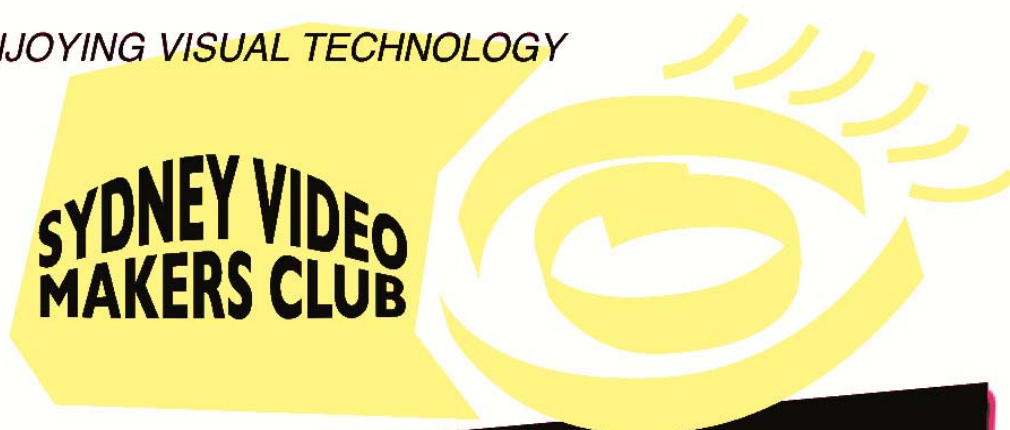


ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY



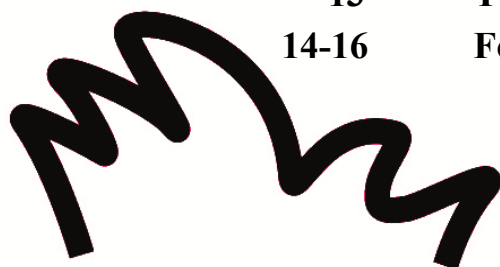
ELECTRONIC EYE

N E W S L E T T E R

FEBRUARY, 2015

2015

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NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

25th FEBRUARY, 2015

www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au

President's Message

Gong xi fa cai!

Unfortunately, while you're all enjoying Club Night on Wednesday and hopefully watching some excellent competition entries in our first competition of 2015, I shall be away in Singapore. It is work though and so I'm not going just to celebrate Chinese New Year or practice my Chinese which I can confirm is rubbish!

It is a shame as I would like to have seen the entries and I'm sure it will be a good night, Paul and Michael's first as Competition Managers so make it easy for them if you can! Remember, all you need to do is bring a copy on a USB stick along with the entry form which you can download from the website.

If you are entering using a Vimeo number then please do also bring a copy to be played on the night.

Thanks also to Paul and Rob for their help at the last Club Night going through some of the insights they took from the judge's comments at VOTY.

We do tend to rush on to the next year without really reflecting enough on the many rich suggestion the judges make and I would absolutely recommend reading their suggestions if you haven't already. There's rich pickings in there and not just on dramas, you won't be surprised to hear that some of the judges were very experienced documentary makers and the quality of their suggestions really shines through.

I hope you also enjoyed the video portrait piece last month, there really was something for everyone in that, lots of great little ideas which I hope were useful and later this year we'll be spending a Club Night shooting some 'team portraits' on a green screen in the run up to VOTY so hopefully some of that will come in handy.

Last week I watched a very inspiring short documentary about a married couple who had made a feature film on a complete shoestring. The budget was genuinely next to nothing added to less than the number you first thought of, then multiplied by what's down the back of the sofa. So, well within our budget range! They ran out of money over and over again but kept going and...

The results though were truly amazing, so much so that their film has now been released on DVD in Japan. It just goes to show what can be done if you really put your mind to it and is even more encouraging when you think we generally aim to make films that run for 10 minutes or less. One for another evening perhaps.

At the last Club Night I forgot to mention some of the great work Gerry Benjamin has been doing in finding projects for the Club which are raising money for the Club. I won't steal his thunder here by detailing them but there

is more than one project that he, Chris Saville, and possibly other members have been involved in and so a belated thank you to Gerry, Chris and anyone else who has been involved. We will get Gerry to tell us about them and show the finished pieces when they're ready.

