



July 2011

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.wollongongcameraclub.org.au>

Editor's email address:

mmnews@wollongongcameraclub.org.au

Club's YouTube Site:

www.youtube.com/wollongongmm

It's Competition Time

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Last Month at the Club

Workshop Meeting 19th May 2011

Nine members attended the May mid-month workshop. At the start Ray White was presented with the FAMM Most Improved Video Maker 2010. Happily, Elaine, his very able assistant, was there to witness the event. Congratulations Ray on a well deserved award!

This meeting was a *Planning and Lighting Workshop* for Annick's music video. Our aim was to reconcile Annick's ideas for the realisation of the mood and ambience of the music with what is possible given our location and equipment.

Soft box, standard and workshop lights were erected as was a black screen. There followed many experiments in the positioning of stage curtains, tables, seating and the black screen. The layout of the hall imposed limitations but possible solutions were found in CU and low shots. Yet the fans in the low ceiling were noticeable. Lighting levels were too low. Now we know what is required.

The new monitor was well used. It allowed the talent, cameraman and director to see clearly what was being captured. It is necessary once you go beyond solo video making.

Altogether, a most useful evening that promised some solutions but also posed more questions about the colour and power of lights to be used on the shoot.

Mid- Year Competition Night – 2nd June 2011

Thirteen members attended the viewing of the Mid-Year competition entries. The topic for the competition was in tune with the *Year of the Forest*.

The first video shown was by Ray White called, "Mangerton Park." For many in the audience it was a revelation to find the remnants of a Forest almost in their own backyard. Ray presented this little patch of forest through the eyes of the volunteer "weeder" who are devoted to removing all the foreign weeds so the native forest can continue to flourish.

The second video shown was also by Ray and it was called, "Minnamurra Rainforest." In this video Ray combined instructive commentary from National Parks' officers with great images of the forest inhabitants not of the human variety.

The third video was by Max Davies and was a re-cut of video he had shown in previously in a members' works in progress section. The video, "Habitats of the Forest" showed photographer, Peter Fackender, a bird photographer. The video contained many fine examples of Peter's still images of birds.

The fourth video, also by Max, was entitled, "Forests NSW." Max has once again gained the assistance of a key person, this time a Forestry Officer, to narrate his video. This approach when done in the "Max Style" gives authority to the visuals.

The fifth video by Ian Simpson was called, "Louisavale." An old, now non-existent, timbertown is presented through still images and the words of a one time resident.

Whilst the assessment scores were being added up, John Devenish presented his video, "How Inclusive Are You?" This is a video scripted and narrated by Gracia Ngoy and shot by John.

After "doing the maths" Tom Hunt was able to announce the results of the audience's judging:

1st was "Habitats of the Forest" by Max Davies

2nd was "Forests NSW" by Max Davies

3rd was "Louisavale" by Ian Simpson

CONGRATULATIONS MAX
Building on your VOTY 2010 success

The Videomaker's Blues

by Ian Simpson

As the meeting night with our fellow Club members of the still photographic group approaches, and as we, movie makers, search for ideas on how to make a general interest video on the common subject for the night, *Transport*, my thoughts turned to the discipline and disciplines required of each distinctly different approach to photography. This contemplation soon became a one eyed view, the videomaker's Blues.

With mini-DV tapes getting harder to find,
When your current camcorder is showing its age,
When your editing program is showing its limitations,
When its replacements are quantum leaps in difficulty and effort,
When your computer grinds to a halt with AVCHD strain,
It's time to become a still photographer.

The catching of that "decisive moment" seems a lot less demanding than a 6 to 10 minute long movie.

The waiting for the "right light" for a landscape seems a lot less stressful than managing simultaneously; shot variety, sound quality and continuity in storytelling.

The problem of having to get just one good shot would be heaven to the movie maker who has the multiple concerns of achieving a suitable sequence of shots all at different framing, composition and sound quality.

Even the need of the still photographer to get a few extra shots so as to produce a high dynamic range photograph would be a relaxing pleasure to the videographer who has to capture a range of shots that tell a story, without jump cuts and continuity problems.

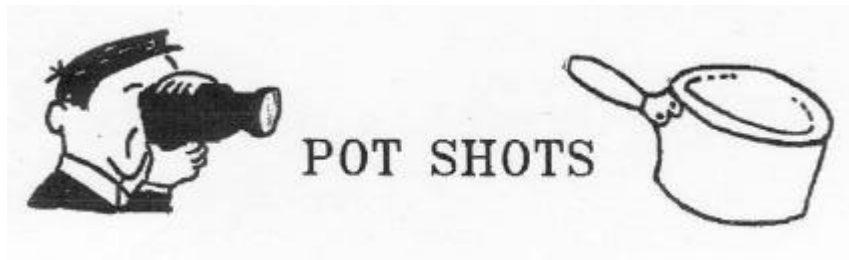
Even the post-production tasks for a still image seem far less demanding than the multiple skills required of the video editor. A still photographer has no need of the skills of a sound engineer, nor of a musician, nor of a playwright. A still photographer requires just the skills of an image editor and only then if the skills of the creative photographer were absent at the time of the shutter release.

