Specs should be sufficient to handle AVCHD. However frequently a message appeared indicating capacity had almost been reached and the project should be saved and the program shut down and restarted. It would appear that for editing AVCHD, Quad Core and a minimum of 4GB of Ram are required.

I was involved with two of the entries. With my own I was trying to show my love of Chatswood and living there. My problem is my lousy acting and I haven't yet mastered the art of cutting short some scenes and which scenes to cut short.

Like other things in life timing is everything.

We are much better with our editing in the NUTS Group. Our problem happened in a couple of scenes where the camera should have been set on manual focus instead of auto and the focus moved slightly out as the camera focused behind the subject. We were using a new camera and the cameraman was not yet used to its workings. I will be more careful next time!

Lastly here is a remark printed in the Wollongong Magazine regarding our videos. *Some entries were produced by a team and produced to the set topic of "My Home". As a general comment our members enjoyed the ten videos that were screened. All the videos started off with unique and interesting ideas unfortunately many failed maintain or develop the idea before they ended.*

This is a pretty good criticism to my mind. There is always room for improvement.

I have a number of judging sheets to hand out at our next meeting.

The Outing to Teppanyaki Japanese Restaurant

19 club members braved the cold to gather at the Sakari Restaurant in Penshurst Street Chatswood. Inside it was warm and cosy as we sat around the two cooking plates.

Everyone said the food which was delicious, even Jim who doesn't like fish and was given chicken instead. It was a BYO so soon members were drinking wine and exchanging stories. There were several new members who were enjoying their first club outing. Strangely for a video club no one thought to bring a video camera. Luckily I had a little stills camera in my pocket so I was able to grab a few candid snaps. This is the third restaurant outing I have organised and probably the best one.

Everyone enjoyed the skilled chefs who had a few tricks like getting people to catch eggs in bowls, catch pieces of egg flicked into waiting mouths and catch full bowls of rice. In the end everyone agreed it was a good night and hopefully we will have more in the future.

(Pictures next 2 pages, ed)





New Club Website



A new website has been developed to compliment the Club' new name:

www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au

It is presently in testing phase and will replace the old website at:

www.ncc.asn.au by the end of the month.

After that date, if you look for ncc.asn.au you will be redirected to the new site.

The new site has all the current information about the club, and it is our intention to keep it up to date with what is on each month. Document downloads including Electronic Eye are available to anyone interested.

Please change "favourites" in your browser to the new name, and remove the old one. Visit the site and provide comments – both positive and negative – to a committee member.

Kent Fry
Secretary

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President:
Rob Nercessian

Vice President:
Ian Scott

Secretary:
Kent Fry

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 TUESDAY** of each month (except January & December) at 7.30PM at the Dougherty Centre, Victor Street, Chatswood.

NOTE: Normal cycle can vary to avoid public and school holidays. Check the current club diary on the club website for exact date information.

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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