So, here's an idea for you. Imagine someone gave you \$5,000 or \$15,000 and said you have to spend the whole lot on video equipment! What would you buy? You can imagine you have nothing today, or at least nothing you wouldn't replace, or just focus on the toys and extras that you'd like to have next, entirely up to you. Maybe you need a new camera, a new tripod, a slider, a crane, some lights, a monitor perhaps, lapel mikes, and the list goes on. Spending virtual money is probably more fun and certainly cheaper and it's within everyone's budget!

Perhaps have a think about what you'd spend either amount on, jot down what it is and perhaps at the next focus night we can go through what people think is important, how much they think they'd spend on each different item and so on. We might find that one person spends \$5,000 on a super dooper fast as you like computer to edit on while another invests the same on the camera.

The list of options is endless! If you're interested in contributing perhaps let Ian Scott know at the next Club Night and we can schedule it in to the next Focus Night and / or print it in the next EE.

Enjoy Wednesday, sorry I won't be there to see the competition entries but look forward to seeing them next month.

Cheers
Ruskin

UPLOADING TO VIMEO

As you know the Club has standardized the method of submitting competition entries. VIMEO is used for transmitting the entry content to the competition manager and then on to the competition Judges. Vimeo also serves to hold the library copies of all present and past entries submitted to the Club.

The Vimeo website provides the following advice.

A codec is the format in which your video will be encoded. Vimeo accepts most major video codecs. However for best results we recommend using H.264. If you're uploading High Definition (HD) video, choose the High Profile H.264 setting instead of Main Profile.

To make your uploads extra smooth, choose the following advanced settings whenever possible.

Closed GOP

CABAC (to reduce your file size)

What is “H.264”

It is a next-generation video compression format. H.264 is also known as MPEG-4 AVC. Developed for use in high definition systems such as HDTV, Blu-ray and HD DVD as well as low resolution portable devices such as Sony's PSP and Apple's iPod, H.264 offers better quality at lower file sizes than both MPEG-2 and MPEG-4 ASP (DivX or XviD).

Apple has official adopted H.264 as the format for QuickTime. It is also one of the formats chosen to be supported by both high definition DVD standards, and is destined to be the future standard format for Blu-ray. Even AVCHD, the consumer format offered by the same people behind Blu-ray and for use in camcorders and Blu-ray recorders, uses H.264 as the main video format.

H.264 is sometimes referred (erroneously) as x264 – x264 is the name of a popular free-ware encoder for the H.264 format. H.264 is also sometimes referred to as MP4, again this is technically incorrect. MP4 is a container format much like AVI or MKV and it can be used to “house” many compression codecs, not just H.264. MP4 should not be confused with MPEG-4 video either.

How you can use H.264.

Complete your edit in your NLE so that it is ready to submit for judging. Follow the NLE instructions to export (or share) the Video. On most normal NLE's, one needs to mark the in and out limits of the work to be exported, complete all rendering of effects and compositing. When export is selected a dropbox appears with various selections for you to make produce the media format you require. Look for H.264 and watch progress as the movie compresses in to H.264 format.

Your completed file should play in “Quick Time”.

These notes were promised as a follow up by me from the February focus night.

I acknowledge content extracted from the Vimeo web site and Wikipedia.

Ian Scott Sec. SVMC

**IAN SCOTT SHOWING HOW IT IS DOWN
FOCUS NIGHT 11TH FEBRUARY, 2015**



A Message from the Treasurer.....

Your membership fee for 2015 is now due.

The amount this year is \$70 which is a small increase over last year.

I would appreciate if you could pay the fee on club night in cash or cheque.

If you would like to pay by direct deposit then the details are.....

Account name = Sydney Video Makers Club

BSB = 032-090

Account = 390 845

Many thanks

Elvio Favalessa

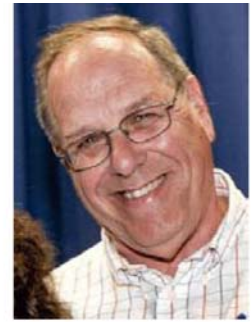
Treasurer.

