



July 2010

MOVIE MAKERS NEWSLETTER

CLUB MEETINGS

**First & Third Thursday of Each
Month at 7.30pm**

**Figtree Heights Primary School,
St Georges Avenue & Lewis Drive,
FIGTREE**

**Vehicle entrance in Lewis Drive,
FIGTREE**

**Club Address: PO Box 193,
FIGTREE, NSW, 2525**

Club Web Site:

<http://www.wollongongclub.org.au>

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Club's YouTube Site:

www.youtube.com/wollongongmm

**Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers
join South West Video Club in a night of
Show & Tell**

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Last Month at the Club

3rd June 2010

The June meeting was the Mid-Year Competition. Entries needed to be no more than 6 minutes in duration and had to somewhere include a mention of “turn”. Fifteen members assembled but sadly because there were only two entries it was decided to dispense with the audience judging the videos. So before the two entries were shown, it was time for members’ works in progress.

Max Davies showed his current project, *Tumut 2010*. The video uses three narrators to promote the town of Tumut. Firstly is the Mayor, followed by Ross Stevens from the Trout Farm and finally a representative of the Timberyard. Max was given some helpful feedback by the members and no doubt we will see the re-edited version in the end of year VOTY competition.

The first competition entry shown was *Coffee for Two* starring Annick Gouw and Ann Devenish. This intense discussion over a cup of coffee was shot by John Devenish. The plot is that Lucy comes to Betty’s home for a “cuppa” and a chat. During the chat it is revealed that Lucy’s friend Dave is beating her up – something that Lucy refuses to recognise. The chat and “cuppa” end suddenly when Lucy, in denial, abruptly leaves Betty’s home. The challenges in making this short, scripted drama were disused by the three participants.

The second video, *Risky Business*, by Ian Simpson used footage from he and his family’s visit to Washington and New York, to emphasise the risks in overseas travel.

The evening closed with the usual “cuppa” prepared by Don. John Devenish reminded members of the visit to the South West Video Club on the 9th and organised the car transport.

9th June 2010 – Visit to South West Video Club

Nine WCCMM members braved the cold and the threat of 90 Km winds and rain to join over twenty members of the South West Video Club at their June monthly meeting. After welcomes, club announcements and whilst the guest speaker for the night, Martha Mollison, was organising herself, the three videos entered in the recent 3 minute competition were shown. The SWVC members were asked to judge these three entries.

Then the floor was given to Martha who began by promoting the 3rd edition of her book, *Producing Videos – a complete guide.* She was quick to remark that she had no say in the title, which she felt was a bit exaggerated.

After discussing the changes from the 2nd edition to the new 3rd edition, Martha then proceeded to give a presentation on lighting for videos. Her talk consisted of 22 images of various lighting setups and their effects on the subject. She used these examples to explain both simple and complex setups. The simplest being the sun as the main light source and a reflector as the fill. The most complex

setups were studio situations that had more common with still photography than video. However, Martha showed how in these controlled conditions, attention is given to not only the main and fill but also to back-lighting of the hair. For set productions such as in a TV studio, the lighting is adjusted to give an even effect often also lighting the background to achieve an interesting



Martha Mollison demonstrating a reflector

texture or mood. Martha emphasised that the “pros” in the field give a lot of attention to *shadows* and how they look and how full or deep they are.

After a coffee break the audience’s vote for the 3 minute competition was announced. Then it was show time. First a video made by a SWVC member with the assistance of Martha Mollison was shown. This video detailed a day in the life of a child care centre.

Then it was over to John Devenish to introduce WCCMM video programme. John had prepared two DVDs for the night. The first disc contained examples of members’ videos, whilst the second disc contained a selection of Club productions. Due to the limited time allocated, John selected certain videos to highlight the types of challenges members take on to make videos.



The nine members of WCCMM who attended the SWSVC meeting on 9th June 2010

First up were the three videos made in 2005 in response to the First South Coast Combined Clubs meeting. The challenge set at this meeting was for members from all three clubs to go out and shoot video on a *water* theme. The footage from all members was then shared around all three clubs and interested members were then asked to make a video using only the footage supplied. The outcome for the WCCMM were:

Power Break by Ann Devenish, a video produced like a training video of some un-named corporation that recommends a *break* from the hectic business life to re-charge for the next burst of activity in the business world.

Playing Hide and Seek with our Fears by Ian Simpson was a statement of the urgency of climate change as seen from the perspective of 2005. Now five years later the urgency to act is heightened but the will powder to act seems to be still absent.

