



ELECTRONIC

NEWSLETTER

September 2008

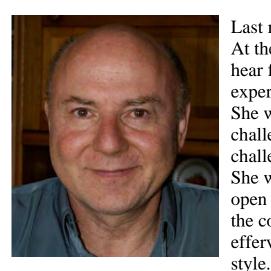
- 2 Through the President's Lens
- 3 AGM Agenda
- 5 Competition Corner
- 7 Copyright
- 9 Survey Results
- 11 Technology Update
- 14 VOTY



Next Meeting WEDNESDAY 24th September

www.ncc.asn.au

Through the President's Lens



Last month's club's activities brought some highlights. At the September Focus Night we were privileged to hear from ex member Caite Adamek about her recent experiences breaking into the Australian Film industry. She was candid, entertaining and informative about the challenges of getting into the industry and the challenges of producing good films. She was followed by Yianni Zinonos who was equally open about his pursuit of reaching influential people in the commercial TV sector. He entertained us with his effervescent humour and straight forward interviewing

Next month we have a visiting speaker David Hague.



David comes from a photographic family with both his father and older brother having been professional photographers. David's experiences include writing and directing the suite of training videotapes for Microsoft for Office and Windows, training tapes for Filemaker Pro and Autocad Lite and numerous TV commercials, documentaries and corporate videos. He was for 3 years the Managing Editor of Australian Video Camera

Publications and is now publishing and editing AusCam magazine and <u>PC</u> Update. He has a bent for fishing and motor sport and is an unashamed Aussie who makes a killer Home Brew. David lives in the south west of Western Australia among the dolphins and pelicans of Mandurah, 45 minutes south of the capital, Perth. We are indeed lucky to have David attend our September 24th meeting to speak about the latest in video technoology so come along for an informative evening.

Of course we will have our AGM and it appears that there are enthusiastic people putting their hand up to work on the committee. We need more so don't hesitate to say that you are interested in helping out. Approach a committee member and tell them what you are interested in.

October's Focus night will be at Dick Collingridge's house in Turramurra so DON'T COME TO THE DOUGHERTY CENTRE on that night!! See the article inside.

Peter Frybort

AGENDA OF NORTHSIDE CAMCORDER CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held during the September NCC club night meeting on 24 of September 2008

- 1. Call to Order
 The President to establish that there is a quorum of members present.
- 2. Previous minutes
 - 2.1 Corrections: A copy of the previous minutes will be posted on the notice board, and corrections if any, to be sought.
 - 2.2 Acceptance:
 - 2.3 Business arising
- 3. President's report
- 4. Treasurer's report
- 5. General Business
- 5.1. Name Change:

"It is proposed that the name of the Northside Camcorder Club be changed to "Sydney Video Makers Club".

5.2. Officers' Term

"It is proposed that the maximum contiguous term of the President and Vice President be increased from two years to three years."

6. Election of Officers and Management Committee for 2008/09
The meeting chairman will declare all Committee positions vacant, and will call for nominations to the following positions.

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Training Officer
Publicity Officer
Editor, Electronic Eye
Membership Secretary

Final

Librarian
Competitions Manager
Officer responsible for legal matters
Other Ordinary members (up to a further three)

7 Other business

No written proposal or notification of other business for discussion has been received by the secretary within the period prior to the meeting as required by the Club constitution for such notification.

Note that no additional business may be raised from the floor during the meeting.

Kent Fry Secretary

Competition Corner



By Mike Elton

We showed the results of the last competition "Chase" at the August club night. We called on the producers of the entries and were able to hear some of the "Making of" stories behind the entries. I read some selected comments from the judges on each entry. Seems like a good way to get a bit more value out of videos made by our

own members, worth repeating on future competitions.

Competition Results.

Winners were the BES team with "Snatch" Phil Brighton gave some insight into that teams working methods and explained some of the difficulties making a scripted video with a number of actors and locations.

Kent Fry was second with "9/10ths of the Law" and he took the trouble to project his entry in HD and explain how he put the entry together with HD.

Not to be outdone I managed to put together an entry called "Dogone" which I made in Tokyo in half an hour starring my grandson searching for his dog, well what can you expect in half an hour, at least I tried and put something in.