04 38 98 00 60

Technology Corner 1

Selected by Ami Levartovsky

Ami selects some interesting articles from around the web.



GoPro Hero4 Black and Silver Review

Written by Brent Rose, Gizmodo - 17 February 2015

The new GoPro Hero4 Black and Hero4 Silver are two of the very best action cameras you can buy.

The GoPro Hero4 Black, at \$679 and the GoPro Hero4 Silver, which is \$181 cheaper are identical from the front.



The Black's claim to fame is an ability to shoot 4K video at 30 frames per second, and 1080p video at 120fps (for some very sweet slo-mo.) The Silver's processor is a bit slower, so it can't manage those higher frame rates, but the optics, the image sensor and everything else looks just as good. Basically, if you're shooting 1080p at 60fps, the two are indistinguishable.

Oh, except that the Silver has an LCD screen which is very handy for lining up shots and review footage on the fly, which is nice for adjusting settings because it's touch-sensitive too. It's a bit counterintuitive that the flagship Black edition is the one that *doesn't* have the screen.



The waterproof housing that comes with both cameras is rated down to 39 metres deep, which should be more than enough for all but advanced-level SCUBA divers.

For most consumers, the Hero4 Silver edition is probably the better pick. You probably don't *need* 4K video at 30fps, or 2.7K at 60, or 1080p at 120, or 720p at 240. I mean, they're awesome, but you can probably settle for a little less resolution and a little less speed.

For that compromise, you'll save \$US100, and gain a very handy touchscreen and a bit of battery life.

It's also worth noting that Sony's 4K Action Cam (X100V) is just around the corner and gunning for the Hero4 Black. It costs the same and has a lot (but not all) of the same shooting modes, plus stabilisation and GPS.



Ami's Note:

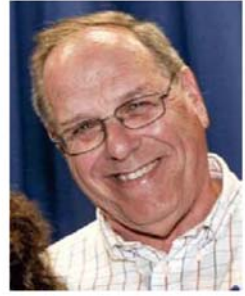
Having the touch LCD allows for easier reconfiguration of this camera from Camera to Video to Time Lapse or Burst and the different speeds (15/325/30/50/60/100/120/240) and from Super-Wide to medium to Narrow etc. The LCD screen also allows you to frame your shots/video...

www.gizmodo.com.au/2015/02/gopro-hero4-black-and-silver-review-still-the-best-action-cams/

Technology Corner 2

Selected by Ami Levartovsky

Ami selects some interesting articles from around the web.



A Camera Bag Divider That Protects And Charges Your Gear

Written by Andrew Liszewski, Gizmodo - 12 February 2015

This padded camera bag with a divider has a 3000 mAh battery hidden away inside.

For \$US40 it not only guarantees that your Smartphone doesn't die while it's tracking your GPS location everywhere you're snapping shots.



It also ensures that all of your camera's accessories stay separate and compartmentalised in the bag so your lens and body don't get all scratched as things jostle around in there.

www.gizmodo.com/a-camera-bag-divider-that-protects-and-charges-your-gear-1685041116

Technology Corner 3

Selected by Ami Levartovsky

Ami selects some interesting articles from around the web.



Canon's Having Another Shot At Mirrorless With The Nifty New M3

Written by Luke Hopwell, Gizmodo - 6 February 2015 3:45 PM

Wave goodbye to the Canon EOS M: there's a new kid on the block. It's called the M3, and it's a gorgeous little thing featuring a 24.2-megapixel sensor, 49-point auto-focus system and powered by a DIG!C 6 image processor.

On the back of the camera, you'll find that a 3-inch pop-out touchscreen dominates the affair, while on top a pop-up flash is nestled in the far left. There's no EVF to be found, but you can buy it as an optional extra.

It's shipping in April in three different kits: Body only, body + EF-M 18-55 IS STM lens and body + EF-M 18-55 IS STM and EF-M 55-200 IS STM lenses. We'll know prices closer to launch.



www.gizmodo.com.au/2015/02/canons-having-another-shot-at-mirrorless-with-the-nifty-new-m3/

Hints, tips, ideas, and a whole lot more

One site definitely worth checking out is revision3.com/filmriot/

It's packed full of simple tips, ideas, how to's and more all focused on the little or not budget filmmaker. Ryan Connolly hosts with his own unique brand of humour and motivation and it's definitely worth dipping into. Just don't expect to not feel a little sorry for Josh!

