

ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY



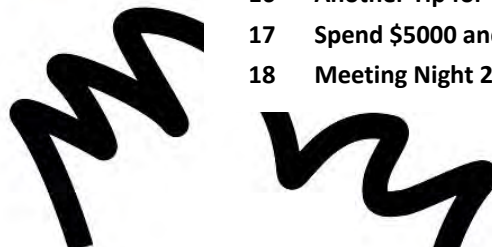
ELECTRONIC EYE

N E W S L E T T E R

APRIL, 2015

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Next Meeting
Wednesday

www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au

President's Message

If the weather held this Sunday then I hope the BBQ went ahead and was a success. Unfortunately I'm travelling again so won't have made it even if it was 30 degrees and glorious sunshine - which I doubt! Thanks to Mike and Ian for organising that.

Next week's Club Night should be a good one, we'll be giving out the shared script for the last competition of the year and also organising teams for this competition. In case you don't know already we're deliberately running this competition with randomly picked 'names from the hat' teams rather than the usual teams.

We're doing this to give everyone a chance to work with new people and to give people who aren't in teams a chance to get involved without having to create a completely new team. Just to be clear, this isn't in any way breaking up the existing teams, the teams will apply for a single competition only. Existing teams will continue with business as usual for the next competitions.

The script itself is from the same source as the last one, again professionally written and is a 3 page script so about a 3 minute production. The location is fairly simple, a bit more involved than the last one but the script has far more energy and pace than the last one. This is I think a directors, actors and editors script, full of possibility and opportunity to get some passion and emotion happening.

If you're not going to be able to make it on Wednesday but would like to be in one of the teams then just drop me, Ian or Paul an email and we will make sure you're included.

In this EE you'll also find details of how you might spend \$5k and \$15k. What we'd like you to do is imagine you have either \$5k or \$15k and make a list of how you'd spend it to give yourself a really good video making set up.

To be clear, this is NOT in any way linked to Club budget or Club spending. It is just a bit of fun and an exercise in thinking about relative priorities and helping people who are considering buying things understand what choices they have and how they might decide. There is no right answer!

Also in this EE is our first caption competition. If you've ever fancied putting words into Rob's mouth then now you can! Have a go!

Hope to see you Wednesday,

Cheers
Ruskin



Focus Night

Clip Surgery



Editing



Colour
Correction



Special
Effects



Audio



File
Formats

Having a problem with your videos?

Maybe it's an **editing challenge, audio problem, colour correction job or special effects** issue you need help with? Of perhaps it's something else, either way the 'Clip Surgery' at Focus Night is designed to help!

At the end of every Focus Night we're going to start running a '**Clip Surgery**' so, if you need help, bring along the clip you're having problems with, hand it in at the beginning and **we'll see if we can fix it** that evening or maybe take it away and solve it by the next meeting.

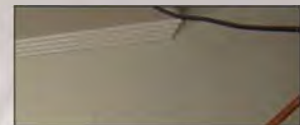
The problem doesn't have to be complicated, it can be anything from exporting a file, removing the boom mike cable from your shot, colour correction or adding special effects.

Whatever it is, bring it along, along with the **source files** on a USB stick and we'll see what we can do to help!

Example:

Removing Boom Mike Lead.

Here's the before & after but if you need help doing it, just ask.



Clip Surgery - Every Focus Night

TIP OF THE MONTH.

Using SD cards for Digital Camera media storage is now a clearly entrenched part of our technology arsenal. Simple system but very important for good media management. As with all things there can be a problem or two. Most cameras use a simple numeric system to identify the separate clips.

