

TAKE ONE

quarterly magazine of
RINGWOOD MOVE MAKERS INC.



*"Make Movies -
Make Friends"*

June 2011

RINGWOOD MOVIE MAKERS
TAKE ONE
JUNE 2011

PRESIDENT'S PAGE.

Murphy's Law was devilishly evident at our last Club meeting. All our equipment had been checked out with our setting-up DVD, providing good quality picture and sound. Our guest speaker, Barrie Thompson, had checked his 2 DVDs at home and they worked perfectly. However, during his presentation, any movies on the second disc became jerky (sound and picture) after a few minutes and seemed to stop altogether.

Fortunately, on the first disc, Barrie had been able to show us some earlier movies made on 16mm film and transferred to DVD. It was here we saw how the cost of film at the time forced moviemakers to carefully plan their shots to use as little film as possible, and to reduce the amount of cutting and splicing later. Today our recording formats allow far greater amounts of shooting to be recorded economically, and our editing programs allow much greater flexibility in arranging vision and sound. All of this is fine, but it can make us rely heavily on "fixing it later" rather than planning beforehand.

Another point that Barrie emphasised was the prior investigation needed to shoot in public places, which is far more

restricted these days. Of course, if the moviemaker has a “contact” regarding a particular location, that can often smooth the way.

But what to do about the presentation problem?

Some possibilities:

- the Club DVD player had developed a fault (but it later played the Club setting-up disc correctly)
- The DVD- second disc - recording method was not compatible with the player (but why did the first one work?)

Barrie had tested them on a BluRay player – he will now test them on a DVD player.

Suggestions from our technical boffins would be appreciated !

Ron Fry

SECRETARY’S PAGE

I'm on holiday in Byron Bay and I've nothing new to report except for the scene before me.

Jeanette and I are sitting on the sand soaking up the warm sunshine* while watching the scores of surfers making the most of the ideal conditions. A light breeze brings out the kite surfers who speed across the surface parallel to the shore. The swell is about 1.5 metres and they jump as they slice into the waves. With the power of the breeze in their sails, and their skill, they're airborne for at least 5 seconds. It's almost as though they're performing in slow motion! They land perfectly and skim across to the next wave without missing a beat.

Now one surfer tries a somersault in mid flight: he crashes, recovers immediately and is on his way. Another tries a backward somersault. A perfect landing. What a spectacle!

But why didn't I bring my camera?

*TV news that night reported that snow had fallen in Ringwood! Unbelievable!

Norm Tillack.

Doesn't your heart bleed for our hard working Sec?
Ed.

QUARTERLY COMPETITION

Entrant	Title	Aud. Appeal %	Judges %
Kevin Gorie	The T.V. News	69.7	78.3
Fred Haering	In Charge	65.2	75
Phyl Coffey	Old Fudge	55.0	68.3
Phyl Coffey	Orange Blossoms Special	54.0	65

Audience Appeal (to date) for Movie Of The Year.

June Furness	Spring	74.8
Ron Fry	Spirit of Endurance	71.65

Only one more Quarterly Competition to go and then it will be the big one. It's a bit like building up to the AFL Grand Final, isn't it?
Alan Battye.

PROFILE.

Our profile this time is of that Irish leprechaun, Joe Magee. Joe grew up in one of the poorer parts of Belfast and, as Joe puts, his childhood was such a happy one he was unaware of growing up in poor circumstances. The disturbances were going on at the time but Joe refused to speak of them for fear of incriminating himself!

At the age of nineteen he joined the Merchant Navy as a radio officer. In his naval travels he visited Australia and liked what he saw. There was a problem: Joe had married a Belfast colleen and it took quite a while to talk her into even thinking about moving to the other side of the world. Eventually, Geraldine agreed to give it a two

year trial — that was many years ago and, as the saying goes, ‘The rest is history!’

In Australia, Joe got a job with EMI. At this time The Beatles were No.1 and EMI was not short of a buck which they invested in research. (It was not well known that EMI had a medical research division.) Joe joined the research team that had developed the CT scanner and it was he who installed the first one in Australia. EMI was taken over by General Electric and Joe continued his work with them.

Joe had owned a camera for as long as he can remember and recalls processing his own film and making his own black and white prints. After EMI/GE the Magees had a photographic business. While Joe was out and about on photographic assignments Geraldine kept the shop ticking over — it was a two person operation. Unfortunately, Joe’s better half fell ill and the business had to close.

While he was in the navy, Joe had dabbled with movies but had never got around to joining the 50foot, standard 8, reels together. He became interested in video five or six years ago and says he now has his first decent camera — High Definition.

Joe can’t recall how he came to join Ringwood Movie Makers. He had been a member of the Ringwood Camera Club and knew of the existence of RMM (or whatever it was known as then). He thinks he might have looked us up on the internet and decided to give us a try.

