ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY



ELECTRONIC

NEWSLETTER

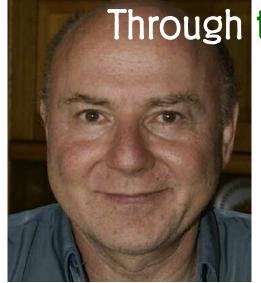
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Next Meeting WEDNESDAY 27th February

www.ncc.asn.au



Through the President's Lens

Following on from Ian Scott's article on stimulating your creative juices (previous EE) the February Club night will provide some practical examples of how this has been done by various people.

We are fortunate to have a professional screen writer who teaches others how to convert their ideas into scripts. This is often a stumbling block for many of us. See his profile in the following pages.

So if you have ever been short of ideas to produce a small video come along to stretch your mind and learn from others how to tap into the creative well inside.

Peter Frybort, Club President

February Meeting - Guest speaker Karel Segers



- My background, from a radio celebrity in Belgium to being an independent producer and leading story consultant and teacher

Producer and Script Consultant Karel Segers is the founder of OZZYWOOD Films and The Story Dept., the only online resource for screen story theory in Australia.

Karel headed production and programming at London's Digital Broadcasting Company, was a film buyer for Europe's largest Pay TV Canal Plus and a movie show host for MTV Europe.

He has produced two short dramas and coproduced a documentary and a feature film. A short animation and feature film are now in post-production.

Karel has coached and consulted to award-winning writers, directors and producers. With his clients in five Australian states and overseas, he advises on films from first draft to final cut.

His views are published in The Story Dept. and the AWG's online 'Karel's Feedback Forum'. His story workshops have been praised by filmmakers, playwrights and novelists, while both nominees for last year's AWG Monte Miller Award were Karel's clients.

A NEW TRIPOD

The voice on the phone said "I'm thinking of buying a Miller tripod, would you like to come and look at them, and can you also bring your Sony PD170 camera along to try".

A few days later we arrived at the Miller showroom in Artarmon which is also, we found, the only factory where the tripods are made. (I was under the wrong impression they were made all over the world). It was amazing just how much is done in such a small space. Miller produce thousands of tripods each year for the global market with the largest market being the USA. Miller target mainly the professional market and the range covers everything from mini DV cameras all the way through to very large studio cameras and jibs.

The Miller family started making tripods in the fifties and today are one of the premier brands on the market so we were very curious to see the inside of a fluid head and the various stages of production. Miller incidentally took out the patent for the world's first fluid head.

Tripod legs are now made from carbon fibre, and these are imported from a specialist factory in France. They supply carbon fibre to all the tripod manufacturers. Alloy mouldings are aluminium and magnesium for lightness, these are cast in Brookvale and then ground, finished and powder coated at the factory. The Fluid head mechanism consists of many thin brass washers packed with a special grease and then sealed, counterbalancing springs and clutches added to the mechanism which then rotates on ball bearings. There is no fluid as such in the head, apparently the fluid was discontinued many years ago. All current fluid heads have a similar construction, in fact all manufacturers use the same grease made in Germany. The precise surface area of the washers and properties of the grease result in a silken smooth panning and tilting motion. All the smaller fittings, pins, screws are machined in the factory by computer controlled milling machines. We saw brass and aluminium rods feeding in one side of a machine and completed shaped,

threaded, drilled parts popping out the other side. The tripods are then assembled by hand from the component parts.

The first employee of Miller still goes into the factory 2 days a week machining

special parts - he is 92 years old! (How's that for dedication!!) So great is the demand for their products from around the world that they are always behind in supply. We were told that at trade shows held in America people think Miller is an American manufacturer.

The completed tripod is a precision piece of equipment which should give good service for up to twenty years before a service may be required. All



services are performed at the factory by the same crew who assemble the current models, a good quality feedback loop. It was interesting to see a few sets of old timber tripod legs from the early Miller tripods on the shelf in case a customer needed a replacement.

Using the tripod is easy thanks to its great design. Levelling the fluid head is one quick adjustment as the head sits in a hemispherical bowl, no more fumbling around with shortening or lengthening tripod legs. The tripod is rock solid and once balanced the head stays in whatever position it is placed.

We were told that ideally the camera weight should be no more than half the recommended load so that puts the PD170 on a DS10, the DS5 being for the smaller DV models. The pan and tilt head is exactly the same size for the two models, except the 10 has additional clutch plates. There is still the choice of alloy or carbon fibre for the legs, the latter being lighter, stronger and will not corrode.

Usually if you want to buy a Miller tripod you have to wait 2 weeks but luckily one was immediately available which came complete with shoulder strap and case. We walked away with the new purchase...... Andy Doldissen is now the proud owner of a Miller DS 10 Tripod.