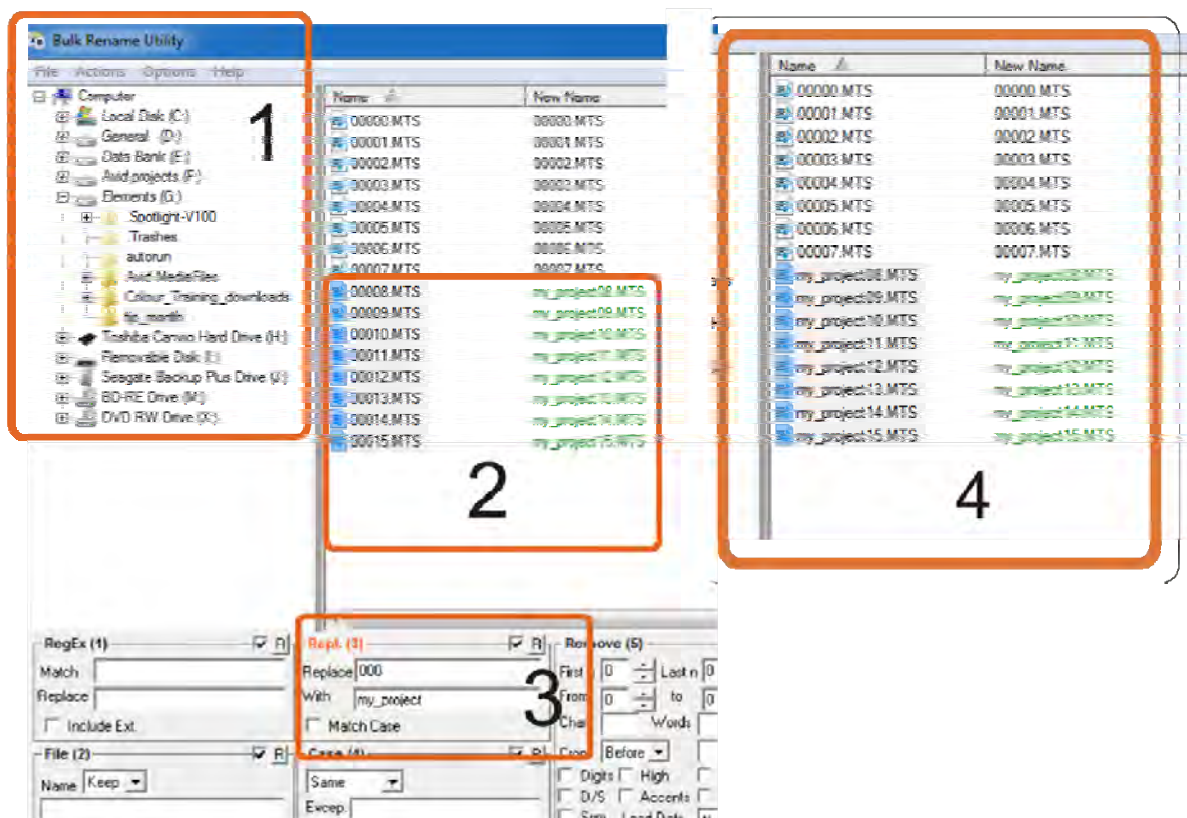
Numbers like “00001, 00002—000nn” etc. Each new card uses the same number sequence every time. Now if you need to load two or more SD card contents direct into a folder on your computer or NLE library confusion can reign because of the repeated numbers. Now your NLE might be able to sort them out by using individual metadata but we humans are not so adept.

A very useful piece of free software “AB rename” available from www.bulkrenameutility.co.uk

AB rename can resolve the issue quickly renaming the clips to your choice of identification.

With the application installed the process is very simple.

1. Use the utility to access your folders and open the one required
2. With the media loaded select all of the clips on the ones you want to change. (in the example only half of those available were selected to show the changes proposed).



3. In the Repl(3). box make the changes you want to implement. In the example I have selected “000” replacing it with “my_project”.
4. When you are satisfied with the change proposed execute the change by clicking on the “Rename” button which is at the very bottom LHS of the AB Rename window. The finished changes will be shown for confirmation.

Try it! it’s handy and reliable

I Scott SEC SVMC

FROM THE CLUB LIBRARY

The Secrets of Great Cinematography



Cinematic Storytelling

by Jennifer Van Sijll

Cinematic Storytelling: The 100 Most Powerful Film Conventions Every Filmmaker Must Know.

What the industry's most successful writers and directors have in common is that they have mastered the cinematic conventions specific to the medium.

"A powerful and evocative guide for screenwriters and filmmakers alike."

**- FRANK BEDDOR,
PRODUCER**

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

Write a caption, win a bottle!



All you have to do is come up with a caption for the above photo and you could win a bottle of wine.

You don't need to edit the picture, just jot down your suggestions and bring them along to the next Club or Focus Night or email them to:

captions@sydneyvideomakers.org.au

The winner will appear in the next EE with bottle of wine awarded at the next Club Night

Celtx - The Free Scriptwriting Tool

Celtx is a completely free scriptwriting tool which is really easy to use and will enable you to write professional looking scripts every time.

