

ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY

**SYDNEY VIDEO  
MAKERS CLUB**



# **ELECTRONIC EYE**

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

**2010**

## **January 2010**

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**Next meeting  
Wednesday  
27th January**

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



## Through the President's Lens

Apart from running out of orange juice, our November 09 film night was a thrill for our members as no one was allowed to get bored due to the variety of interesting travel and documentary videos that complemented the drama.

Afterwards, I got together with Colin Schumacher who as you know is a respected film critic and examiner. Colin suggested that the trend in short films today is to make it even

shorter while raising the impact; “you can say a lot in 3 minutes”.

In 2009 we finally got many members out of “theory” stage and into the “actually doing it” one. With 5 club competitions plus VOTY you certainly had a lot of practice.

This year our emphasis will shift to quality rather than quantity so we have reduced the number of club competitions from five to three ( plus VOTY).

We also changed the timing of these competitions so that we are not bunching them up, January “On board” deadline for instance has now been extended to March club night will give you more time to think, and puts less pressure on our volunteer.

1. **F**or “short” drama films direct your actors accordingly, long pauses are for long films, keep it snappy.
2. **K**eeP the titles short, with ever increasing films we have to keep things moving
3. **T**hink about how you are going to “fool” the Audience with a “twist” in the plot. This year you are going to have more time to think about your clever scripts so start planning now.

**A**s film making is a most rewarding area of the arts, combining creativity with technology, I feel that one needs time to bring out the inner consciousness into reality, also needs time to think about the technical aspects, such as framing, lighting and quality of sound, something that often escaped the beginner

## 1. STRATEGIC CHANGE.

**D**uring the holidays the committee reviewed club rules and made many sensible changes as a result of the club’s natural evolution and your suggestions. It must be said that this complex task of working through hundreds of amendments, cross referencing, was capably undertaken by Ian Scott without whom it would have been an absolute nightmare, I am truly impressed.

Kent Fry will outline the changes and what it means to you at the January Club night and in the following article, I would like to thank the subcommittee that included long term members Andy Doldissen and Eddie Hanham for their massive input. Kent is also our international club liaison officer who exchanges reels to show us how the overseas clubs do it.

## 2. FOCUS.

We will maintain our commitment to help members improve skills by having a couple of beginners day time training sessions (on Saturdays) at the club. This enables us to make the Focus Nights less beginner-oriented. On Focus Nights members are encouraged to bring their Cameras and Laptops to have specific problems solved by mentors or others with similar software. We will also see the return of travel night Videos.

## 3. COMMITTEE CHANGES.

Let's thank the following people who are stepping down after many years of loyal dedication starting with Gary Murdoch, who has resigned from the club to concentrate on many other



Garry Murdoch

interests. Gary is a much respected member who for 14 years mixed our Audio on club nights using his own equipment. He also edited our VOTY tapes for our big gigs. Terry Brett , stepped down from Editing our monthly magazine but will continue to run the projections.



Joy Saunders

A big thank you also goes to our energetic team leader Joy Saunders who has resigned from the committee but will continue to lead the G7 team. Beryl Stephens, and Ex President Peter Frybort have also stepped down from the committee but will continue to help out and enjoy the club.



In the mean time I welcome new committee members Lee Crispe (Program Coordinator), Barry Crispe (Treasurer), Phil Brighton (Audio Presenter) and Margaret Tulloh (Caterer, Electronic Eye editor and Competition Manager).

As Competition Manager, Margaret will not be competing herself so she will have more time to edit our EE after doing the Catering.

If you feel that you can spare a couple of hours a month please contact us, right now we are in need of a publicity manager.

A thanks to Mike Elton who managed our many competitions dealing with differing technologies and copying hundreds of our films with all the problems that entails. Mike has resigned from this position in order to compete unimpeded.



**I** have always said it and I will say it again that Mike Elton did a fabulous job in this the most difficult time consuming task and he did it admirably with the highest integrity.

**I** would also like to thank Carmen Maravillas for her help with VOTY.

## **5. FINAL WORDS.**

**W**e really do have a first class club despite the occasional difficulties that are normally associated with any large group that undergoes change. It is your enthusiasm that keeps us going.

**Robert Nercessian**

**Club President.**

# COMPETITION RULES AND SCREENING PROCEDURES

## PROPOSED CHANGES

### 1. BACKGROUND.

The club activity focus has changed to encourage member cooperation in teams. Individuals can participate in competitions as well as share in the competition between teams. This change in focus has meant that the screening procedures are no longer a perfect fit for the revised club operation. The Committee therefore proposed some changes to accommodate the new operational focus.