Grumpy Old Man by John Devenish was, as the title suggests, the thoughts of a grumpy old man as regards the collection, storage, use and misuse of water.

For a change John then chose *Misty* by Annick Gouw. Here the very talented Annick sang that famous standard. Shot with a green screen, special background lighting effects were added in post production.

The variety continued with Max Davies Australian Story genre video, *Laz’s Dream*. This was the story of a man, a woman, a child and a boat and their dream to sail around the world. Max skilfully mixed interviews with the many activities to make a boat seaworthy.

Then it was time for some old fashioned cinema, a silent comedy, *What’s Cooking*. Produced by Bob Kennedy, this was the classic plot of two people talking at cross purposes. John thought his wife was discussing what was for dinner, whilst in fact she was considering what would be their next pet.

Keeping in the B&W mode the next video, *A Letter Home*, presented the true experiences of a crew of RAAF 461 Squadron during World War II. The story is told from the viewpoint of the crew's navigator writing a letter to his mum. The video uses mainly still images to represent the acceptable face of war that a son could write home to his mum about. Whilst the moving images, from a documentary actually shot during the war, was the unacceptable face of war that no son would ever write home about.

After this sombre video the mood was lightened by Warren Flinn's two videos; *Warren's Hobby* and *VERA's CAP*. The first showed Warren's hobby of collecting Pear Soap cards and posters. Warren's humour showed through in this video as he competed with a chiming clock. The last video shown was Warren's classic animation of how a puppet can pass a driver's eye test without even looking. The meeting closed late at 10:30pm.

A BIG thank you to the members of SWVC for inviting us to attend your Club Meeting, to receive a stimulating presentation by Martha and also to allow us to show some of our members' videos.

Photographs courtesy of the South West Video Club

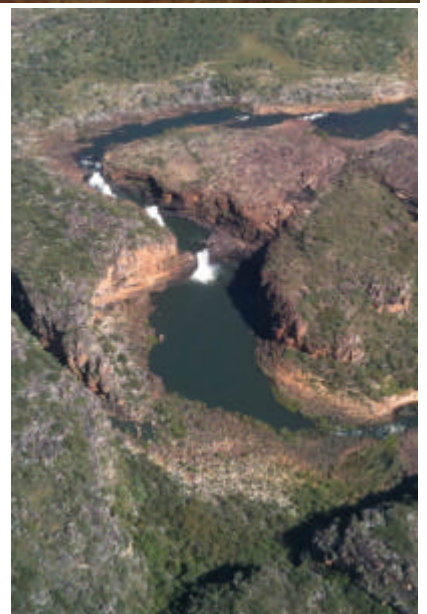
Tom & Evelyn are Flying High in Western Australia

On Monday we took Alligator Airlines' "the works" tour north west of Kununurra. Got up early for the 5:15am pickup from Ivanhoe. Saw the sun rise over the Kununurra irrigation area from the 7 seater Cessna 207 as we took off heading north. It was a cool morning becoming a clear if slightly hazy day. We flew over Wyndham and the Cambridge Gulf then along the deserted coastline west for about 300kms. Not completely deserted. There was one rich fishermans club on a beach only accessible by air. Accommodates 12 and cost \$8000 per week to stay there we were told. Circling King George falls where



there was a lone sailing boat moored. Landed at remote Kalumburu mission and saw Father Anscar's unique museum. Flew over the beautiful Mitchell falls then south over the Mitchell Plateau and Carson escarpment to the Drysdale Station where we had the biggest hamburger and a long chat with Jo the owners daughter who runs the station.

Tom & Evelyn



Home Movie – the Documenting of Life

“Next to sensory deprivation and Chinese water torture there must be few punishments more cruel and inhumane than subjecting someone to a long session of home movies.”
Guy Allenby – The Sydney Morning Herald, The Guide Aug. 11-17, 2003

The above comment was the opening sentence to a review of a new 13 part documentary series on SBS called *“Homemade History.”* This series uses as its material the very items that the reviewer decries in his opening sentence, home movies! I’m sure all of you have heard such derogatory comments many times before, in fact all of us interested in this hobby have had to continually prove our worth as moviemakers against a barrage of such comments. Why does the mention of home movies evoke such comments? Why is it a modern fable; “That anyone would actually choose to watch hour upon countless hour of other people’s home-baked flicks seems decidedly masochistic.”

When Only the Very Best will Do!