When you sign up it gives you the full premium features for 15 days, and as you're using it every now and then it will ask if you'd like to upgrade, but the basic version stays free forever - and it's well worth having and using.

You can download it free at celtx.com.

The image shows two screenshots of the Celtx website. The top screenshot is the homepage, which has a navigation bar with links for HOME, PRICING, SUPPORT, CONTACT, and CAREERS. It also has 'Start now!' and 'Sign in' buttons. The main headline is 'Start to finish pre-production' with the subtext 'From your first draft to your last shot, you can do it all in Celtx.' Below this is a green call-to-action button that says 'Sign Up for Celtx' with the text 'Get free online scriptwriting plus a 15 day free trial of an all-in-one production studio'. A laptop in the foreground displays a script. At the bottom, it says '3,000,000+ people use Celtx to create their media' and lists features like 'Create scripts, storyboards, breakdowns, schedules, budgets, and cast & crew reports for your production.'

The bottom screenshot is the pricing page, titled 'Start your free trial now' with the subtext 'No credit card. No obligation.' It features three pricing plans:

Free	Standard	Premium
\$0 <small>per user</small>	\$9.99 <small>per user/month</small>	\$19.99 <small>per user/month</small>
<small>Access 1 seat and 1GB team storage. No credit card will be charged. Add'l storage, up to 10GB, is available for purchase.</small>	<small>Unlimited production seats. 10GB storage.</small>	<small>Unlimited production seats. 10GB storage. 10GB storage.</small>
<small>Writing essentials:</small>	<small>Full featured pre-production:</small>	<small>Help every step of the way:</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ScriptwritingViewing & commenting on documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All features of FreeStoryboarding & Shot blockingIndex cardsScript breakdown & Shot listsScheduling & BudgetingCast & crew reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All features of StandardReal-time supportDedicated webinars
<small>Basic Support</small> <small>Help center, guides</small>	<small>Better Support</small> <small>Priority direct contact</small>	<small>Best Support</small> <small>24/7 phone, chat, email</small>
<small>Recommended for:</small> Writers & students	<small>Recommended for:</small> Individuals & small teams	<small>Recommended for:</small> Companies, schools, churches & agencies

Below the pricing plans is a '15-DAY free trial' badge. At the bottom of the page, there is a FAQ section with questions and answers regarding team sign-ups, discounts, trial expiration, and content retention.

It's free - and not just for the trial period

Focus Night: A Review

by Elvio Favalessa

Hi everyone! Here's a review of the last Focus Night which was held on Wednesday 8 April.

We had a good turnout of 22 members and the night was interesting and informative.

Session 1

Ian Scott presented two of his own travel videos.

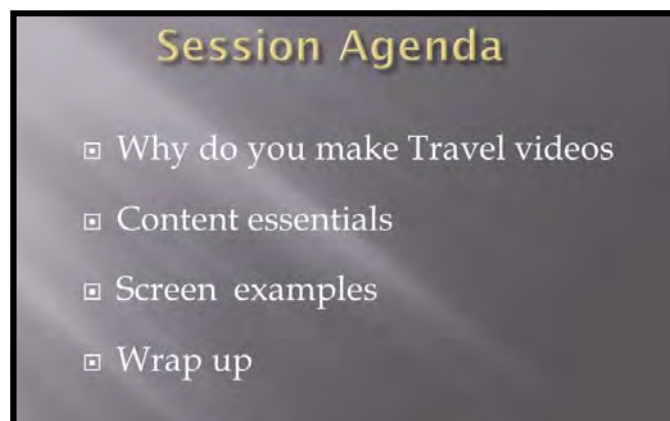
1. The Loire Valley, which was made about seven years ago
2. The London Eye, which was more recent



It was a good start to critique aspects of the production. Did the videos stand the test of time? Some tips gained from this session include:

- Focus on just one story and make the piece shorter
- Shoot more cut-aways
- Use your travelling companion as the default focus

Here are some images from Ian's presentation:



General Interest Video content

- ❑ If there is *no story* it will be *boring*.
- ❑ If there is *no action* it will be *boring*.
- ❑ Do we need a Logline?
- ❑ Plan possible content style and theme.
- ❑ Review captured content "at home" and develop a suitable logline to make the best story from it.