In addition to the Committee initiative it is noted that a few members questioned and complained about the fairness of competitions and the judging process. In particular, they questioned the Competition Manager's impartiality. The Committee know that this criticism is totally uninformed, unjustified and inappropriate. The records and facts support this committee stance. Nevertheless, we have made some changes to ensure additional transparency of the judging process in the future.

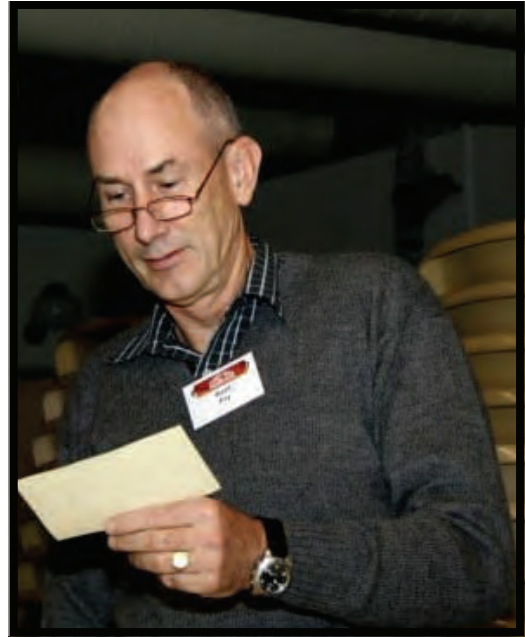
The Committee set up a rules review subcommittee comprising:

Kent Fry (Chairman)	Ian Scott (Secretary)
Rob Nercessian	Mike Elton
Andy Doldissen	Eddie Hanham

The subcommittee reviewed the existing document and member inputs then suggested some changes. Ian Scott synthesised the changes and the subcommittee debated them. A new set of rules was ultimately proposed.

### 2. MAJOR CHANGES

- Length of productions now explicitly excludes tape leaders and credits and is logically defined;



- **G**old, silver and bronze ranking of club night competition results has been abandoned;
- **F**or VOTY, individuals may submit two entries, teams may submit two entries and club night competition entries which scored more than 75% may be entered – these entries are mutually exclusive, so it is possible for a member to be involved in submission of more than four entries;
- **P**rofessional entry is excluded, but is defined as using professional studios, external financial support or external resources. All other entries are consider amateur;
- **A**wards are now collectively called “Recognition of Achievement”
- **J**udges will continue to be external to the club. If for any reason this is impossible, they must:
  - be identified to the President;
  - not take any part in the competition they are judging.
- **M**eeting night videos are eligible for VOTY if they score 75% or more in a club night competition.
- **P** and PG Film classifications are removed in favour of self-regulation of content. More adult content is now allowed in accordance with guidelines included in the proposed rules
- **E**ach category of video is now adequately defined together with principle evaluation criteria for each category
  - “Screenplay” is now correctly renamed “Drama”;
  - “Animation” is now renamed “Special Techniques” and includes animation of any technology style and any other experimental video, including such things as “Ken Burns” effect or slide shows where the special technique is more dominant than the story.

### 3. WORK STILL TO BE DONE

**T**he work is not yet finished. We have yet to rework the judging/appraisal form and the entry form. At this stage, it is likely that the judging sheet for each category will be different, although no final decisions have been taken. The



entry form will endeavour to improve managing the old bugbear of “Copyright”, both from the point of view of legal protection for the club and inequity amongst member videos. We expect that this work will be completed by mid February.

#### 4. PROCEDURAL ISSUES

In addition to the rule changes, your committee also changed several associated procedures. The most important of these:

- in future There will only be three meeting night competitions and VOTY per year.
- All meeting night entries must be supplied to the Competition Manager on five separate DVDs and tape will not be accepted. Four of the DVDs will be used for sending one to each of the four judges for that competition and one will be retained by the competition manager as a backup. This will absolve the Competition Manager of the error prone requirement to duplicate entries for judges. This of course passes the responsibility for entry quality squarely back onto the entrant.

#### 5. COMPETITION MANAGER

Mike Elton was understandably stung by the unjustified criticism leveled at him by a very small minority of members. He has resigned from the competition manager position to ensure that future competitions can be established with no hangovers from the past.

Mike, we thank you for your three years of hard work and trust that you can now just enjoy making videos.

