

ENJOYING VISUAL TECHNOLOGY

**SYDNEY VIDEO  
MAKERS CLUB**



# **ELECTRONIC EYE**

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

**2009**

**July 2009**

- 2-6 Through the Presidents Lens
- 7 July club night presentation
- 8-9 John Sirett - biography
- 10-11 Competition Corner
- 12 July focus night



**Next meeting  
Wednesday  
29th July**

[www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au](http://www.sydneyvideomakers.org.au)



## Through the President's Lens

*I was flicking my radio dial between stations impatiently to find one that that didn't talk footy all day when I came across Peter Frybort's familiar voice 'on air', promoting SVM!*

We are fortunate that so many of our members are professional Videographers or work in a related industry.

Publicity manager Peter Frybort is a professional Videographer and a real estate photographer

This was a timely bit of propaganda to invite new people to our 'Focus' lectures that have been an important prelude to member participation.

These tutorial sessions are virtually the same as the first lot and to that end I apologise for the fact that the Focus articles for H2 will be a repeat of the first, the only difference being the placing of some emphasis on the Mac platform this time round.

So on August the 11th, invite your iMac friends to a an iMovie session. The topic is on Capturing Video and editing. PC owners will also benefit and their questions answered so bring along your Camera, notebooks, Cables adapters as Joy Suanders and John Mahr will get you going.

### **New link on the club website**

The jump in quality in our second competition was remarkable and now anyone can enjoy a sample of the team's creations on our website by clicking on the new link that will take you straight to our own 'YouTube page' which will have the winners clips as selected by the audience and the Judges.

## Speaking of which...

The latest judge's results for 'Green Screen' will be revealed this club night and for this month it's on the 5th Wednesday. The 5th Wed. made me think about our schedules. **As of now our club timetable adhere to the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Wednesday** throughout the year **regardless of school holidays** which changes it at times to the 1st and 5th of the month. This departure from the familiar (2nd and 4th) despite our perfect implementation still catches people out after all this time so why persist?

I believe it's much easier on the mind if we stick to one rule, and you can plan other activities at any time with confidence and without referring to our calendar. So as of now Focus nights are on the 2nd Tuesday & Club nights are on the 4th Wednesday, irrespective of anything.

Incidentally, the changing of club dates to suit School holidays was member's request that was made some time ago and the committee then obliged.

**A new committee** will be voted in a couple of months, and to keep things vigorous we should always introduce some new blood, therefore new ideas into the mix. I have enjoyed my run as president this year particularly with the influx of new members who through their enthusiasm brought along a fresh outlook to all.

The last decade saw other Video clubs in Sydney disappear altogether because of many reasons including the “I am too busy with possibly less important things” syndrome, therefore it has become more necessary for us to keep SVM going as I am certain people can make time if they have faith, vision and sometimes forgiveness.

We need to go out and seek people who may benefit from our activities, if not



technically then perhaps socially and this does require some personal time dedicated on one's part but you can “weave” it into your normal routine with a little planning.

Get involved with the committee as all positions will be up for grabs including mine and I would be happy to hand over and assist the next person just as it was offered to me. You needn't be technically minded to be in management, SVM may well be the most effective club of it's kind in the world so please consider an exciting role come September

**September** is also our foray into the Spring festival. We will be running the Chatswood Film Festival showing a mix of this year's SVM films (Yours) as well as ones from Previous VOTYs at the council chambers, and what better person to be there and explain it all to total strangers than you!

Put your name tags on and get out amongst the inquisitive crowds and give out “free admission tickets to the film festival” which will be extensively advertised by the council anyway to draw the crowds in, this is a rare chance for you to do something for others, get them motivated, make them happy and you yourself will feel 30 years younger! Please register with Elvio Favalessa, our festival manager and let's show the council our commitment. And remember, statements like “but I am too busy!” is not an excuse that Elvio will accept!