Facing reality

- ❑ Do you capture every little thing ?
- ❑ What your Travelling companion is *doing* is the default theme focus.
- ❑ If you just want scenery take stills.
- ❑ Shooing will be mostly hand held or monopod supported with audio and lighting "As is"
- ❑ Take plenty of "Cutaways".

The presentation prompted an interesting group discussion and we shared some good ideas.

Session 2

The next session was presented by Ruskin Spears who shared some insights into elements of video production, including:

- Focus the story on a wider audience and make sure there's a BME
- Think beyond the footage you've shot, use graphics and ideas from the web
- Add the voiceover once you have the story

Session 3

This was followed by a training video from Lynda.com, which covered the following:

- Use a shallow depth of field to help enhance storytelling
- Use camera moves to really boost your production values
- Audio, audio, and audio

Session 4

The final session was on graphics.

- Use professionally designed graphics either as guides or buy them for as little as \$5
- Integrate graphics from the internet using Photoshop and animate the layers in your NLE





ALFRED
LEE

Don't forget

YOUR

Members' Clips at Club Night

2015 March

DID YOU KNOW?

The Club has a comprehensive library of books that you can borrow and learn from.

The screenshot shows the Sydney Video Makers Club website. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for Home, Our Videos, Get Involved, Calendar, Competitions, Newsletter, History, **Resources**, and Contact Us. The **Resources** link is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow pointing to it. Below the navigation bar, a secondary menu shows **Library** highlighted with a red box and a red arrow pointing to it. The main content area displays a list of books available in the library. The first book listed is "100 Great Home Movie Techniques" by Christopher Kenworthy, which has a book cover image. The second book is "Cinematic Storytelling" by Jennifer Van Sijl, also with a book cover image. The third book is "Developing Digital Short Films" by Sherri Sheridan, with a book cover image. Each book entry includes a brief description and the donor's name, Ernest Cheung. On the left side of the page, there is a search bar with the text "Search Library" and "Select Search Criteria". Below the search bar, there are fields for "Type of item" (set to "Any") and "free text search". There are also buttons for "search library" and "reset search".

writing, shooting, acting & editing - have fun making movies

Home Our Videos Get Involved Calendar Competitions Newsletter History **Resources** Contact Us

You are in: >> Home Page >> Resources >> Library

Welcome! Edit My Profile Admin Logout

Search Library
Select Search Criteria

Type of item
Any

free text search

search library

reset search

Library

Downloads **Library** Useful Links Club Mentors Questions & Ans. Photo Albums

The library is available at every Club Night and by arrangement at Focus Nights. [Contact the librarian](#) for more information.

Please note, not every item in the library is listed here.

100 Great Home Movie Techniques
by: Christopher Kenworthy

Have you ever watched a big-budget Hollywood movie and wondered "How did they do that?". 100 Great Home Movie Techniques shows you how to create the kind of visual effects, dramatic shots and powerful images that are found in the most enduring mainstream movies.

Using your own digital video camera and software, you can emulate the highest production values with household equipment and a little imagination.

Donated by Ernest Cheung

CINEMATIC STORYTELLING
by: Jennifer Van Sijl

Cinematic Storytelling: The 100 Most Powerful Film Conventions Every Filmmaker Must Know.

What the industry's most successful writers and directors have in common is that they have mastered the cinematic conventions specific to the medium.

