

ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY

**SYDNEY VIDEO  
MAKERS CLUB**



# **ELECTRONIC EYE**

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

**2009**

**January 2009**

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**Next meeting  
Wednesday  
28th January**

**[www.ncc.asn.au](http://www.ncc.asn.au)**



## Through the President's Lens

January 28th is going to be the most important meeting of the year as we embark on four new changes, you need to be there on that very night to find out first hand, I will tell you why in a minute.

You can always judge the success of any organisation by the end of year results, and the crowds were up at our 2008 film festival as we had 120 people attend VOTY as compared to 85 that attended the previous year, some of whom were new members that have just signed up I am happy to say.

So as the new president and on behalf of a very supportive committee let me begin by congratulating all of the participants and winners of VOTY 08. and to our new members I say welcome to our friendly club, get involved for only those who gather the courage to submit their film to be tested before an appreciative audience can truly feel the exhilaration that accompanies the moment Eddie says . . . “and the winner is...”, try it yourself this year - I assure you, you will be excited!

It is in our interest (collectively) that we help the new members “stay on” and share in the fun of movie making, just think back to the time that you made your first film and how engrossed you became (when others put up with

it!). Amazingly, we have increased our membership in 08 against the odds thanks to the committee for the effort, and thank you members for making them feel welcomed.

The committee members know how hard it is to keep the engine room pumping for it has the responsibility of ensuring our future viability, Elvio for instance has just paid our 09 insurance premium but did you know that at least a third of our income goes to pay the insurance? Financially we are sound but our only concern is the low level of film entrees submitted by our members, this trend has to stop as it is ludicrous that the competition manager is often the main competitor, and not by choice either I might add.

This gradual decline in film submissions to both VOTY and the other comps is the reason for the new changes that I spoke of earlier, and with your support next week this issue will be addressed in the most interesting way!

Clubs don't just happen, they requires constant modification by a diligent committee and supportive membership that understands the difficulties of managing a membership of 100+ (as we are now) and to stay relevant.

Let us not think of change as a disruptive element, but rather an opportunity to meet new challenges. In reality, these new changes will only effect you when you are required to submit a film into the competitions.

The following four elements will inject some vigour and keep us trendy.

## **1. New name**

The name "Northside Camcorder Club" had three problems:

- a) It no longer reflected our true membership, we are no longer a local club, our membership comes from all over Sydney so the potential is there to not only inject revenue from a wider base but also benefit the club with everlasting new vibrant input.
- b) People in other areas don't have a Video club in close proximity to the city, We are it. So our new name of "Sydney Video makers" is very apt.

c) The two words “North” & “side” stuck together will not come up to the top when you do a Google search, whereas anyone typing Video \_ club and Sydney will find us. So it is important to keep up with the technology.

I should also add that “Sydney Video Makers Club” has an international ring about it as we seek prominence in the new era of the internet.

That was the first change we embarked on at our last 08 AGM. What is also different about our club is an exciting new way of doing things!

## **2. New web site.**

Our “shop-front” has to be informative and enticing; it should change often to reflect the club’s ongoing activities at a glance.

Our current home page seems to have grown a bit over the years and is a bit static. Too many menus is a distraction.

So with help of Eric and Glenn a new website will be coming soon that will be more compact and show current activities at a glance, while relegating History, Downloads, to the back pages. The new web site will complement our new registered name and logo. The new trend: less is more :-)

A special thanks to Alan White of “Foremost Communications” whose continued support has kept us in the virtual world.

## **3. Focus nights:**

Kent Fry does an annual survey to gauge our club’s status, and you know how good he is at this sort of thing, he detected a number of existing members (and most of the new ones) struggle with Video productions, some of those can’t take full advantage of our club nights let alone participate in regular comps.

So as of now, the Focus nights will be dedicated wholly and solely to helping the less experienced members gain more confidence so that they soon challenge the rest of us and be able to enjoy the club even more. This is the best way of increasing Video submissions.

Peter Frybort has already embarked on a heavy promotional campaign as our publicity manager to avail the public of this important community service.

Kembo will kick the ball rolling on our Feb Focus night with the new program for beginners utilising his skills and hand-outs and I'll have more to say about Focus a little later in this EE.

#### **4. Club nights:**

As for the rest of us, things will really hot up and the club will enjoy new vistas.

Previously and on occasions we split up the entire audience into smaller groups to brain-storm, play games etc. and didn't we have fun? So on January club night 09 the entire membership will be divided into such teams, each with a team leader selected from within that group, once you are assigned to your team you will stay faithful to it for the rest of the year.