Margaret Tulloh has volunteered to assume the role of Competition Manager in addition to her other club roles as editor of Electronic Eye and Caterer.

#### 6. CONSTITUTION

The changes in competition rules have led to the need to make a few changes in the Constitution. These will be advised soon and membership will be asked to vote on the constitutional changes soon.

#### 7. SUMMARY

**T**he competition rules have been reworked and a draft will be available on the Club's website following the January club night meeting.

[http://www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au/Document\\_Downloads.htm](http://www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au/Document_Downloads.htm).

The old rules will also be there for another month or so to enable you to compare them at your leisure. The constitution will need some minor amendment to reflect the rule changes. You will be asked to vote on the changes at a Special General Meeting in the near future.

Mike Elton resigned as Competition Manager and is replaced by Margaret Tulloh.

**I**t is worth stressing at this point that the competition manager does not do any judging and is tasked only to arrange judging by others, consolidate the judges results and keep records of the various competition results and determinations arrived at after consolidation of judges results.

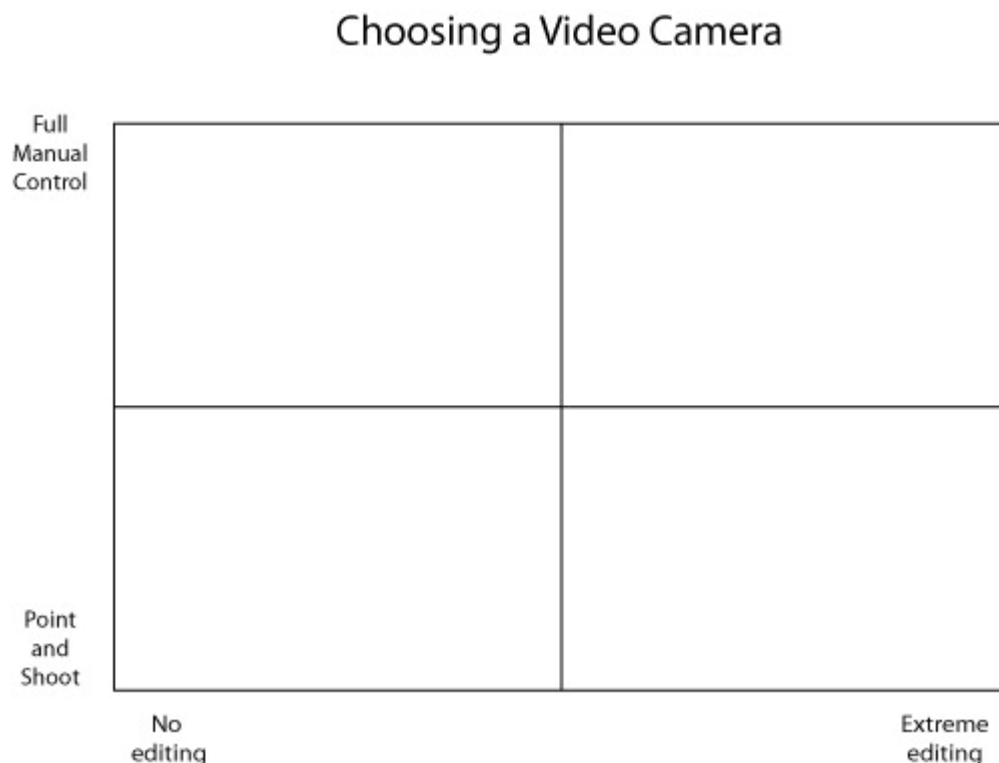
We expect that the new rules will apply in concept after the January club night with only minor adjustments required to finalise the formal documents.

**Kent Fry**  
**Chairman, Rules Subcommittee.**

# Focus Night 9 February 2010

On our first Focus Night for 2010, we will look at video cameras. We will only cover traditional cameras, not the newest digital SLRs with video capability.

The first part of the evening will be spent discussing camera compression technology and camera types. We will try to put camera models into the following model:



The key decision components here are camera complexity on the vertical or y axis and editing complexity on the horizontal or x axis.