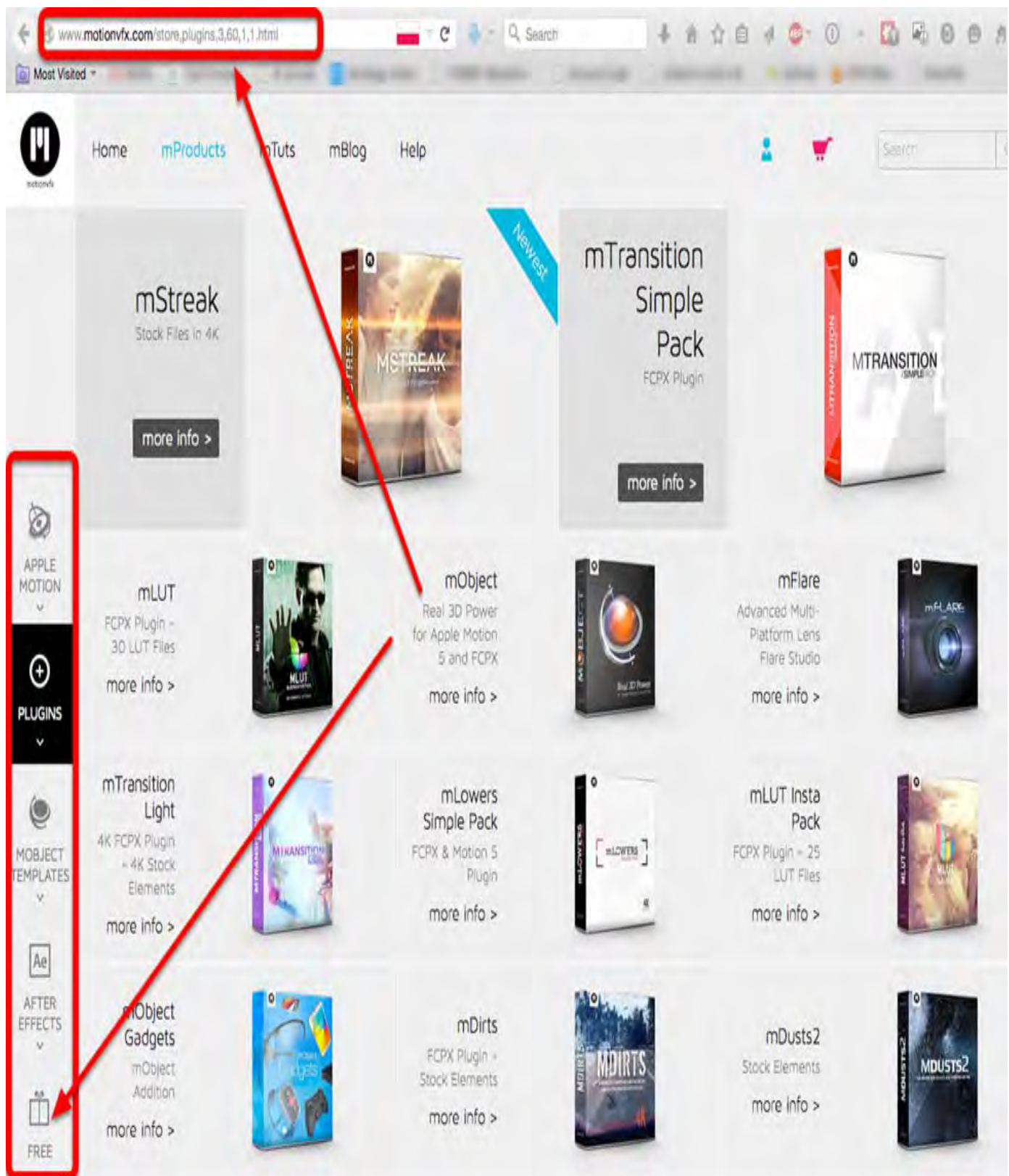
Donated by Ernest Cheung

Developing Digital Short Films
by: Sherri Sheridan

The film market is shifting toward traditional desktop technology to create productions...digitally. Unlike traditional film production, though, 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 focuses 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.

Donated by Ernest Cheung

Take a look at the listing via the website, by clicking on "RESOURCES" then on "LIBRARY". To borrow something speak with Graham who is our Librarian.



Outing to Lane Cove National Park

by Mike Elton Social Secretary

Despite the dire weather forecast's the weather on Sunday the 19th April was fine and warm. The turn up was however rather disappointing. However those that came had a great time and it was a chance to get together and talk. Gerry and his wife Marie had no problem in getting a free cooking device and were soon frying sausages. Most of us took sandwiches of one kind or another and mineral water or wine.

There was plenty to pho-



tograph, birds or people with

kites.

Maree & Gerry Benjamin



Elton, Lorraine Scott with Gerry.



Barry Crispe, Gerry Benjamin & Ian Scott



Gerry Rob Nercessian & Maree Benjamin



Lee & Barry Crispe with Gerry



Gerry Benjamin



Agnes, Lorraine & Lee.