Does this sound like an advertisement? If you read this at Millers can you please put all Chris Saville's commission towards a DS10!





February Focus Night "Know your camera" covered new first time users and experienced members. We had presentations on Middle to high end "Prosumer" cameras through to the "Happy Snapper" for recording the Grand Children and overseas travels.

Each camera chosen by the members presenting on the night was to fill a niche in their requirements whether it was for professional video production or just recording a family event. It seems obvious but anyone upgrading their camera or a first time user has to address the basic question: What do I want to do with this camera. It was within this framework the discussions and presentations took place.

Peter and Stev Henne discussed and demonstrated some of the Pros and Cons of the Sony and Cannon professional level camera's the emphasis was on how much and how easy it was for manual control of such functions as aperture, shutter speed, focus, white balance, etc. The two cameras were in a similar price range. The Cannon could be programmed via a SD memory chip that enabled the operator to emulate the controls of other camera's this made it easy for the operator in multi camera shoots as all the controls operated in similar manner.



Jim Whitehead presented the "Happy Snapper" camera, which was chosen for easy of use relying on the automatic functions to give a reasonable picture under normal lighting conditions both inside and outside. The Sony camera had a reasonable optical zoom it can be argued anything over 8 times requires a tripod which is cumber-

some to carry on the overseas trip. The camera is small enough to carry without attracting attention in some of those locations where you do not want



to attract attention and the low light shooting was reasonable for shooting inside buildings.

Eddie Hanham discussed the HD camera that was released when standards were being developed and all manufactures were trying to grab market share to force the acceptance of their formats for compression. some of the problems being slow start up times when shooting action sequences or wild life scenes. The backend processing (editing software) was lagging the camera market and he experienced problems with the editing. Sometimes this aspect is overlooked when looking at upgrading your camera.

Rob Nercessian talked on some of the newer technologies that manufactures are offering, such as DVD, hard disc, memory cards etc. Some of the Pro's and Con's for these technologies are cost, fragility, compression quality trade off, etc. It was generally agreed that tape will still be around for the near future due to low cost factor and provides an excellent archive medium. He also explained that manufacturers were "Dumming Down" the camera's at the low end to attract the point and shoot user.

The night was well attended and it was an informative forum that provided some thought provoking ideas from people who had experienced the some pitfalls when selecting their camera.

Our thanks to Joy Saunders for an excellent night.

Ross Donaldson



There will be a Club visit to Garden Island on Sunday 20 April. This is a picnic day and naval museum visit, with the chance to shoot video inside and outside, bring and barbeque steaks, sip coffee in the cafe and view First Fleet graffiti.

The site can only be reached by ferry. A 10.15

AM ferry leaves Circular Quay for Watson's Bay and Garden Island is the first stop. Far latecomers, there are ferries at 45 min. intervals. The last return ferry is at 4.15 PM. Entry to the museum is by \$5 ' donation'.



John Maher is the contact person for this event. Ph: 9634 7229

P.S -even if it rains ,there are large enclosed areas and a good cafe menu!

FOR SALE

Blaupunkt S-VHS VCR with jog shuttle for sale at \$100.

Ph: 0407 10 77 33



Earl Hingston
(Former President of NCC)

And the winner is...

reproduced from dbtechno.com



Toshiba Corp. has officially announced the end of the HD DVD format on Tuesday 19th February. They stated that they will no longer be manufacturing HD DVD and will be closing all of their operations for the high-def DVD format, leaving Blu-ray as the official winner of the high-def format war.

Toshiba stated that they will stop all research and production of HD DVD equipment immediately. They will also stop selling any HD DVD products as of March 31.

Toshiba President and Chief Executive Atsutoshi Nishida stated "We carefully assessed the long-term impact of continuing the so-called next generation format war and concluded that a swift decision will best help the market develop. It was a tough decision. But it would have a big impact on our management if we continued HD DVD."

Blu-ray, led by Sony Corp., has received a lot of support since 2008 began, receiving backing from the likes of studios such as Warner Bros, and retailers such as Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Netflix, and other outlets. It has had a larger installed user base thanks to the fact that a Blu-ray player comes built-in to every Sony PlayStation 3 game console sold.

Toshiba has only been able to sell 1 million HD DVD players.

Nishida stated that the decision of Warner Bros. may have been the deciding factor in the war. He stated "The impact was large as U.S. retailers reacted."



www.dbtechno.com

Competition Corner

With Mike Elton Competition Manager

There was a very poor response to the first competition of the year. Not the quality of the entries but the number. I cannot understand why more members don't join in our competitions. You learn more with every film you make. Writing scripts, shooting video and carefully editing



With this in mind I want to remind you of the second competition. Autobiography which gives you a chance to say something about yourself. Six minutes is not a long time to describe a lifetime but you could concentrate on one small section of your life. It could be a single day, a special year or event. If like me you have few if any movies of younger times you can use photos and especially the Ken Burns effect to give them movement.