The still photographer need only assemble the images on a DVD as a data file. There is no need to produce a DVD that is a documentary or a drama production with its complex mix of visual and sound elements and perhaps even a menu.

Often only a single photograph is the culmination of the creative process rather than the days or months required to research the topic and then capture the required footage for even a short 6 or 10 minute long video.

Life would be so much less stressful if one traded in the video movie camera for a DSLR.
But would life be more satisfying if your subjects could no longer move or talk?
Or even worse if your subjects lost their colour and became darker shades of pale.
Or if your subjects were forever stripped of their environment to become sentinels to the god of simplicity.

So much better to pick up that video movie camera and give your subjects movement, give them the power of speech. To allow them to relate to their surroundings and let them tell their stories; their joys, hopes and tragedies. So much better to give your subjects' life and context.



Need the Right Sound Effect? Then Look in FilmSound.org

There you will find numerous *free* sound effects ready to be downloaded.

<http://www.filmsound.org/sound-effects/libraries.htm>



Then whilst you are on the *FilmSound* site check out the many articles giving advice on how to get better sound.

An interesting page is the one on sound clichés, like:

- Car tires "always" screech on dirt roads.
- Storms start instantaneously: there's a crack of thunder and lightning, then heavy rain starts falling.
- Thunder is always in sync with the lightning, and the explosion sounds are always in sync with the stuff blowing up, no matter how far away. Same for fireworks

The Return of AUSCAM- the Magazine

According David Hague the time is neigh for the return of the AUSCAM magazine as a hardcopy. With the publishing industry suffering under the internet onslaught this is a brave move by David and deserves the support of all videographers. Why a hardcopy magazine you may ask when you can get so much via electronic means? Part of the answer for this is also the answer to the question; how long do you want to sit in front of a computer screen? A comfortable chair with some music playing in the background whilst you read about the latest information, equipment and techniques seems to me to be a better prospect than to be crouched over a hot monitor??

So what's in the first issue of the new AUSCAM? I'll leave that for David to describe:

first edition, brilliantly put together by Drew Turney, has reviews on three different camcorders from basic to broadcast, tutorials on three different aspects of shooting, ideas on how to go into business with your hobby, tips on being an actor (or actress), a quick look at gadgets available, a close look at shooting with a dSLR camera as against a dedicated camcorder, reviews on special effects software as well as editing software, interviews, competitions and much more. Oh MUCH more!

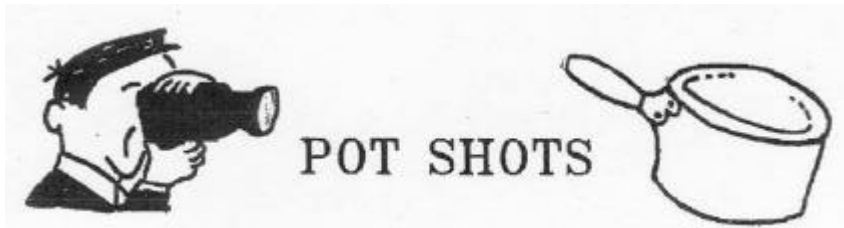
So keep an eye out for it at your local newsagent - your patronage also keeps him in business.

The Highs and Lows of Lighting

The lighting of a set for a drama video or an interview is often a whole new foreign area to amateur videographers. So often we depend on the sun for our lighting and accept whatever it gives us. However there are times when we need artificial lighting and a good website to find out how to do it is: <http://www.thesubstream.com/video-the-film-lab-high-keylow-key.html>

A Members Only New Website in NZ for the popular magazine Viewfinder-NZ

The NZ electronic magazine, "Viewfinder" is still available for free but you must sign up on their revised site to get it. So go to: www.Viewfinder.co.nz



Amateur Videomaking Tools are Feature “Film” production Tools

Many who watched the recent film, *The Social Network*, would not have been aware that it was shot with a RED camera – a professional video camera. Nor would they have been aware that the post-production process was using tools us amateurs could use. Some basic visual effects were done using *Adobe After Effects* and some editing was done using *Adobe Premiere Pro* software. As the assistant editor on the “film” said:

“there are \$25 million movies being made that look like \$150 million movies from ten years ago. It’s at everyone’s disposal. If you can put those tools in the hands of people who want to figure it out, it’s going to be about the quality of the ideas.”

Intel’s New Sandy Bridge Processors with Integrated Graphics

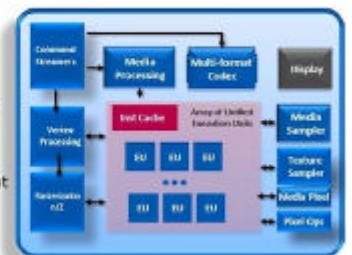
The well respected *Videoguys* of:

www.videoguys.com over a number of years have been recommending how to build good video editing computers. In their recent update on May 2011 they are not recommending the use of Intel’s new Sandy Bridge processor. The concern is that the new Intel chip has integrated graphics capability and *Videoguys* currently are not certain how this new processor will:

- interact with existing non-linear editing programs,
- create any conflicts with CUDA based graphics cards, and
- if there are PCIe bus limitations that could cause problems with external RAID storage.