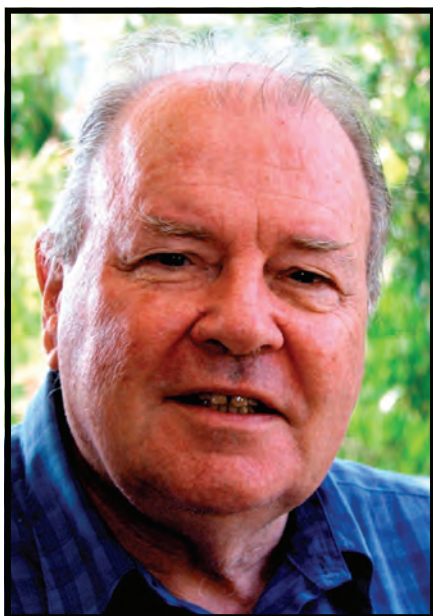
The second part of the evening will be spent discussing camera controls. In order to make this a success, please bring your video camera's **AND** your camera instruction manual. There will be several more advanced members who can help you figure out your camera controls and how to use them.

So come along and talk cameras.

**Kent Fry**  
**Vice President**

# Competition Corner

With Mike Elton



**A**fter three years or more I have resigned from the position of Competition Manager.

I felt it was about time someone else had a go. In fact Margaret Tulloh has stepped into the breach. It has been an interesting time. I have found that its not as easy as I once thought. The problems of downloading all the entries and copying them on one or more DVD's to sent to the judges proved to have problems at times. Also while I kept the sorting and posting of the entrees separate from any involvement in judging this didn't save me from accusations of manipulation of the results. I was entering contests on my own and with the NUTS group which was a condition of my becoming Competition Manager in the first place. Everything I did was at arms length. I

can assure everyone that nothing was ever done to effect the results at all. I just sent the entries off to the judges who were usually in other clubs. When the results returned I reported the results and printed the certificates. I only ever became involved when mistakes were made, there were sound problems or obviously copyrighted material was used.

**A**nway I am happy in future to simply enter contests on my own or with my Nutty friends.

**T**he last thing I was involved with was VOTY which was a great success. **Video of the Year** was "Korean Play Group" by Andy Doldissen. It also was awarded first prize in the Documentary section, and was given the award for Audience Popular Vote.

The main feature was the heart



*Eddie Hanham, Rob Nercessian and Adrienne*



*Eddie Hanham, Phil Brighton and Adrienne*

rendering capture of the solace and fear that accompany people migrating to a culture and language different from their own.

The second ward for documentary went to “Museums of the Shoalhaven” by Chris Saville. A detailed account

of several museums in that area.

Third was “The Green Scene” which was the subject of some debate as it had previously come second in an earlier contest. Because of this some changes are being made to the rules, but more of this later.

First prize in the Screenplay section went to “Divine Dream” by



*Chris Callaghan and wife*



*Carmen Maravillas*

Ernest Cheung, Kent Fry and Rob Nercessian. The main feature was the excellent time lapse photography. The story itself was in the form of a sermon given by Rob in his best grave voice. While the story was simple it was told with gusto.

The second prize in the Screenplay section went to “Your Call”, a thriller from the Nuts Team. Third was a mystery tale from the Toolang Group called “Legacy of the Rose”.

First Prize for Music Video was “The Swan” by Chris Callaghan, a new member and a first time entry!.





*Andy Doldissen, Rob Nercessian and Adrienne*

this stand out. The third entry winner was also about Venice. “Carnevale” by Juan and Carmen Maravillas took out first prize.

Jim Whitehead did a nice travel video on “Ca Samuale” about an apartment he stayed in there. He took out third prize.

Classical music elegantly described. Juan Maravillas and his wife Carmen came second and third with “Flamenco Soul” and “Spanish Wedding”. Plenty of emotional and fiery music.

In the travel section, an interesting study of the annual Carnivale season in Venice. The use of clever editing and blue screen made

Second prize win went to Max Milgate for his video of his wife Josie’s journey to her homeland in the “Sicilian Connection”.



*Eddie Hanham, max Milgate and Adrienne*

award for most improved videographer and the award for the Best Meeting Night Videographer. The Nuts team won an award for the Best Meeting Night Videography team.

My entry “Silence” about the Nazis destruction of a French Village didn’t win anything but I received a

The animation award went to Ernest Cheung and Kent Fry for “My Camera Talks”. There was not a lot of animation but lots of stills were used to tell an instructional story.

Kent Fry won both the Gwen Stony



*Jim Whitehead and Don Reade*



lot of comments. It suffered from a bad soundtrack which became worse when it was shown. Also I should have entered it as a travel video which it really was with the addition of sound effects and overlays of photos of soldiers etc.