Editing is something that Joe enjoys doing but says he isn’t very good at it. He has his own Utube channel and has several of his short movies on it. He promises that we will soon see one of them at the club.

Joe has an interest in all types of music; he claims to know nothing about the mechanics of music, just knows what he likes. He has found Colin Prohanski’s presentations at the club of particular interest.

The Magee family is now firmly settled in Australia and enjoys living here. Joe likes to point out that he is an Australian by choice, not like those who were born here and therefore had *no* choice! (There's probably a touch of Irish humour in there somewhere.)

Ed.

GOING HIGH DEFINITION. 5

Well, I'm nearly there, as those of you present at the club recently are aware.

I accept that AVCHD is not generally seen by editing program producers as a final product. That's a pity because the format has top quality visuals and modest surround sound on the tried and true DVD disk. The limited capacity would be no draw back to me because I rarely produce a video longer than 10 minutes.

I intend staying with AVCHD for the family events where a bit of cut and paste and a title on the front is all that is required. My Panasonic is capable of operating at 1080p, which runs out at 28Mb/s and is close enough to as good as it comes for me. When my boat comes in I'll buy a beaut monster camcorder.

Anyway, I've bought some extra memory for the computer, making 6GB in all, together with 64bit Windows 7 and a Blu-ray burner. The old E8xxx CPU is less than ideal, but will have to do for now. I paid just over \$3ea for the Blu-ray disks and \$5 for a re-writeable so that's not too bad as long as I remember they are not 25c disks. It will take me a year at least to fill one disk.

It comes as a surprise, but should not, at how much slower computer processes become with High Definition material. Four or

five times as many pixels as regular DVD really *is* a mouthful for the computer. Back to the good old days: set the process going at bedtime and, if all was well, the job was complete in the morning.

One issue I've not addressed is producing surround sound tracks. To date, I have used an old DVD authoring program which had a surround sound plug-in. It works by encoding Mono and or Stereo tracks dedicated to (or should it be destined for) each of the surround channels. I'm pretty sure it will spit the dummy when offered an existing surround track.

One final comment on my playing set-up. I have, for years now, played all audio through an amplifier. Currently, audio from all appliances, Tape deck, CD, VCR, PVR, DVD, and Blu-ray players output to the amplifier which upsizes the video to True HD, automatically senses stereo or surround as appropriate. And there is a single cable to the TV set.

I'm more than happy with this.

Kevin Gorie

Good to hear you got there in the end, Kevin. A classic example of 'If at first you don't succeed . . .'

Ed.

OTHER CLUBS.

It's always a pleasure to host members from other clubs and on 15th of April RMM did just that. It made a nice change to see movies from other clubs and to find out how things are being done at other places. During the evening thirteen movies were shown, four from Ormond MM, three from Melbourne MM and the rest from RMM. Seeing movies made by members from other clubs is always enjoyable and seeing what different ideas people

come up with gives food for thought. Dandenong movie club was also there with their usual representative.



Barry before the gremlins struck.

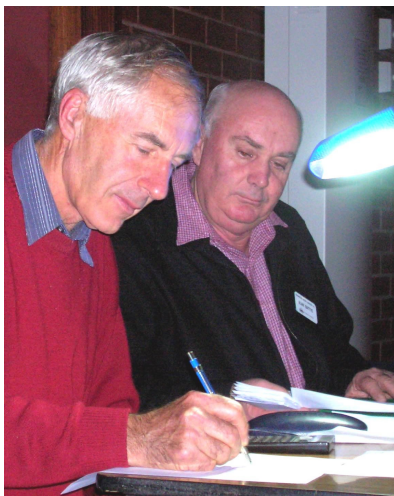
Barry Thompson is one of those people who became hooked on a hobby at an early age. When he was around ten or twelve an uncle loaned him a battery powered (yes, a very large battery!) projector to show 9.5mm films. As a schoolboy the Balwyn Theatre took up much of Barry's spare time. From selling sweets on commission he graduated through the ranks of usher and ticket seller to manager.

With a Bolex 16mm camera and Bell and Howell projector Barry launched himself into the magical world of movie making. Over time, a four track tape recorder and other items of equipment had Barry producing 16mm movies complete with sound.

Only older movie makers will remember when 50foot, uncut competitions were a staple part of club activities. 50foot was the usual length film was packaged in and the idea was to tell a complete story, beginning, middle and end without any physical editing at all; it all had to be done 'in camera'. This, of course, meant that everything had to be planned down to the second. (A very good exercise!). Barry showed three of these uncut movies and gave us some background on each.