The screenshot shows the website revision3.com/filmriot/ in a browser. The page features a green header with the 'Revision3' logo and a 'MENU' button. Below the header is a 'Film Riot' banner with a red and black logo. A profile card for 'Ryan Connolly' is visible on the right, showing a circular profile picture and social media follow buttons for Facebook and Twitter. The main content area describes 'Film Riot' as a how-to trip through filmmaking from Ryan Connolly. Below this is a 'RECENT' section listing four videos:

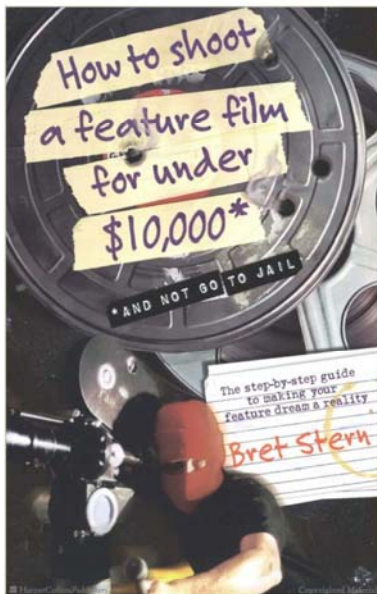
- Headshot VFX!**
Today, we show you how to safely shoot your friends in the face!
FILM RIOT • 2 days ago
- Mondays: YouTube Vs. Vimeo & Working With Miniatures!**
Today, Ryan talks when it's time to get a new camera, YouTube Vs. Vimeo and working with miniatures!
FILM RIOT • 5 days ago
- How to Make a Prop Crowbar**
Today Ryan shows how to make a simple prop crowbar to beat people with.
FILM RIOT • 9 days ago
- Getting Rid of the Fisheye Distortion & The Ninja Star!**
Ryan runs over getting rid of that GoPro fisheye look, speed ramping and does a quick overview of the Atomos Ninja Star!
FILM RIOT • 12 days ago

More books from the new library

The books that Ernest donated were very popular last Club Night, Graham had his busiest night for a long time! If you didn't get a chance to check them out last Club Night then come along and have a look this month.

If you borrowed one then maybe for the next EE you can write a really short review telling us how useful you found it - was it easy to follow or way above the level you needed, well written with great pictures or very longwinded and text heavy? Etc.

That's all for next month, this month here's some information on two more from the collection. As ever check out the club website for details of them all.



How to Shoot a Feature Film for Under \$10,000 (And Not Go to Jail)

by: Bret Stern

This book will tell you how to shoot a sex scene, tell you what a stinger is. And if you need help writing your script, we'll give you some scenes to copy right into your screen-play -- and yes, we even provide the characters.

In short, everything you need to know about filmmaking in the real world is in this book. Everything. We'll even help you select the proper baseball cap so you can look like a big-time director.

Now start reading. Let's make film history.

Developing Digital Short Films

by: Sherri Sheridan

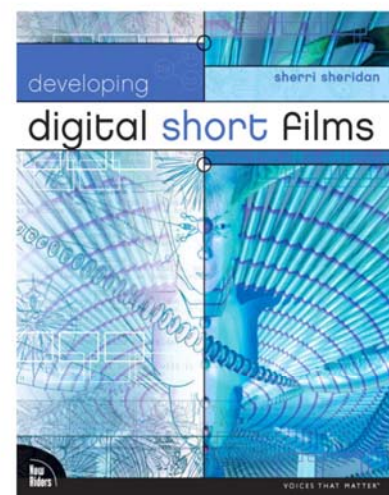
Unlike traditional film production digital films require producers to employ a different pre-production process.

Developing Digital Short Films explores how unique character and set designs, bluescreen ideas, special effects, and simple 2D character animation techniques can be used as narrative devices for telling stories.

Part One focuses on generating visual ideas that are ideal for digital production and creating a short film script.