Rob Nercessian explained how he made "Sand Chasers".and his reasons for editing in the style as he did and why he deliberately left in interviewing mistakes for a purpose. John Maher resurrected an old production made on film made many years before to produce a silent film style called "Her Only Mistake"

Altogether an interesting collection and presentation

I have reviewed the entries in the final Club Night Competitions of the year "Flashback" and "Music Video "I think you will find these quite interesting although there are only three entries in Flashback and two in the Music Video. I'm looking forward to showing them in October.

Just a reminder any films that I enter are judged at arms as I have nothing to do with the actual judging, I just organise to get the judging done and keep records. I feel I have to enter myself because so many members sit on their hands rather than enter our contests, their loss as all the entrants, even me, seem to be steadily improving by participating. As a matter of fact I started to make films because I wanted to get better at making videos. When you make videos to a purpose like this you learn more about your cameras and editing system. Each time I try to make use of different techniques. Now if I can do it why don't some of you have ago as well, if you are a bit shy to do it o your own find another member and do a team entry. If you want to get better you have to try your hand. Entering contests is one way of honing your skills. Many of our members only try their hand for VOTY time. I am sure they would make much better entries for VOTY if they entered other contests during the year to improve their skills.

A very busy August meeting meant that we had no time to debate the definition of Music Videos. As it stands at the moment any entry into competitions including VOTY can only be accepted if it is a genuine Music Video as currently defined, which is really not at all. However I have suggested that we address the definition of Music Videos in time for our 2009. The committee has taken on the task of producing a workable definition and is open for inputs from interested members. It is such a controversial matter I think we might arrange a "think tank" meeting early in 2009 to get the problem solved. Until agreed changes are introduced entries into VOTY are as currently where a Music Video comprises abstract images or travel or anything suitably matched to the music. The images last exactly as long as the music and there is no narration or captioning to explain the music.

Mike Elton Keep those entries coming in!

COPYRIGHT

What is copyright?

It is protection granted throughout Australia by the Commonwealth Copyright Act to the person who created the "work".

What works are protected?

Copyright exists in works such as magazine articles, screenplays, song lyrics, computer programs, musical works, sound recordings, cinematograph films, paintings, photographs, TV and radio broadcasts CD's and DVD's. There are many "works" so this is not an exhaustive list.

If you have created a video for a club competition then you have copyright in this work.

What does this mean?

You automatically gain the protection of the Copyright Act. Registration is not required and there are no forms to fill in or fees to be paid. It is a breach of your copyright if the video is shown without your permission.

Can I use the copyright symbol ©?

Yes. This symbol © gives notice of the owner of the copyright. It should be followed by the name of the owner of the copyright and the year of first publication. For sound recordings the letter P in brackets (P) is used instead of ©.

The owner of a copyright must be a person or a corporate entity. It cannot be "The Three Bees" where Tom, Dick and Harry are partners carrying on a business. The names of the three partners must be used not the business name "The Three Bees'

Are there circumstances where a video made by me, containing music from CD's or reproductions of someone else's photographs can be shown without breach of copyright?

Yes there are but they are limited to domestic or private use. A public performance is a breach of copyright.

Is a performance at a NCC meeting a circumstance where a video containing music from CD's or reproductions of someone else's photographs can be shown without breach of copyright?

No. This is a public performance. A court has held that a play performed for members of a Woman's Institute was a public performance even though the audience was limited to members and no entrance fee was payable. Membership was by election and was open to all women.

There is a direct parallel with the NCC as our membership and meetings are open to members and visitors and this makes them public performances. The test seems to be that if it is not a domestic performance relating to the copyright owner then it is a public performance.

It is for this reason that we insist that all videos submitted for showing at a club meeting must be accompanied by a declaration that no copyright material is contained in the video or if copyright material has been used then the permission of the copyright owner has been obtained.

Does this mean I can't use music from any CD's?

No. In general terms music in all CD's is copyright but some copyright owners sell their CD's on the basis that the music can be used in works such as videos without obtaining permission and without payment of fees. These are often called "royalty free CD's" or "royalty free music."

How long does Copyright last?

It lasts for the life of the creator plus 70 years unless it was not published during the creator's life or was published anonymously when it lasts for 70 years from the time of first publishing.

There is an exception to this in that until 1 January 2005 copyright lasted for 50 years and where it has already expired, it is not revived by the law change in 2005.

Can I use any music in my videos as long as the composer has been dead for 70 years?

No and yes. If you have a CD of a Beethoven sonata, then the sonata may be performed without breach of copyright because Beethoven has been dead for more than 70 years, but the person or orchestra who performed the sonata has copyright in the performance so it may only be used in your video with the permission of the performer.