Sandy Bridge Processor Graphics Integration

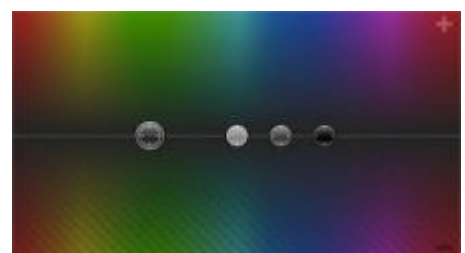
- Now designed into the same die as CPU
 - Leading Edge 32nm Process
- Shared last level cache
 - Configurable cache partitioning
 - Higher bandwidth for Graphics
 - Lower latency
 - Reduced DRAM accesses
- Utilize CPU power management
 - Improved Graphics power efficiency
 - Best overall (CPU+Graphics) power decisions



So the message seems to be to delay any moves to the new 6 core Sandy Bridge processor until any possible compatibility issues are resolved.

Final Cut Pro X Overcomes Lock-in

As more commentators discuss the pros and cons of *Apple’s FCP X*, it is becoming obvious that the pros message is centred around how the new version integrates the features and not on whether the features are “not new” or the critique that “its all be done before.” As one commentator put it; “Intuitive design is not something you can quantify in a feature list” and further, “intuitive interface that doesn’t hide incredibly powerful functions three menus deep after a right-click.” As an example, *Apple* scrapped the three-way colour correction wheels used in most NLEs for the simplicity of a white circle to adjust highlights, a gray circle to adjust midtones and a black circle to adjust shadows. By this different way of approaching a task, *Apple* has avoided *lock-in* which was defined as occurring when too many other programs become dependent upon it and the cost of change becomes prohibitive (<http://nofilmschool.com/2011/04/full-resolution-screenshots-of-final-cut-pro-x-and-the-importance-of-avoiding-lock-in/>)



Competitions Page

Queensland Movie Makers Award Movie Competition 2011

Closing Date: 6th July 2011.
Entry Fee: \$10 for each entry
Max Running Time: 15 minutes



See the following website for full details:

<http://www.famm.org.au/General%20conditions%20of%20Entry%20RULES%20FINAL%208.5.2011.pdf>

For the entry form:

<http://www.famm.org.au/QMM%20Award%20MovieEntry%20Form%20FINAL%20as%20at%208.5.2011.pdf>

Newcastle National Video Festival 2011

Closing Date: 1st September 2011
Entry Fee: \$10 for each entry
Max Running Time: 15 minutes



See the following website for details:

<http://www.nvm.org.au/Competitions/Nat%20Vid%20Form%2011.pdf>

Wollongong Camera Club Movie Makers VOTY 2011

Members with all these external competitions don't forget our own Video of the Year competition.



Have your entries ready for the Club meeting on the first Thursday in November.

2011 Programme

Date	Meeting Agenda	Place	Responsible Member
7 th July	Invitation to Photo Group to show EDIs. MM videos. Theme: Transport.	School	John Devenish & all members
4 th August	Members videos & Works in Progress Hot Spot – Brian Lavelle Theme - Battery Matters	School	Norm Gadsby
18 th August	Planning 2012 (International Year of Reading)	School	John Devenish + All
1 st September	Members Videos + Drama etc + anything from workshops Hot Spot – Brian Harvey	School	John Devenish
10 th September	COMBINED CLUBS MEETING - WOLLONGONG	School	All members
6 th October	NB Labour Day 3 rd One Minute Video, open topic. Hot Spot – Ian Wilson Non competition.	School	All Members
20 th October		School	Bob Kennedy
3 rd November	Members videos & works in progress Video file management / storage / retrieval. Hot Spot – Ray White VOTY entries cutoff date.	School	Brian Harvey
17 th November	SLR in Video mode.	School	Annick Gouw
1 st December	GALA EVENING Bring a plate + spouse + relo's + friends. Invite Photographic Group.		All members and Spouses
TUESDAY 13 th December	ANNUAL DINNER at Master Builders' Club		All Members and Spouses

Colour Code: Normal Monthly Meeting Extra Monthly Meeting Special Meeting

MOVIE MAKING CHALLENGES FOR 2011

Are You Up To The Challenge?

Combined Clubs Meeting: 10th September

Theme: Forests - Dwellers and Minders

Combined Photo and Movie Makers Night – 7th July

Theme: Transport

THE FAMM 2012 CONVENTION

The ACT will be hosting the next FAMM convention, to be held in Canberra from 26 to 30 March 2012 at the [Yowani Country Club, 455 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson, ACT](#). Click the link for more details. Accommodation at the venue is limited and you may want to book early. Mention the FAMM convention to take advantage of special rates. Other accommodation including camping is available close by.