You will now be able to submit to our regular competitions with a minimum of effort. As a team, the rivalry will be immense! But don't worry, for most of the time this new grouping will not be obvious; it will only kick in when the teams are making films for our competitions (once every three months) as set out below by Mike Elton.

#### **Benefits**

a) Members within each team can inspire each other and help solve technical issues, new members will learn quicker.

b) There will be 10 entries for each competition, Mike will be happy and busy!

c) Quality of each film will go up and be more entertaining as teams compete against each other to produce the best short films.

d) The work load will be a lot less for you as you have helpers from your team. Each team will decide for themselves how to assign the work, eg, some can come up with concept, two can write the script over the net, others can split and film in different locations, two



can edit, or any other combination you (as a team) choose.

You don't have to do the lot yourself !

e) If a member is away on holidays for instance then the rest of team will still be able to create "the masterpiece".

f) Team will be selected to keep a similar range of expertise in each group so that you don't have a team of experts on the one hand competing against a team of newcomers, (as would be the case had we split along the geographical lines), this is a difficult balancing act that requires your support. There will be some migration allowed between teams later to fine tune.

Getting people out of their "comfort zones" often results in a better overall outcome for the club in the long run, so stay with me!

The team leaders have been carefully selected for their experience. They will coordinate and make sure that the film is finished and handed in on time. Members will benefit from working in a group and since there are four such competitions in a year your team members can switch roles.

A list of 10 teams has been prepared to facilitate this and your new name tags will be made to identify which team you belong to. Therefore I am counting on your community spirit and support to get on board and make this work so that we can together have fun and smooth over the difficulties of managing our ever growing community of 100+ members that we now have.

And that is why it is imperative that you all attend our first meeting this month.

We might also ask the other two clubs to film the same topics and see how creative they can get.

Naturally you are still able to work on your own personal project as before but only after you submit the required competition with your team.

If any individual needs additional help with anything then they can always attend the Focus night classes where our volunteers will be happy to help.

I have received an email from Jan Waterson from the 75 year old IAC film and video institute (UK) who took the opportunity to look at our club activities and stated that our club was impressive. We should be proud of our achievements,

and this new approach I speak of will further build on what previous members have done in the past.

So I ask for your indulgence to make this aspect succeed as it will make us a world leader in this endeavour.

The upshot: by improving the novice's level of competence, and making it easier for all to make new films, we will enjoy watching films made by members other than the usual suspects!

Finally I would like to thank Margo and Bob Hallett for doing the supper/catering for the club for the last 8 years As well as other artistic contributions and lectures as they get busy with other community work, we look forward to seeing them at the club.

A special thank you also goes to Ernest Cheung who just donated 12 high quality "Digital Juice" DVD's to our library (worth several hundred dollars). This gift will give our members the ability to further enhance their productions with titles like "Production Notes", "Editor's theme Kit", "Take Five" and various "Jump backs" to make the member's green screens size. We will use these short Video lectures to entice our members back to their seats after the tea break.

Ernest uses HD and is well known for his insatiable desire to get the best possible outcome from whatever equipment you have as was evident with his many Ch 31 Television productions "Come travel with me to..."

My Personal motto . . . If you want to have fun .. make the first move.

See you down there

*Rob Nercessian*  
*Club President*

# FOCUS NIGHTS

*The New Focus Nights = Entry Level Tutorial*

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

The tutorial will be conducted in four consecutive sessions to be held on SVMC focus nights. First Tutorial will be Feb to May and another from June to Sept.

The objective is to impart essential “start up” skills to those members who have not yet gained experience in using a video camera and editing their captured video footage.

The tutorial will progress logically through the process of selecting and using a camera, capturing content, basic editing of content and sharing the movie produced on a DVD or as YouTube style web clip. The tutorial will be presented by experienced members of SVMC.

The tutorial will be as hands on as possible with participants working in pairs using their own equipment where possible. The sessions are consecutive and for best effect participants should attend all sessions.

There will be plenty of opportunity for questions as the tutorial proceeds and mentors will be on hand to assist. A number of Laptops will be required so that hands on capture and editing are a reality.

Focus nights are 2 hour sessions so that a total of four hours tutorial is involved.

## SESSION 1 VIDEO CAMERAS.

- Why do you want a camera and when will you use it.
- What sort of camera is best for you
- Camera features basic to advanced
- Storage media and what that means to you
- HD or not HD
- Some “sound advice”
- Connecting camera to computer.



## SESSION 2 CAPTURING VIDEO

- Review of good capturing techniques
- Capturing practice
- Review of project required for session 3

## SESSION 3 EDITING CONTENT

- Overview of non linear editor levels of complexity
- What editor will best suit you
- Editing with Windows Movie Maker or MAC. iMovie.