Clare Waterworth



The Pest



Tip of the Month - Walkie Talkies

If you're on a shoot which involves cars or perhaps has lots of wide shots and action which needs a few people to move at the same time then a great thing to have in your kitbag is a set of walkie talkies.

Shouting is far from ideal and mobile phones are fiddly to use for this sort of thing. Plus, you can't talk to lots of people at the same time with a phone, or keep the connection open for a long time and so on/..

I've done a number of things where cars have been involved and they were very useful. In fact, for the final scene in Running Early which was shot outside Graham's house we had 3 cars all move in the same scene and we had to stop cars in the the road while we filmed it.

We had 3 walkie talkies, one for the first car to move, from which everyone else took their cue, one for the director to call action and one for the person stopping cars - who could also then hear the director call 'cut' and release the cars.

They're cheap and well worth having, I think my set of 3 cost about \$125.



ANOTHER TIP FOR YOU.

Using SD cards for Digital Camera media storage is now a clearly entrenched part of our technology arsenal. Simple system but very important for good media management. As with all things there can be a problem or two. Most cameras use a simple numeric system to identify the separate clips.

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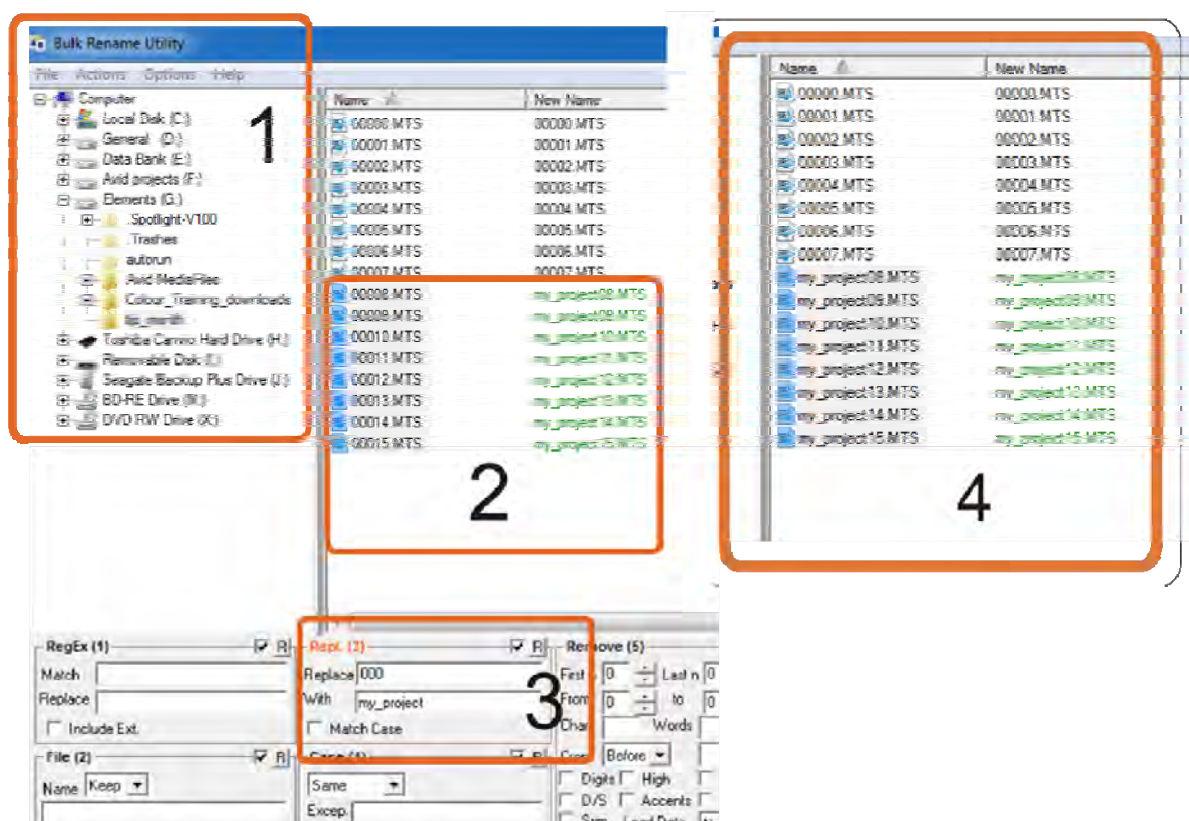
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Try it! it's handy and reliable

I Scott SEC SVMC

Spend \$5,000 and \$15,000!