*Our June special guest Christine Leaves*

So what did you think of our guest speaker Christine Leaves? Wasn't she delightful? With her extensive experience with actors and entertainers she captivated everyone's attention and enlightened us with her almost visible spirituality.

Equally impressive is John Sirett, who commanded our respect for the last 13 years as a significant member capturing wonderful nature films not unlike Attenborough. Sirett has won a VOTY award last year, one of many and you will love him.

John is no longer a member but he will be at our club this month showing us “How to make interesting Videos - part I”.

Part II of our 'How to' lectures will be conducted by Malcolm and Susan who've been filming for only 5 years but they quickly developed their own technique for screen play projects in Devon, UK. You will recognise our esteemed members and guest by their cheery smiles.

### **Book Launch at SVM**

Who hasn't been taught by film maker Martha Mollison? . . . I have, and so have many others as she lectured at Sydney Uni and AFTRS etc...

Martha has been living in the United States for the past couple of years putting the final touches to her book *Producing Videos: A Complete Guide* which is in it's third print and I have invited her back to launch her book at our very own club through Allen & Unwin in April 2010 as five SVM members have contributed to her latest edition.



### **Your Say**

We only introduced this “Teams” concept in 09 and already it propelled everyone's ability in such a short time when a few were ready to quit.

So I would like to emphasise the importance of making the Teams system work as with any new concept we invariably will have teething problems. It is therefore normal for some of you to feel frustrated at times if things aren't going as fast or as good as you'd like, if you feel that way then the best thing to do is to speak up.

As always, you can always email me with any concerns, comments, suggestions, complaints, regarding The Team leader's system, the club, the committee or even the president, I can handle those professionally.

Some feel more at ease if they remained anonymous so for our July meeting Margaret will have a suggestion box in the corridor for you to through your letter in 'when no one is watching' but you need to type it up now.

We expect that next year we will have the system fine tuned and produce movies that anyone would be proud of, so please helps us get there. I believe that between the 'Spring Film Festival' and VOTY this year we will have gained another spectacular reputation for SVM.

Let's have another fun evening on Wednesday.

*Rob Nercessian*  
*Club President*

## **"COMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CALL FOR NOMINATIONS"**

Our AGM is held on the September Club night.

As per our constitution all committee positions are declared vacant and a new comittee is elected for the new year. We need some new comittee members to carry on the work of Club Stewardship.

If you wish to nominate yourself or another member let the Secratary know in writing before the AGM, an email will do.

This is an opportunity for you to participate in club management input your point of view into strategic direction of activities.

For more details, see page 13.

*So why not give it a go. Join the comittee !*

# A Presentation by Malcolm & Susan



*At the beginning of this year, we completed a documentary film about the voluntary activities of the village in Devon where we lived.*

It runs for about 35minutes, and has already been shown to the local citizens in their village hall. Since they were the target audience and could see themselves on the silver screen, it was hardly surprising that it went down very well.

Don't worry. We're not going to show it. Instead, we're going to look under the bonnet and show how it was constructed, particularly because this topic is relevant to our next project "Screenplay".

We will be looking at the beginning, the middle, and the ending, and also how some of the cutaways were constructed to help in telling the story.