The joys and difficulties of good and no cooperation were related in an entertaining way: the 'couldn't do enough to help' attitude of the curator of La Trobe's Cottage to the 'you can't film on public land' (a railway station) of a Mr. Busybody. *Steam Dream* was a movie showing various types of steam engines. The film was edited first and the music was added later. The film became an award winner with the judges congratulating Barry on the way he had cut the film to the music!

Many stories were told from the difficulties of obtaining permission to film in certain places to the unexpected elderly 'extra' who found herself caught up in an abduction, complete with firearm. Barry didn't mention how many years that took off her life!



Neil and Alan
sorting out
competition marks.

MILESTONE.

On May 1st, at Club Kilsyth, with his wife, Jan, and 50-60 of his friends and relatives, Max Gilbert celebrated his 90th birthday. Longer serving members of the club will remember Max as a committee member, past President and active participant in group movies.

Max does not allow the minor matter of ninety years interfere with his getting on with enjoying life. He continues to live in the unit he and Jan moved into many years ago. Jan is now in a nearby nursing home and Max visits several times a week. He enjoys cooking for himself, grows some of his veggies and regularly walks to the shops to do his shopping. Max has been called a fitness

freak but exercising has paid off as you would never know he had recently had a stint in hospital, his sprightly gait and manner is that of a man decades younger.

Max has always been a person of many and varied interests. Besides the necessary day to day housekeeping activities, he enjoys listening to classical music. At one time he played the recorder in a group and, as recently as 6-8 months ago, played some duets for flutes and recorder at the nursing home where Jan is. For many years Max was also a dawn shift presenter with the radio station MBS.

He enjoys corresponding with friends around the country and overseas. He writes his letters by hand — with a pen and paper, not this new fangled



electronic stuff! But Max is not a Luddite, he admits that the almost instant nature of e-mails has advantages. Having recently bought a whizbang Apple laptop he is looking for someone familiar with the breed to sort out a few problems he has with it.

I've booked my place at the 100th celebration in ten years time and, the way Max is looking now, that is a firm date.



STORAGE.

Between DVDs, CDs and now Blu-rays we probably all find ourselves with the problem of storing all those discs. Kept for protection in their plastic boxes, they take up so much room. Fred Haering has found the answer.

For many years we have been getting DVD music shows from Germany and have had problems in storing them in their plastic

cases. The problem is they take up too much room. A friend told me about a storage cabinet approx. 30cm long by 16cm high and 16cm deep. I was impressed. It also has an index drawer underneath, which is useful, but I also printed out a folder with more details about what is on the disc. I have the 80 disc model which is available at Target (only?) for \$19.95, but when I bought mine I bought nine and got a special price of \$14.50 each.

I believe this is one of the best disc holders ever made. Maybe, through *Take One*, you could let the members of RMM know about them. If you go to www.discgear.com, then click on Desktop Storage then 80s the price shown is \$29.95. But Target sells them for \$19.95. If you hold the mouse over the picture the cabinet will open.

I believe these cabinets are the best thing since sliced bread.
Fred Haering.

Thanks, Fred. So there you are, people with storage problems, go to it.

Ed.

GOING, GOING . . .

Those of us who were present at Chris McQuillen's presentation of iMovie Eleven may remember his comment that Apple had decided not to go down the Blu Ray path. (See the March *Take One*). In the March 1 issue of *Melbourne Weekly Eastern*, Rod Easdown reported on a conversation he had had with a senior executive from Pioneer Electronics. Before reading any further get yourself a stiff drink and sit down. Ready? In ten years time CDs and DVDs will be DEAD! In fact, the executive thought it could be sooner. He went on to forecast that in three years time less than half of Australians will have any use at all for optical discs of any description.

So, what is going to replace our beloved discs? The answer is downloads from an internet connection, in full CD and DVD quality, to a hard drive. Transfer to an SD card or USB and plug into your computer or car audio and enjoy. Apparently, in the United States, there are virtual libraries of movies and music which, for a very reasonable monthly fee, can be accessed. To quote Rod, “There’s no buying discs or hunting through your collection for the right track: all you do is locate the piece you want and start it playing. And the annual cost is about the same as buying a few DVD movies.”

Worried? Don’t be . How long ago did the CD “kill off” vinyl records and compact cassette tapes? And yet you can still buy quality equipment to play them. Apparently, record players are now available where the stylus has been replaced by a laser — no wearing away of the grooves. I recently heard a singer on the radio discussing her latest album. Quite casually she remarked, “I’m thinking of also bringing it out on vinyl.”

So don’t lose any sleep over what the future holds. You’ll be able to continue enjoying your discs way into the future. And you’ll be able to try out the new fangled technology too.