How many changes do I need to make without breaching copyright?

If you are using an essential or definitive part of the original material then you will need permission of the copyright owner. This can be a small or large part of the original material. In general terms the changes need to be such so that your work no longer resembles the original work.

An adaptation right is one of the exclusive rights of the copyright owner so that a version of a computer program (whether or not in the language code or notation in which the work was originally expressed) can be an adaptation of the original and so protected by copyright law. However an adaptation may itself be entitled to copyright protection eg in a new arrangement of an old musical score where the copyright has expired.

PLEASE NOTE THIS ARTICLE IS GENERAL IN ITS TERMS, DOES NOT EMBODY THE WHOLE OF THE COPYRIGHT LAW AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON FOR SOLVING ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE REFERRED TO A QUALIFIED LAWYER FOR ADVICE.

Jim Whitehead August 2008.

Survey Results

The survey gives your committee real data on which to plan the club program for the ensuing year.

The committee surveyed members' video equipment in February this year. Unfortunately, only 26 email responses were received. That required the committee to telephone 46 other members for their information. Other members were simply not available, or did not wish to respond. This was a lot of extra work and it is hoped that there will be a much better email response next year.

The results varied little from the 2007 survey. Results were taken under three headings.

- Video camera format;
- Editing computer type;
- Editing software.

Primary Video Camera Format					
	2007		2008		
Digital 8	4	6%	4	6%	
MiniDV (SDV)	59	84%	55	76%	
HDV/AVCHD	8	11%	13	18%	
Total	70		72		

The expected move from standard definition (SDV) to high definition began to occur by the beginning of 2008. The committee is aware that several members have since purchase high definition cameras. Will there be a significant change in 2009, or are the early adopters exhausted? Watch this space!

Primary Editing Computer					
	2007		2008		
MAC Desktop	15	21%	15	21%	
MAC Laptop	1	1%	1	1%	
PC Desktop	46	65%	47	65%	
PC Laptop	6	8%	6	8%	
Other	3	5%	3	5%	
Total	71		72		

In early 2008, there was virtually no change from 2007. The committee is aware that several members have subsequently purchased MACs.

Editing Software					
	2007		2008		
Adobe Premiere	21	30%	21	29%	
Avid/Pinnacle	21	30%	19	26%	
Edius	1	1%	1	1%	
Final Cut	7	10%	6	8%	
iMovie	10	14%	11	15%	
Sony Vegas	5	7%	5	7%	
Ulead	1	1%	3	4%	
Other	5	7%	6	8%	
Total	71		72		

There have been minor reductions to Avid/Pinnacle and Final Cut in favour of Ulead and iMovie. It is interesting to note that one member records a PC as their primary editing computer, but iMovie as their primary editing software!

Editing Software Competence 2008					
	Expert	Intermediate	Competent	Beginner	
Adobe					
Premiere	7	6	6	2	
Avid/Pinnacle	1	6	9	3	
Edius	1				
Final Cut	1	3	1	1	
iMovie	1	5	4	1	
Sony Vegas	1	2	1	1	
Ulead		1	2		
Other	2	2	1	1	
Total	19%	35%	33%	13%	

It is good to see that 87% of members perceive themselves at least competent in the use of their chosen software.

The survey also sought information on members' buying intentions for 2008. However, the information gathered was not of sufficiently informative to set up useful table.

Your committee will use this information as it sets about developing a program for the club for 2009. At this stage, it is also intended to carry out another survey in early 2009.

Kent Fry Secretary

Technology Update

We are in fast moving times as we transit from the world of standard definition to high definition. While high definition – unofficially defined as 1920 x 1080 pixels on a flat screen video monitor – will no doubt evolve in future, it is likely that there will be at least a short respite while manufactures recoup their development costs for this version.

Technology for video and TV can be broken into four parts:

- Acquisition
- Creative input
- Storage
- Output.

Acquisition

This means taking pictures or video. Standard definition video cameras are becoming rare as manufacturers move to high definition. The



definition acquisition media are drive, memory cards and optical disk. definition video needs to be compressed, major compression technologies are tape, hard
High
and the two
MPEG2 and

MPEG4. MPEG2 is used on tape and is called HDV. MPEG4 is used on hard drives, memory cards and optical disks and is called AVCHD. MPEG4 requires a lot of computing power to encode and decode. As the computer chips that do this inside cameras and computers get faster, it is likely that this format will come to dominate consumer

video. It is less certain that it will dominate the prosumer market and it is unlikely to make many inroads into the professional market.