## SESSION 4 SHARING CONTENT ON DVD OR “YOU TUBE”

- Show and tell participant projects
- Adding titles and music.
- Making DVDs
- Editing for YouTube.
- Conclusion to tutorial series

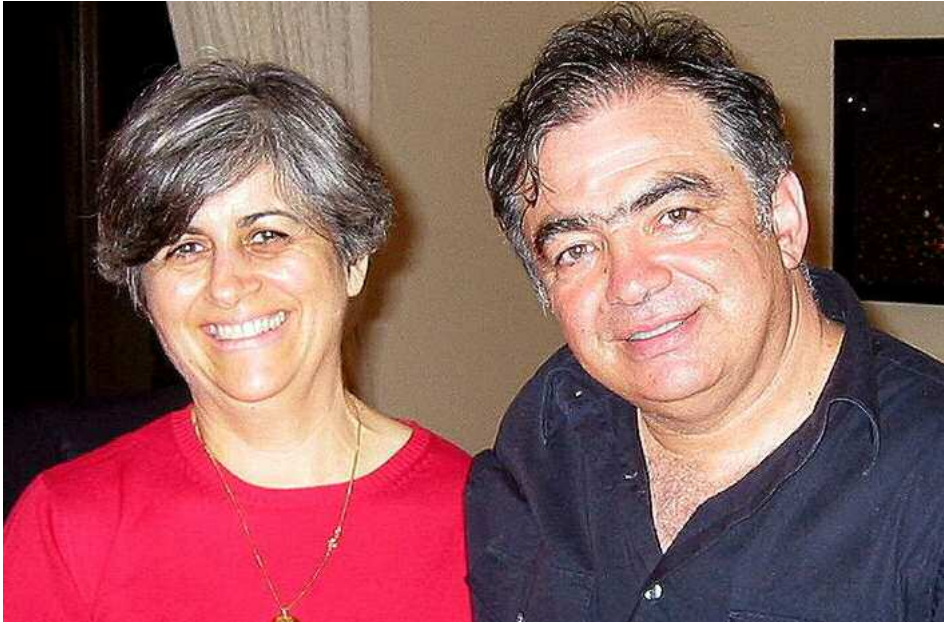


### Tip of the Month

Beryl Stephens would like you to email her at:

`beryl.stephens@ozemail.com.au`

with your favourite tips for videomaking that you would like to share with other members. Please let her know if you would like an acknowledgement in EE or would prefer your tip to remain anonymous.



**Location:** Belrose, amongst the rest of the snobs ☺.

**‘How did you hear about the NCC, when did you join and what video experience have you had before joining, if any?’**

I was working out in the western suburbs in ‘05, adding more

Telephone lines to the Liverpool exchange when I stopped at “Digital planet” to buy some DV tapes. David there suggested that I should join a user group and gave me this web site. So I looked it up and discovered that Martha was running an interview technique workshop in the streets of Chatswood, so I joined in the fun, I just love getting involved in outdoor group activities.

In fact I can’t wait until the next outdoor club activity, I mean you are in public, doing cinematography in open air, it feels like Hollywood. Somebody, quick, make another outdoor suggestion.

**‘Can you tell me a bit about your work, hobbies, pets, family and other skills apart from video?’**

I did Some ‘A’ levels in the UK in ‘70, then came the Electronics Certificate course at North Sydney TAFE while I playing in a band. I finished the Technical course but “Show groups Australia” agency got us more work, the ego made me choose the latter.

However nine months as a musician in Darwin right after cyclone Tracey. It was too hot to do any filming, but it was a wild town, perhaps I should have! Back in Sydney, we continued with the band until the Lane Cove wine bar we entertained so enthusiastically at replaced us with a gaggle of topless waitresses, I was mad, “never again”.

So in a moment of rage I got married instead, in 1979. Camelia inspired me to clean up a bit, give up the smokes and get a real job. I sold my Guitar to buy her the wedding ring, now our lovemaking is a bit like a symphony; starts with a pianissimo and ends with a crescendo! And with the security of life time tenure that Telecom offered I was relaxed enough to produce Alex, Lara and Tom.

Life time tenure lasted 15 years, the next job was fixing Fuji Mini photo Labs around NSW. Too much travelling alone, I need a woman by my side at all times so I quit. (the Job that is). Transfield wanted me to help start their Telecommunication arm, 5 years there was very intense, too serious.

Time to play with Camera's again, and when an old friend asked me to sell them in his HN city store I jumped at the chance. Now I am content serving customers at Belrose not far from where I live, Perfect.

**‘How would you describe yourself as a person and what is your philosophy in living a successful life?’**

I am a citizen of Planet Earth first, then an Aussie, and lastly Armenian.