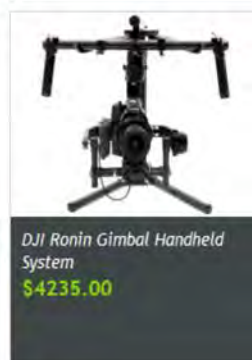
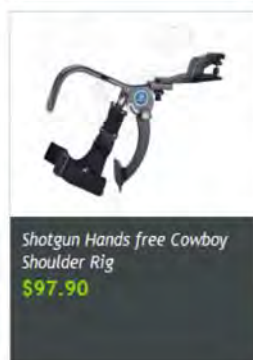
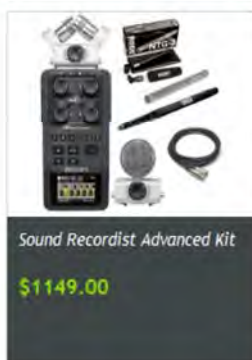
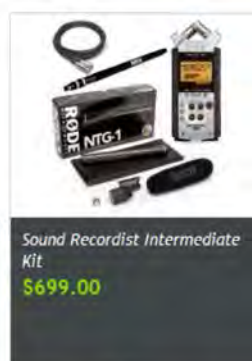
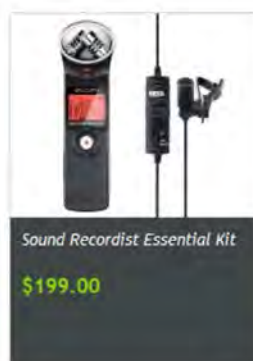
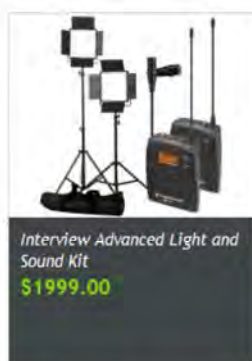
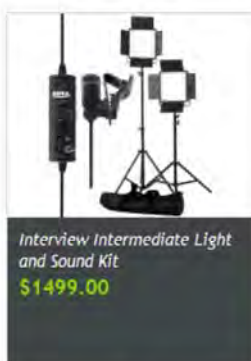
Imagine you had no equipment at all and someone said, here's \$5,000, spend it all now! What would you buy? What are the priorities as you see them for the videos and films you produce?

Maybe you'd spend \$1,000 on a camera and the rest on accessories, in which case what type? Perhaps you'd upgrade your computer or invest in more professional software? Maybe even spend \$1,000 on a training course. They're all valid options! There is no right answer!

What if they had given you \$15,000 instead of *just* \$5,000. Now you could spend \$5,000 just on a camera and still have all the accessories and a whole lot more!

Around the page are just some simple ideas of things you might consider but there are endless choices!

Have a think, make your own list and bring it along with you to the May Focus Night meeting, we'll also include various answers in the EE's over the next few issues and go through them at the May focus night.



PHOTOS FROM MEETING NIGHT 25TH MARCH, 2015





Our Local Action Camera Specialists

At this month's Club Night we will be hosting Barry from Camzilla - if you need an action camera whether that's a GoPro or something else, a perhaps a mount for your car, bike or even kayak then these are the guys to talk to and they're just up the Pacific Highway in Lindfield (2 mins walk from the station).

Plus, they've won all sorts of awards for service and advice, so if you're not sure what you need, then now you know who you can ask!

Check out their website at camzilla.com.au

The image displays two screenshots of the Camzilla website. The top screenshot shows the homepage with a featured GoPro HD Hero product and a list of categories. The bottom screenshot shows a grid of various action camera products.