The reviewer, in a condescending manner, suggested an answer to this question. He suggested that; *“If only all home movies could be boiled down and edited so expertly before they were inflicted upon family and friends.”* He said this was the approach of the SBS series; *“Each episode.....is an intimate, bite-sized snippet of a life (instead of the rambling, directionless footage for which the home movie genre is renowned).”* The originator of the series, Robert Herbert, also saw his job was to whittle down hundreds of feet of Super 8 footage *“into little dramas. Trying to give a really quick story of these people’s lives, or a strong impression of their lives, but also giving it a dramatic structure.... We were conscious of making it interesting for television.”* So for these two people the secret in breaking this curse on home movies is convert them into *“simple, often poignant little stories.”*

A sobering thought for those video movie makers who think that this bad press only applies to the Super 8 film makers of old is Think again! The cine moviemaker was limited to 3 minutes 20 seconds of film in each cartridge whilst the video moviemaker has at least 60 minutes. Thus the video moviemaker can record 18 times more *“rambling, directionless footage.”* However, as we all know, technology has handed the video moviemaker a tool for making sense of all those kms of tape, a tool that is far more convenient than the scissors and glue of the cine person. That tool being the computer and nonlinear editing. So video moviemakers now have the means to make the difference. Some critics say the difference between a good and a great movie is what is left on the cutting room floor. For us the difference is what we discard from the timeline.



The Purpose

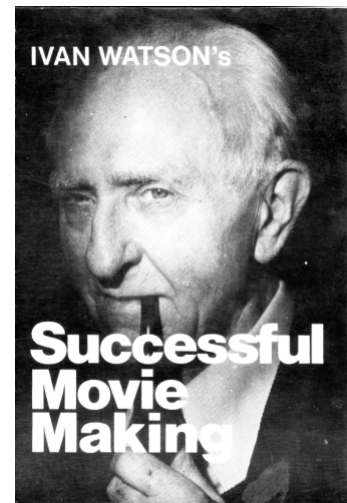
But selecting only the best few minutes out of all our original footage is not the whole solution to the home movie blues. As Paul Dalmau of the Australian Video Producers Association put it,

the most important ingredient of a good video is “*a clearly defined purpose.*” The process of defining the ‘purpose’ of the video means knowing who will be the audience of the video. The audience may influence how you present your message in a documentary or what you include in a family video. A younger audience will appreciate a lively, energetically cut and paced video with a modern music track, whilst an older audience may appreciate a more contemplative paced video with a more considered approach to the commentary. As Paul states the defining of ‘purpose’ comes BEFORE the shoot and the editing or in his words; “.... ‘purpose’ is part of the pre-production process. The recording is part of the production stage and the editing is part of the post-production phase.” So here it is being suggested that we should have a purpose or theme in mind before we get the camera out of its case!

I’m sure like many others I have often left the ‘purpose’ phase to just before editing. Sitting down at the computer and wondering how I will get some cohesive story from those “rambling, directionless footage.” Having a purpose before shooting the first scene seems like a good idea but how practical is it? The answer depends on how disciplined you are, how motivated you are to making plans. I have interpreted Paul’s call for ‘purpose’ in our videos to be more than just a superficial classification of our video into such things as records of a ‘birthday’, a ‘wedding’ or a ‘christening’, etc. For example a series of shots of a birthday party can have the ‘purpose’ of being a family historical record and so the shoot should include all the family members and relatives; while if the purpose was just to create a piece of fun then the shoot needs only contain a series of mood evoking shoots.

The Subject

The old sage of the amateur cine movement, Ivan Watson, wrote a very controversial piece in the May 1969 issue of *Movie Maker*. I kept this issue as Ivan made the case for amateurs NOT to “ape the professionals.” Not to make drama or story movies with “ham acting” and pathetic story lines. Rather amateurs were urged to develop a whole new genre. We were implored to work within our limits. We don’t have the resources of the Professionals, we don’t have their equipment, nor their money, nor the huge support team of experts; we have only ourselves. But with digital video cameras and nonlinear editing we have a level of technology that the old cine movie makers could only dream of. So although we cannot beat the Professionals on their own terms, we can beat them on our terms! Our own terms are the making of short duration, single purpose videos of our own intimate world, our own family, our own interests, our own expectations, our own dreams.