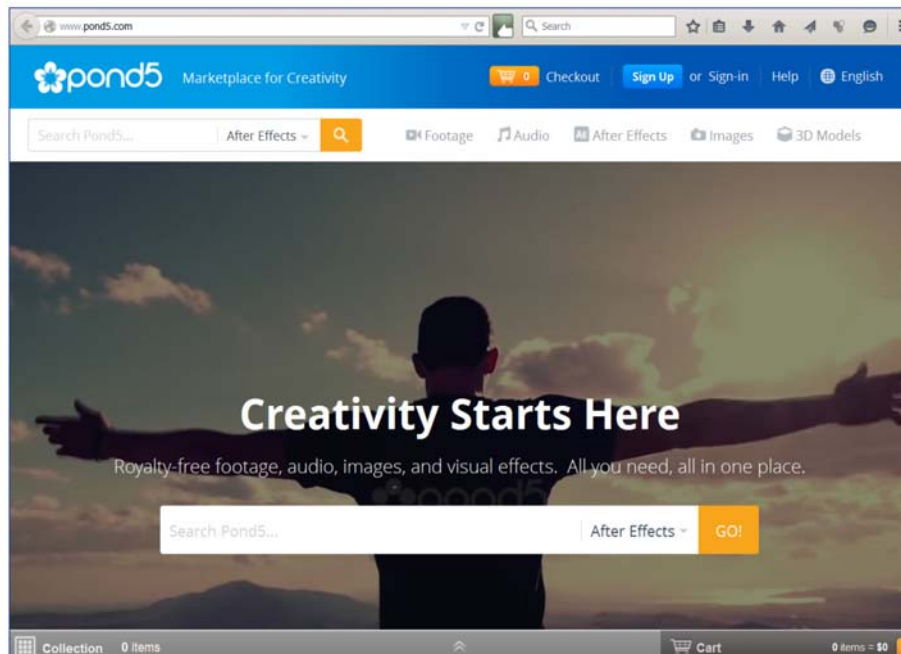
Part Two on the visual pre-production of a short film and the issues that go through a filmmaker's mind as they struggle with how best to present their stories; this includes topics like 101 camera shots, frame composition, developing a visual look and feel, color maps, and creating storyboards and animatics.

Part Three explores the different production environments of DV, 2D and 3D, and how they shape the telling of stories based upon the technological strengths of each style.



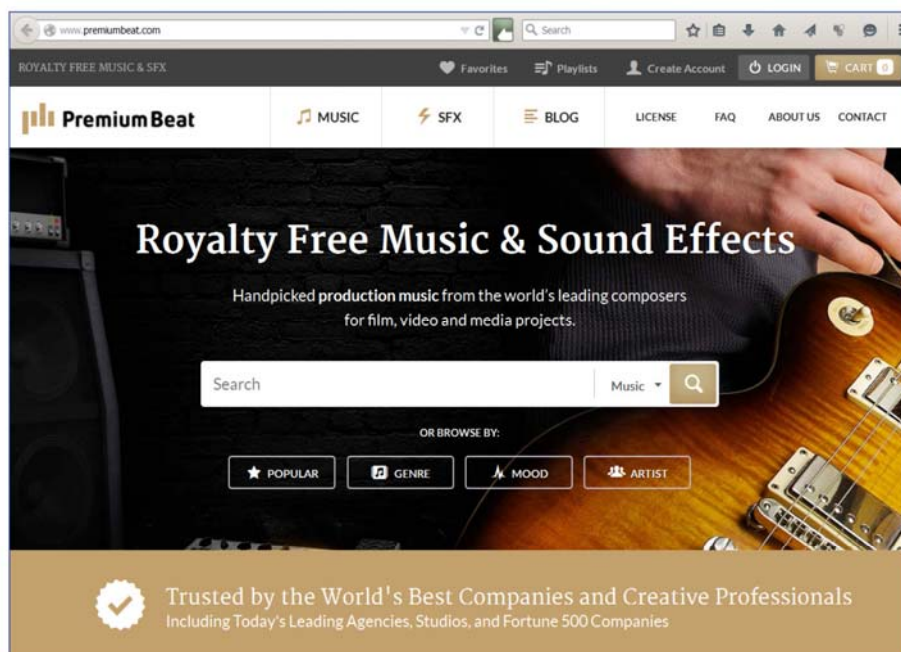
Two great Royalty Free sites to check out...