Top Screenshot (Homepage):

- Header:** Camzilla logo, "Order online or drop by our showroom!" (288 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield 2070, 02 9880 9883), and "CUSTOMER REVIEWS" (5 stars by davidw91).
- Navigation:** Home, What is Camzilla?, Products, Reviews, Videos, Contact.
- Left Sidebar:** "SELECT CATEGORY" (Quadcopter Drones, Action Cameras, Handheld Gimbals, Dashcam Vehicle Rec..., Section mounts, Clamp mounts, iPad & tablet mounts, iPhone/Android mounts, Bike mounts, Motorsport mounts, Kayak mounts, Camera pole mounts, Mount accessories, Mounting kits), "FEATURED PRODUCTS", "What's New", "Best Sellers", "Upcoming Products", "SEARCH", "INFORMATION" (Shipping, Warranty, Duty Free/GST Refunds, Safety Disclaimer).
- Main Content:** "Pro Video experts with wide production experience", "DJI Phantom Quadcopter specialists", "The GoPro gurus with a huge accessories display", "Full range of Drift & Sony action camera gear", "Blackvue WiFi dash cameras", "Australia's widest range of mounts & accessories!".
- Featured Product:** GoPro HD Hero, "NEW SHIPMENT NOW IN STOCK!!", "The perfect entry-level GoPro! The new GoPro HERO makes it easy to capture and share your world. Featuring high-quality...".
- Right Sidebar:** "Find us on Facebook" (Camzilla, 472 likes).

Bottom Screenshot (Product Grid):

- Header:** Same as the top screenshot.
- Left Sidebar:** Same as the top screenshot.
- Main Content:** A grid of product images including Quadcopter Drones, Action Cameras, Handheld Gimbals, Dashcam Vehicle Recorders, Section mounts, Clamp mounts, iPad & tablet mounts, iPhone/Android mounts, Bike mounts, Motorsport mounts, Kayak mounts, Camera pole mounts, Mount accessories, and Mounting kits.
- Right Sidebar:** "What's New", "Best Sellers", "Upcoming Products", "SEARCH", "INFORMATION" (Shipping, Warranty, Duty Free/GST Refunds, Safety Disclaimer).

Footer: Camzilla logo, "Copyright © 2013 - Camzilla", "ABN 79 018 804 771", "Popular Searches", "Camzilla", "About Camzilla", "Contact Us", "Follow us on Facebook", "288 Pacific Highway, Lindfield NSW 2070".



**Camzilla expert
Demonstrating at
Club meeting 25th
March, 2015**



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.

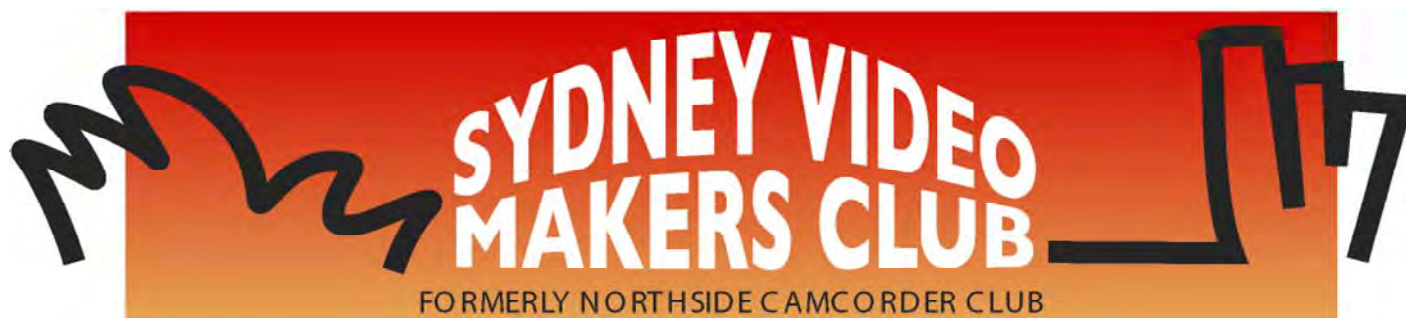
The Committee meets on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month. Members are always welcome to attend, and for meeting time and venue, see any committee member.

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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President	Ruskin Spiers	0420 834 080
Vice President	Ami Levartovsky	0419 041 901
Secretary	Ian Scott	0419 239 953
Treasurer	Elvio Favalessa	0438 980 060
Membership Secretary	Elvio Favalessa	0438 980 060
Library Manager	Graham Sainty	0412 764 771
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	

OTHER ROLES

Presentation team	Phil Brighton, Ian Howard, Stuart Plant,	
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Web Master	Ruskin Spiers & Paul Szilard	
Publicity Officer	Stuart Plants	
Team Coordinator	Ruskin Spiers	

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CHATSWOOD NSW 2057