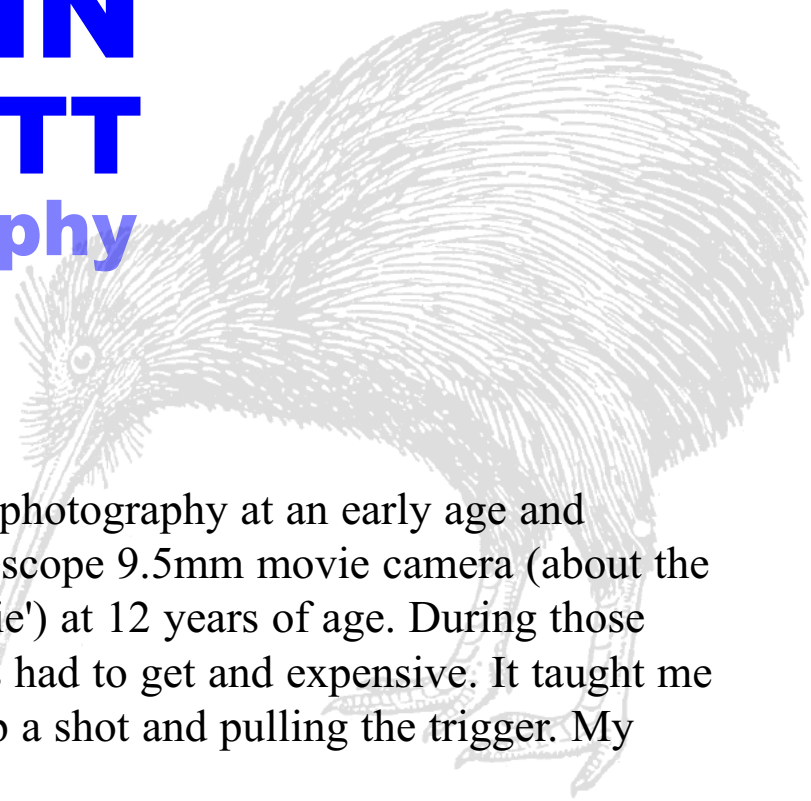
The various clips have been viciously cut or sliced so the presentation shouldn't run for longer than 30 minutes, unless we have problems with barrackers.

Malcolm and Susan (M&S... to help you to understand our logo when you see it)





# JOHN SIRETT Biography



Born in New Zealand, June 1931.

Developed a fascination for movie photography at an early age and became the proud owner of a Pathescope 9.5mm movie camera (about the equivalent of a Kodak 'Box Brownie') at 12 years of age. During those war years ('39~'45) movie film was had to get and expensive. It taught me to really think hard before lining up a shot and pulling the trigger. My pocket money didn't go very far!

It was not until I married in 1958 that I moved into Super8 film and soon became bitten by the "Audio" bug - adding magnetic stripe to silent film and attempting all kinds of audio effects and mixing. Mostly without success.

Worked for 30 years in engineering trades (heavy earthmoving equipment service) and a further 12 years as a technical trainer in that same industry where I became acquainted with the use of video as a training medium and emerged from the "sprocket era" into the new wide world of electronic imaging. This was in the early 1980's. Retired January 1993 and continued my interest in video.

Bought my first camcorder in 1992, a Canon EX1-Hi prior to retiring, and joined the Northside Camcorder Club in 1997 (searching for something more challenging than simply filming grandchildren) and remained a member for eleven years

And so, over time, I became interested in video competition, principally documentaries (nature / wildlife) and not drama. I prefer to work solo



rather than in a team.

Graduated from linear editing in 1999 into the Casablanca Non-linear system which, for me opened up the possibility, for the first time, of being able to do some serious work on the audio side of video -making.

Now I am a member of the South West Video Club (Liverpool, NSW), still editing in the Casablanca system and recording with Canon XM-1 and Panasonic GS-330 camcorders. ‘

I am not yet considering moving into the high definition field until this technology becomes more settled, system specifications become unified and prices drop to a range I consider reasonable.

### TRAVEL VIDEO NIGHT

We had Travel Video Night” scheduled for the August 2009 club night.

It has been decided to defer this popular event to a focus night early in 2010. A poll of members indicates that the subject is more suited to a focus night.

So, all you travel video buffs it gives you a bit more time to edit those travel shots ready for the big night early next year.

Ian Scott  
VP SVMC.



# COMPETITION CORNER

*With Mike Elton  
Competition Manager*



The results of the latest contest "Chroma Key" shown at the last club meeting are in. The winner is the entry "I can see through you" by the Packers Group. This time the 4 outside judges agree with the popular vote. The total score for this entry was 336 and an average of 77.