Ever wondered where to find some really great sound effects, music, even some After Effects templates that do some amazing things for very very little? Then check out pond5.com, it is truly amazing what they will sell you for \$10 and even if you're not buying it's very interesting just browsing.



If your budget is a bit bigger - not much but a bit - and you're looking for really professional quality sound tracks to create the mood you want then premiumbeat.com is a great resource and easy to search too.

You might find yourself spending \$45 but your audience will think you spent more, a lot more!





Focus Night 11th February 2015



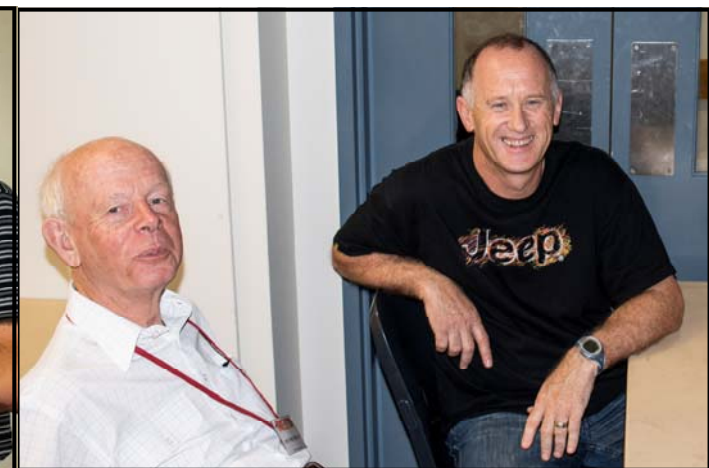
Visitor and Jim Whitehead



Beryl, Lee, Joy and Visitor



Paul Szilard



Jim Whitehead & Visitor



Visitor



Beryl Stephens



Ami Levartovsky



Lee Crispe



Zoltan



Lee Crispe



Visitor & Phil Brighton



Paul Szilard

President:

Ruskin Spiers

Vice President:

Ami Levartovsky

Secretary:

Ian Scott

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 WEDNESDAY of each month (except January & December) at 7.30PM at the Dougherty Centre, Victor Street, Chatswood.

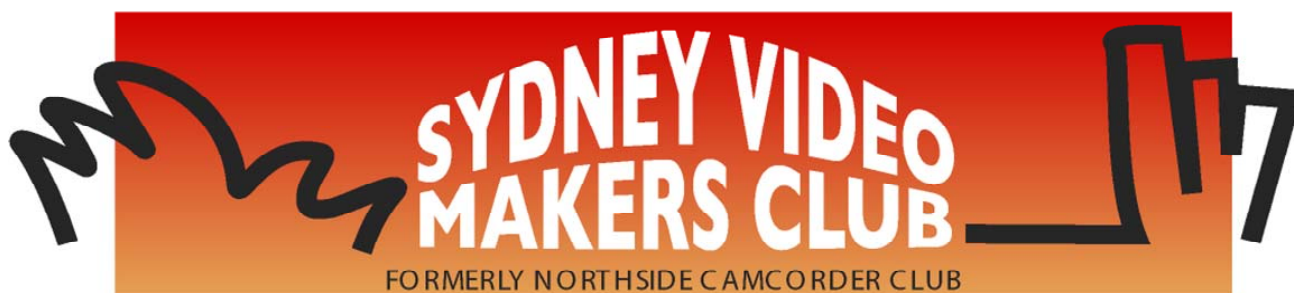
The Committee meets on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month. Members are always welcome to attend, and for meeting time and venue, see any committee member.

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 \$70, Couple/Family\$ 95, Overseas and Country members \$35

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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Secretary	Ian Scott	0419 239 953
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Social Secretary	Mike Elton	0401 928 994
Committee	Graham Sainty	0412 784 771
Committee	Paul Szilard	9925 0812
Committee	Stuart Plant	9909 2509
Competition Manager	shared - Paul Szilard & Michael O'Shea	

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Publicity Officer	Stuart Plants	
Team Coordinator	Ruskin Spiers	

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