**O**verall VOTY was a success but with a few caveats. First I thought that several entrees were too long perhaps 7 minutes (like Tropfest) would be a good length. It may have been better if we had replayed some of the entrees that had been shown during the year.

**A**lso we need to try to cull some which were repetitious or with too small an appeal. In any case the rules of the club and entrees into competitions are being studied by a committee and will be discussed at our next meeting night.

**O**ne subject we have been discussing is the number and timing of contests. It has been decided to reduce the number of contests down to



*Kent Fry*



*John Maher and Barry Crispe*

three plus VOTY.



**W**ith this in mind the first contest will be held over to March. So closing date entries for “**On Board**” is 24th March. Entries for “**My Favourite Saying**” are due 23rd June and the

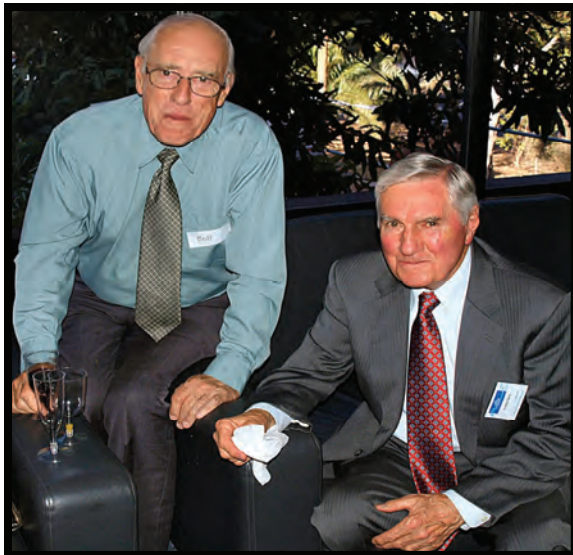


*Chis Kembessos, Peter Frybort and Alan Petschack*

Margaret.

final contest 30 Second Ad  
**“Keep it Clean”** will be due on  
 25th August. There will be  
 artistic requirements to either or  
 both to be announced. The other  
 scheduled contest may occur in  
 some other year. Please refer to  
 the “Competitions” page on the  
 web site for more details.

Anyway thank you for your  
 support. I now hand over to



*Bob Hallett and Gordon Davis*



*Ian and Leslie Howard*



# VOTY 2009



Decisions



It's so nice to relax



This is the last of the Orange Juice



Agnes Elton, Phil Brighton and Mr & Mrs Macintosh

# GARRY



# MURDOCH

## **My NCC history**

**I** attended my first meeting in March 1996 as a visitor & commenced membership from April 1996 and assisted Chris Korgemets as the audio operator shortly after. So my membership was just a few months short of 14 years.

**I** was invited by president Earl Hingston to serve on the committee to fill a casual vacancy and attended my first committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1997 and remained on the committee until the AGM in 2004 (just over 7 years) because the Club's committee night clashed with another ongoing commitment.

**I** had the pleasure of being the projectionist (or assistant projectionist) for the Club's VOTY event. This was an annual function where a number of members' videos were screened on (from memory) the January meeting night. The winner was awarded the Video of the Year.

**F**ollowing a Club Shoot in May 1998, ironically called 'North Side Story' (a comic stage show using parents and teachers and directed by Jan Cairns at Killara High to raise funds for the school), John Urquhart made a 'deal' with the school that the Club in return, would use their auditorium to screen the club's VOTY entries. This marked the first VOTY that was held outside the



Dougherty Centre and was the pattern of all VOTY's to follow.

**I**n 1999 the venue for VOTY had changed to the ROXY theatre at Film Australia, Lindfield.

**T**he ROXY has seen some interesting VOTY developments over the years – in 2001 the entire screening was performed (even the interval music) from a Premiere timeline on a PC which fed a large Barco projector.

**F**ollowing a storm in 2003, we had major blackouts in the CBD and Lindfield and it looked very much like VOTY would not proceed, but power was finally restored minutes before the guests arrived.

**I**n 2004, the night had a Charlie Chaplin theme and guests were literally given the red carpet treatment thanks to Louise Furney's organisation of the event. We have used a somewhat simpler format since.



# NOVEMBER FOCUS NIGHT 2009

Quite a few Members turned out at the focus night party to have a drink and input to the club 2010 program. As you can see by the photographs a good time was being had by all.



*Susan & Malcolm Thrisk with Beryl Stephens*

Kent Fry did a good job as convener and got everyone thinking about club activity in 2009 and responding with feedback on the meetings content. The challenge was to respond along the lines of what we did well and should keep, what was off target and should be dropped or changed.