The fly in the ointment for the prosumer market is the digital still camera. Manufactures are making high end SLR type cameras that can shoot high definition video. As computer chips get faster, SLR video cameras may become important.

Creative Input

This means editing pictures or video. The usual suspects are all represented here and are evolving their products along with the evolution in acquisition type and computer power. Adobe will release the next version of its editing suite shortly and will be followed by Sony Vegas. No doubt Avid will continue to evolve its offerings. MAC specific software dances on to its own tune.

Storage

Storage is where the edited video is kept. Normal wisdom would suggest



that it

will go on optical disk and that would require Bluray disks since the competitor has fallen by the way side. However, Blu-ray disks are still very expensive to buy and there are very few players out there. Perhaps we are seeing the end of dominance of the optical disk. It will still be around and will still be important, but hard drives and memory sticks are likely to become relatively more important in future.

Output

This is what the video is shown on. Flat panel displays have wiped out cathy ray tubes. LCD seems to be dominant over Plasma. But just around the corner is OLED, and no doubt there are other technologies in the works.



What does this mean?

High definition is here to stay. Get your self a high definition camera. The pictures are just better than standard definition.

Editing high definition requires the manipulation of much larger amounts of data than standard definition. It can be done with either the simple editing systems such as Avid Pinnacle, iMovie or Ulead, or the more advanced ones such as Adobe Premiere, Avid Liquid, Final Cut or Sony Vegas. Just get the fastest and most robust computer you can afford. Many of the problems with editing systems can be traced to low end, low powered computers.

A blu-ray player should go on the shopping list. It is likely that they will continue to fall in price, but won't get as cheap as standard DVD players yet. They will play CDs and DVDs as well as Blu-ray disks. Also get some large fast external Raid 0 disk drives. They are relatively inexpensive these days.

Finally, make sure that the screen is 1920 x 1080 pixels. If it is not, then all that beautiful high definition footage will not be visible.

Kent Fry Secretary.

VOTY 2008

With my ear to the ground I have gleaned that some really good submissions are in progress of production for this year's VOTY. Plenty of good submissions ensure that the screened program will be very interesting and of excellent standard. All we need to make the evening a success is an appreciative audience.

VOTY is being held at the Film Australia theatre in Lindfield on the 28th November. This is a splendid venue and it gives us the opportunity to enjoy some pre show nibbles and drinks in the well appointed foyer before we enter the comfortable auditorium. It is a pleasure indeed to see the video on the big cinema screen.

Now don't miss out tickets are already on sale at \$30 a very good deal when you consider that it includes substantial nibbles and drinks before the show.

The \$30 is an early bird price and it jumps to \$35 after the 11th November, so get in early and save a bit of cash.

It is a very good night indeed and something every member should not miss. See you there.

Peter Frybort President NCC

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

President Peter Frybort 9960 4456

Vice President Ian Scott 9484 4439

Secretary Kent Fry secretary@ncc.asn.au

Treasurer Elvio Favalessa 9415 2634

Membership Secretary Glenn Booth 9401 6677

Training Officer Joy Saunders

VOTY Organiser Ian Scott 9484 4439

Publicity Officer Rob Nercessian robncc@hotmail

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

Librarian John Maher

Visitors Host Ron Cooper 9982 1147

Competition Manger Mike Elton 9904 6295

Copyright Registrar Jim Whitehead 9416 7162

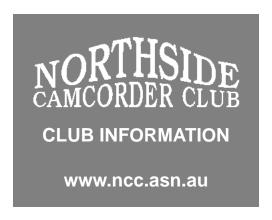
Video Director Terry Brett 9451 1851

Audio Director Garry Murdoch 9807 3706

Catering Bob & Margo Hallett 9587 6925

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.

All articles in the "Electronic Eye" magazine are copyright. Reproduction is allowed by other video clubs providing both author and The Northside Camcorder Club are acknowledged.

Disclaimer: In regard to any products, services or procedures which are either advertised or mentioned in this newsletter, members should determine for themselves the reliability and/or suitability for their own requirements. The Northside Camcorder Club cannot accept responsibility for any product or service statements made herein, and the opinions and comments of any contributors are not necessarily those of the club of the Committee.