You can also recreate moments by visiting schools you attended or places visited with a video shoot scenes and mix them with the rest of the story. Revisit old events that are repeated every year like Chinese New Year or sporting event. Use a younger relative to play the younger you!

The story does not have to be true. You can have a fictional autobiography or mocumentary but remember the auto bit and remember the fictional character is talking about him/herself. Be as funny as you like.

Don't forget that there is a Music Video Contest running concurrently the rest of the year. This is a real music video not a travel video, nature video or documentary with music. But it can contain elements of each. It doesn't have to be rock music. It can be any music you can describe with video. Here's a chance to play with special effects.

It is also not too early to think of contest number three. The Chase with it you can have fun with speeded up motion. Weird angles etc. It could be intricately plotted or have a freeform story where the video is the message.

So there you are plenty to think about

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Thinking of buying a new HD Camera?

JVC is about to release 2 new Video Cams GZ-HD6 and GZ-HD5.

The first one has 120 GB hard drive for 10 Hour recording capacity as well as micro SD card. Half the size of previous models and a Fujinon lens makes it ideal for hi quality, consumer travel camera, particularly with it's full 1920x1080P (progressive) output and 60 P capability (Japan model).



Included is Software for Blue ray burning as well as HDMI v1.3 for a quick playback on your flat panel.

Hard disk recorders are convenient for quick file access and download. They do however use heavier compression (AVCHD) to reduce data size in order for the hard drive to keep up. Some say that much compression is counter productive, DV tape on the other hand employs much less compression (HDV), it is a superior storage method as it is less processed.

If you want to stay with tape then the Canon HV 20 Camera is very good, it will soon be replaced with HV 30 with just minor cosmetic changes and a black body, that means that the superseded HV 20's will be offered cheaper till sold.

You always have to have compression unfortunately, however within the next 12 months there will be a new type of compression for hard disks and solid state storage (SD etc).

It promises major step forward.

I'll just wait then.

Rob Nercessian

2008 CLUB DIARY

Wednesday 23th January Club Meeting "Red" competition entries close.

Tuesday 12th February Focus Night Know your camera.

Wednesday 27th February Club Meeting Developing ideas into concepts.

Tuesday 11th March Focus Night Travel night.

Wednesday 26th March Club Meeting Producton planning.

"Autobiography" competition entries close.

"Red" screening.

Tuesday 8th April Focus Night Creating music tracks.

Wednesday 30rd April Club Meeting Location and capture lighting.

Tuesday 13th May Focus Night Audio capture.

Wednesday 28th May Club Meeting Audio capture. Action control.

"Autobiography" screening.

Tuesday 10th June Focus Night Using graphics and other media.

Wednesday 25th June Club Meeting Frame the shot.

"The Chase" competition entries close.

Tuesday 8th July Focus Night Post fix problems.

Wednesday 23rd July Club Meeting Evaluation.

Tuesday 12th August Focus Night Travel night.

Wednesday 27th August Club Meeting Editing and pacing.

"The Chase" screening.

"Flashback" competition entries close.

"Music" competition entries close.

Tuesday 9th September Focus Night SFX video.

Wednesday 24th September Club Meeting Technology upate.Tuesday 14th October Focus Night Video for the web.

Wednesday 22nd October Club Meeting "Flashback" screening.

"Music" screening.

VOTY competition entries close.

Tuesday 11th November Focus Night Social night.

Friday 28th November VOTY 2008

To include your club event in the Club Diary then send an email to: *Glenn Booth at membership@ncc.asn.au*

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

9960 4456 President Peter Frybort Vice President Ian Scott 9484 4439 Secretary Kent Fry secretary@ncc.asn.au Elvio Favalessa 9415 2634 Treasurer Glenn Booth 9401 6677 Membership Secretary Joy Saunders Training Officer **VOTY Organiser** Ian Scott 9484 4439 **Publicity Officer** Rob Nercessian Editor Electronic Eye Terry Brett 9451 1851 editor@ncc.asn.au Web Master Eric Chung Service Desk Manager Peter Deklerk 8920 0795 Help Desk Coordinator Eddie Hanham 9327 4118 John Maher Librarian Visitors Host Ron Cooper 9982 1147 Mike Elton Competition Manger Copyright Registrar Jim Whitehead 9416 7162 Video Director Terry Brett 9451 1851 Garry Murdoch **Audio Director** 9807 3706 Bob & Margo Hallett 9587 6925 Catering

Please address all correspondence for Committee Action to:

The Secretary,
Northside Camcorder Club,
P. O. Box 1185
CHATSWOOD NSW 2057



President: Peter Frybort

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.

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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