A number of very useful points came out of the discussion and all of these were taken on board to work them into the 2010 program for club and focus nights.

President Rob will be covering “The Year Ahead” in a session he will present on January 27<sup>th</sup> our first club night for 2010. So make sure you are there to get yourself right into the year’s activities.



*Graham Sainty, Elmaz Kavaz and Keith Peel*



*Ron Cooper with Joy Saunders*



## BRIEF NEWS



### Gerry Benjamin

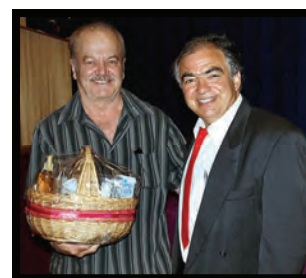
Glad to hear you are nearly back to your old smiling self, we are all looking forward to seeing you back in the fold.

### Elvio Favalessa

We are thinking of you.



Congratulation to the two Michaels for taking out 1st and 2nd prize in the VOTY Raffle.



### Video Highlights for the year 2010.

You can enhance your experience and promote SVM Club by getting involved in:

Morecambe Bay Int. Video comp - February

Young at heart film festival - March.

Sydney Film festival – June

48 Hour film project.

Chatswood Spring Festival – September.

VOTY – November.

Flickerfest – January 2011.

Wishing a Happy Birthday to all those that had a Birthday in December or January. And to all those that will have one in February.

Margaret Tulloh, Editor

## VOTY 2009 DVD'S FOR SALE

After another successful VOTY 2009, we have produced a 2 DVD set containing the entries, the awards and festivities.

The cover shows the awards that each entry achieved and so is a valuable record of the event. The first disk contains all of the 16x9 material – 12 entries and the second contains the 4x3 material – 8 entries.

The disks will be available from Club Night on 27th January Club Night.

The price is only \$25 for set.

Buy yours so that you can both remember the night and get some pointers on what it takes to get an award at **VOTY**.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership fees for 2010 are now due and can be paid at the next club night.

The amount has remained the same as last Year:-

Individual	\$56.00
Joint & Family Membership	\$76.00
Country Membership	\$28.00

Alternatively send a cheque to *Sydney Video Makers Club* at

PO Box 1185,  
CHATSWOOD, NSW, 2067.



**President:**  
**Rob Nercessian**

**Vice President:**  
**Kent Fry**

**Secretary:**  
**Ian Scott**

**Treasurer:**  
**Barry Crispe**

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.

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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<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Kent Fry</b>	<b>0422 164 432</b>
<b>Secretary and Public Officer</b>	<b>Ian Scott</b>	<b>0419 239 953</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Barry Crispe</b>	<b>9872 3778</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Barry Crispe</b>	<b>9872 3778</b>
<b>Competition Manager</b>	<b>Margaret Tulloh</b>	<b>9451 9718</b>
<b>Actor Liaison</b>	<b>Phil Brighton</b>	<b>9427 3614</b>
<b>Library Manager</b>	<b>John Maher</b>	<b>9634 7229</b>
<b>Voty Organiser</b>	<b>Ian Scott</b>	<b>0419 239 953</b>
<b>Audio Presenter</b>	<b>Phil Brighton</b>	<b>9427 3614</b>
<b>Audio Presenter</b>	<b>Jim Whitehead</b>	<b>9416 7162</b>
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	<b>Jim Whitehead</b>	<b>9416 7162</b>
<b>Editor Electronic Eye</b>	<b>Margaret Tulloh</b>	<b>9451 9718</b>
<b>Web Master</b>	<b>Kent Fry</b>	<b>0422 164 432</b>
<b>Help Desk Coordinator</b>	<b>Eddie Hanham</b>	<b>9327 4118</b>
<b>Meetings Coordinator</b>	<b>John Maher</b>	<b>9634 7229</b>
<b>Visitors Coordinator</b>	<b>Lee Crispe</b>	<b>9872 3778</b>
<b>Copyright Registrar</b>	<b>Jim Whitehead</b>	<b>9416 7162</b>
<b>Video Director</b>	<b>Terry Brett</b>	<b>9451 1851</b>
<b>Team Coordinator</b>	<b>Ron Nercessian</b>	<b>0412 156 366</b>
<b>Catering</b>	<b>Margaret Tulloh</b>	<b>9451 9718</b>

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