The story of Peter Frybort meeting his "Doppelganger" and fighting for his identity was skilfully done and well acted. The Packers Group of Chris Saville, Ashley Raizenberg, Kent Fry, Peter Frybort and Don Read did a great job. The comments and results and certificates will be available at the August meeting.

The second prize winner was "The Green Screen" by the 10/4 team (with scores of 310 and an average 77.5) which shows how everyone can be a one

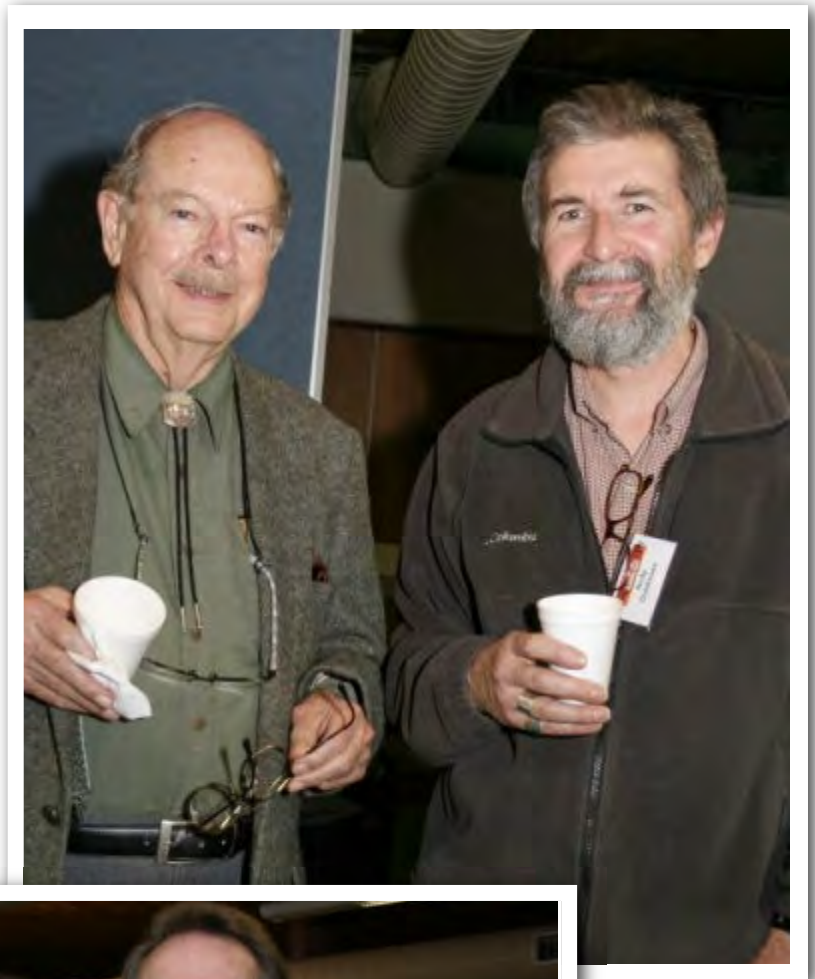
man band as long as there is plenty of support from your mates in the group. These include Malcolm Thirsk, Susan Thirsk, Andy Doldissen, Gerry Benjamin, Margaret Tulloh and Michael Gigliotti.



Third place went to Kent Fry for his "Selling Job". I must say I liked this entry as it was well made and Chroma-Keyed skilfully with a witty script. This was a single entry with great help from Mrs Kent. The score was 297 with an average of 74.25.

The number of entries and the quality was very pleasing and shows how well videos can be made with a bit of commitment.

Unfortunately I will be away at the next meeting so don't forget about "The Script" our next competition which is due to be entered and seen at the August meeting.