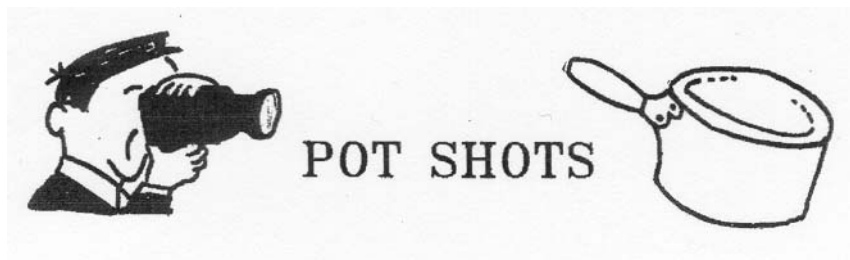


We should employ “professional” standards when we make our video gems, but these gems should be on subjects the Professionals would never consider. These videos should be so good they may find their way into the Home Movie Project of the National Screen and Sound Archive Canberra for future generations to marvel at.

“Life is lived forward, but it is understood backward.” Soren Kierkegaard

Reference: “The ‘Purpose’ of Video, Paul Dalmau, Australian Videocamera and Desktop Video, August, 2003, p62

HOME MOVIE DAY – Saturday 16th October 2010
Celebrates the informal archives of our country, our people and our concerns



[In need of a Conversion?](#)

A conversion from one file type to another that is. Then try these programs that our member Brian Harvey has found on the internet:

<http://www.erightsoft.com/SUPER.html>

This software can convert *.mov files to *.avi files.

Whilst for those frustrated Premiere Elements users trying to edit AVCHD files then there is:

Originally Posted by **rudi**:

We have written a little freeware tool, that changes the premiere elements AVCHD-settings für higher quality and speed.

We call it PEASP - Premiere Elements 8 AVCHD Speedup-Patch (powered by slashCAM).

More Info here: <http://slashcam.com/slashcam/PEASP.html> USE AT YOUR OWN RISK ONLY!!!

[In Need of a bit of Editing Practice?](#)

Editsense (<http://editsense.blogspot.com/>) is a new resource from Media Education Wales. Users can learn about film language and film-making by editing our films. Ordering information is here.

We'll be featuring examples of work that young film-makers have created using Editsense. If you or your students have made cool films or soundtracks using the Editsense clips, please contact us (editsense@mediaedwales.org.uk)

[Pricing and upgrading](#)

Editsense costs: Single user £39 • 5 user

[Video a Friend by Phone](#)

At Apple's Developers Conference in San Francisco in June the new iPhone was announced. In this mad drive to make phones all things to all people, Apple has included in its new phone the capability to shoot 1280 x 720 HD video at 30fps. The ultra-compact market look out, this iPhone is set to give them all a run for their money. What tourist or thrill seeker is not going to be without their iPhone? They will now be able to catch the next disaster or people behaving badly and post it on the internet all from their phone. Travellers can go it light with only a phone to carry – ready for those instant still images, those instant video and those instant phone calls. But please don't call me while I'm capturing that news-breaking event!

[India is now the Animation Capital of the World](#)

Why is this so? Indian animators work for a quarter the pay of their US cousins, India is an English speaking country and has a vast number of software engineers.

2010 Programme

1 July	<i>Members videos & Works in Progress</i> <i>Hot Spot – Warren Flinn</i> Topic – YouTube – set up a Channel and upload demo.	School	John Devenish
5 August	<i>Members videos & Works in Progress</i> <i>Hot Spot – Philip Richardson</i> Topic – Green Screen with Actors (theatre sports like) Member participation with cameras and tripods.	School	John Devenish Co-operative Workshop
2 September	<i>Members videos & Works in Progress + Green Screen Videos</i> <i>Hot Spot – Max Davies</i> Topic – High Definition Video – Visit or Guest Speaker	School	TBA
7 October	<i>Members videos & Works in Progress</i> <i>Hot Spot – Bob Kennedy</i> Topic – Turning a Travelogue into a Documentary	School	TBA
16 October	<i>Combined Clubs Meeting – Scripted Video no longer than 10 minutes</i>	Mollymook Golf Club	
21 October	<i>Topic – Computer Editing – Advanced Editing Techniques</i> <i>Guest Speaker from U of W</i>	School	TBA
4 November	<i>Members videos & Works in Progress</i> <i>Hot Spot –</i> Topic – (spare night if programme needs to be re-jigged)	School	TBA
18 Nov	<i>Topic – Computer Editing – Special Effects</i>	School / Home	TBA
2 Dec	<i>VOTY Entries</i>	School	
14 Dec	<i>Annual Dinner</i>	Figtree RSL Club	

Colour Code: Normal Monthly Meeting Extra Monthly Meeting Special Meeting



Remember When
March 2002 Club Meeting