I believe that it's not much use to have nationalism when our very future survival as organisms in the universe is in question. So I put greed, religion, and patriotism for any country as a luxury to be entertained only after we all play a small but daily part in preserving our human heritage.

In the early 80's I advocated the use of small shuttle buses, one bus per suburb that would run in a loop, picking up commuters from local streets and drop them at their respective major shopping centres, then big busses would pick them up and take them to the city. This two stage transport would make every STA bus into an express bus.

I also believe in giving, giving something back to the younger generation, wether or not they are your own kids, little things like respect, wisdom and opportunities, arm them to run a better future for you and me, as we may have already stolen some from them.

continued...

**‘If you had a chance to do something you’ve never done before or meet some-one you’ve admired but haven’t met and would like to, what would it be and who would it be?’**

Mohamad Ali, Inspirational and funny at the same time, but he don’t talk much these days so it’s no use.

A bit like Withlam, I am apolitical, but you must admit he was witty.

**‘Have you done much travelling and if so, where to and what were the highlights?’**

At 17, I was a young, lone traveller in UK, France,

At 47, I Took the Kids to Disneyland, but the following 6 weeks in the North American Bush was splendid.

Camelia has planed our next itinerary, visiting everyplace we ever wanted to see around the globe. What she didn’t realise is that it will take us 7 years and 3 months to see it all !

**‘When did you get your first camera? What was it? What are you using now and what other equipment do you use including editing software?’**

At 14 dad gave me his Canon standard 8 Camera, you shot 90 seconds on one side, turn the film around, shoot the next 90 seconds, so you can project a whole 3 minutes! Perfect for short stories. I also wanted an SLR, So I got the Olympus OM2, The worlds first small SLR.

I waited 40 years until the emergence of a good video club (NCC) to sharpen my skills, I now have Panasonic GS-400.

**‘What do you see as the greatest challenge in creating better videos for yourself?’**

Time.

**‘What are the most rewarding things for you about being an NCC member?’**

The privilege of associating with such able and accomplished members.

**‘Are there any other words of wisdom or observations you would like to impart upon us about the club or making videos?’**

Never underestimate the importance of attracting new members, for augmenting current meetings as well as future viability.

More participation means less work.

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# VOTY 2008 DVDs FOR SALE

After another successful VOTY 2008, we have produced a 2 DVD set containing the entries, the awards and the stills taken on the night. 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 – 9 entries and the ceremony – and the second contains the 4x3 material – 6 entries and the stills. The disks will be available from Club Night on 28 January. The price is still only \$20 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!



# - - - VOTY 2008 RESULTS - - -

Ernest Chung	1st	<b><i>Shoot like a pro</i></b> Video of the year	Documentary
Chris Saville	2nd	<b><i>Dragons Abreast</i></b>	Documentary
Andy Doldissen	2nd 2nd	<b><i>Dragons Abreast</i></b> 3 Mates	Documentary Screenplay
John Sirett	3rd	<b><i>Wagtails</i></b> Excellence in photography Audience popular vote	Documentary
	2nd	<b><i>Ocheechobee Waterway</i></b>	Travel
Bob Hallett	2nd	<b><i>3 Mates</i></b>	Screenplay
Ian Scott	1st	<b><i>AAADD</i></b> Best meeting night Team Ted Northover Trophy	Screenplay
Phil Brighton	1st	<b><i>AAADD</i></b> Best meeting night Team Ted Northover Trophy	Screenplay
Mike Elton	1st	<b><i>AAADD</i></b> Best meeting night Team Gwen Stoney most improved Ted Northover Trophy	Screenplay
Ron Cooper	2nd	<b><i>Peter's Petersburg</i></b>	Music
Juan Maravillas	1st	<b><i>Asturias</i></b>	Music
Max Milgate	3rd	<b><i>Broome swept us away</i></b>	Travel
Gary Klinger	1st	<b><i>Elvis Festival</i></b> Best meeting night videographer	Travel

Congratulation to all members who submitted entries and to those who won places. The VOTY was so hotly contested this year that the top 3 entries were separated by only 1 1/2 judging points. Second was Dragon's Abreast Sydney and third was Wagtails.



The time has come for me to update my book Producing Videos: A Complete Guide.

Just wondering if any club members would like to contribute any tips or pictures for my latest edition? I would need contributions by the end of February. I'll also need a head and shoulders shot of each tipster to go with their tips.

See attached pic of our white Christmas here in Portland, Oregon, USA.

*Martha.*

mollison\_martha@yahoo.com.au

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership fees for 2009 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, please send a cheque to SVMC  
PO Box 1185  
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Elvio Favalessa  
Treasurer

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