# FOCUS NIGHTS

*"Where is that setting?- I don't have one"*

*On Tuesday 7th the Club, the Vice President ran the first Focus training night of the Club's second tutorial series. Attendees were encouraged to bring along their camera to follow the presentation on "Camera Basics".*

We even had a couple of folk who are in the "what should I buy" mode and I think will have helped them with their decision. The session concentrated on helping folk find all the various settings for manual mode of operation on their own camera and explaining the basic use of the particular functions.

Progress was controlled to match participant progress. There was quite a bit camera manual referring going on. Expressions of *"Mine has not got a..... "* and *"what is that for in any case"* were heard around the room. By the end of the evening quite a few had performed settings on their camera altering functions that they did not know existed until then.

Feedback suggests that the information session was worthwhile and with some "Home Practice" proficiency levels will rise. Following on from special requests to the President the next three tutorials will include special appeal to the Mac group in the club. The tutorials will be related to "The Mac", and a Mac and Mac software will be used as the demonstration tool. So here is the chance for the Mac enthusiasts to join in on sessions tailored to Mac use.



Get those diaries out and note the dates so that you do not miss out. Here they are **11th August**, **8th September** and **13th October**, just in time for VOTY entry finalisation.

As always with the basics it really does not matter which editor and computer you use, the basics are identical. Remember it is not what camera, Editor or computer you use that produces good video.

It is what you capture and how well you edit it that counts.

*Ian Scott, Vice President*

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the beginning of Club Night on Wednesday 23 September, 2009 at Dougherty Centre, Chatswood.

Members are asked to participate in two major processes:

- Election of officers;
- Proposals that will improve the running of the club.

### Election of Officers

All positions will be declared vacant and nomination of candidates is sought. Please note that under the Club's existing rules, the President and Vice-President may only bear office for three years. Vice President Ian Scott has served for three years and cannot stand for that role this year.

The positions vacant are:

President	Vice President
Secretary	Treasurer
Training Officer	Publicity Officer
Editor, Electronic Eye	Membership Secretary
Librarian	Competitions Manager
Legal Officer	
Three members for assisting roles	

Please send your nominations to the Secretary, Kent Fry ([secretary@ncc.asn.au](mailto:secretary@ncc.asn.au)) by 4 August 2009.

Proposals:

"It is proposed that the Committee have the authority to decide all fees without reference to members."

# Club Contact Details

President	<i>Rob Nercessian</i>	<a href="mailto:robncc@hotmail.com">robncc@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President	<i>Ian Scott</i>	9484 4439
Secretary	<i>Kent Fry</i>	<a href="mailto:secretary@ncc.asn.au">secretary@ncc.asn.au</a>
Treasurer	<i>Elvio Favalessa</i>	9415 2634
Membership Secretary	<i>Elvio Favalessa</i>	9415 2634
Webmaster liason	<i>Glenn Booth</i>	9401 6677
Training Officer	<i>Chris Kembessos</i>	9144 3685
VOTY Organiser	<i>Ian Scott</i>	9484 4439
Publicity Officer	<i>Peter Frybort</i>	9890 9319
Editor Electronic Eye	<i>Terry Brett</i>	9451 1851 <a href="mailto:editor@ncc.asn.au">editor@ncc.asn.au</a>
Web Master	<i>Eric Chung</i>	
Service Desk Manager	<i>John Maher</i>	
Help Desk Coordinator	<i>Eddie Hanham</i>	9327 4118
Librarian	<i>John Maher</i>	
Visitors Host	<i>Ron Cooper</i>	9982 1147
Competition Manger	<i>Mike Elton</i>	9904 6295
Copyright Registrar	<i>Jim Whitehead</i>	9416 7162
Video Director	<i>Terry Brett</i>	9451 1851
Audio Director	<i>Garry Murdoch</i>	9807 3706
Catering	<i>Beryl Stephens &amp; Margaret Tulloh</i>	

**Please address all correspondence for Committee Action to:**

The Secretary,  
Sydney Video Makers Club,  
P. O. Box 1185  
CHATSWOOD NSW 2057



**President:**  
Rob Nercessian

**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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