Editing Tip: Learn While You Watch

You've come a far way as an editor! You know the basics of editing, you're familiar with the art of editing, and you've learned some neat special effects that will add spice to your videos. One of the great things about editing is the fact that it's ever-changing, which leaves plenty of things to learn. Even the pros continue the learning process by examining the work of their colleagues and keeping up with changes in technology.

One of the easiest ways to continue growing as an editor is to watch movies and television with a analytical eye. By examining the style

choices of other editors you can improve your own editing skills. If you enjoy how a movie was put together, or wonder how they achieved a certain effect, watch the movie again, but this time take notes.

Consider factors such as shot types, pacing, transitions, and music. Ask yourself how the editor's choices added to the effectiveness of the scene and overall mood of the movie. If you are interested in making scary movies examine how the editor's choices add to the suspense or horror of the scene. If action films are more your speed, concentrate on the editor's use of pacing and how the editor moved from one shot to the next.

No matter which genre you're interested in editing, there are plenty of sources to learn from. By examining a specific style or a variety of styles, you'll be able to pick and choose your favourite techniques. Before you know it, you'll be creating your own unique, and possibly world-renowned, style.

More Information on Editing can be found at www.videomaker.com

The above article set my grey matter working. Years ago, in the glory days of film, one of the editing rules that was often quoted was to 'cut on action'. It's a long time since I've heard that mentioned. The rule was quite simple. If there are two shots, from different angles, of someone walking, when shot B is added to shot A the arms and legs in shot B should be in the follow on position to those in shot A. Good editing often goes un-noticed. The cut on action mentioned is a good example: get it right and no-one will notice, get it wrong and it will stick out like a sore thumb.

Editing can get quite technical but there are two things that are simple, straightforward and, when done well, can improve a movie immensely.

- Eliminate un-necessary scenes. When starting to edit a new movie we first arrange the scenes in order. The scenes we choose are scenes *we* want, for all sorts of reasons, to be included. Viewers of your finished movie are not in your head, they don't know *why* you decided to include that particular shot so they don't have your attachment to it. After the initial arrangement, every scene should be examined and the question asked, "Does this scene add to the overall movie?" If the answer is "No" then it should be removed. Sometimes, it is not easy to cut a scene that is perfectly exposed, pin sharp and very nice to look at, but the overall result of leaving it in will be to slow down the pace of movement — and that's the bane of amateur movies, boredom or, at the very least an "It was OK, but nothing special" reaction from your viewer. (They probably won't say that to *you!*)
- Having eliminated all the scenes that do nothing for the movie the next thing is to get the timing right. Once again, go back and look at each scene. Ask the question, "Is it too long?" Play the scene and look for the place where the point of that scene has been made, the chances are that it will be one, two, five maybe, seconds before the end. Those few seconds should be removed. You may think "Why bother, it's just a second or two?" But those seconds add up and, overall, can slow down your movie.

The above two operations, done diligently, will improve your movies immensely. They are basic and easy to understand. By all means do what the article suggests and watch how the

professionals do it, but the chances are you won't notice their edits. After all, those editors are doing it all day, they know the rules inside out and are inventive too. If you have the time to dissect TV movies go for it, but after you've got the basics right.

Ed.

**Remember our supporters — and mention your
RMM membership when you call.**

**Croydon Camera House – Main Street,
Croydon.**

**Kirk's Camera Supply – Maroondah Hwy.
Ringwood.**

Specialty Awards and Trophies – Bayswater.

TAKE ONE
Trivia Page.

GRANDSON and GRANDDAD

About 18 months ago 9 year old grandson visited me in a rehabilitation hospital where I was recovering after surgery. It was probably his first visit to a hospital and his eyes were darting about the ward taking it all in. He didn't say much but I did wonder whether he was trying to hear the AFL scores being broadcast in the next room - it was finals time!

Grandson is very keen on his sport: he trains hard and is successful. He's a loyal supporter of St.Kilda FC and absorbs all he can about the players, their statistics and their tactics. He made no comment at all, however, when the media later reported incidents of players' bad behaviour.

Grandson is now 11 and, with recent reports in the media of more indiscretions and the admittance to a rehabilitation hospital of a well known sporting identity, he let it all burst out.

"I DIDN'T KNOW GRANDDAD WAS ON DRUGS!!!!!"

Norm Tillack.

Believe it or not, but all the following took place in a court room. It was America, but Phyl assures me it happens here too!

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8.30pm.

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished

TAKE ONE

Our Syllabus

June 3

** Quarterly Competition No.4

June 17

Garage Band, Smartsound, etc.

July 1

Movie of the Year (2010-2011)

July 15

A. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

B. Movies from clubs outside Melbourne.

Aug 5

Croydon Camera House. "Video camera update"

Mon. Aug 15

MMC/OMC All Clubs Night.

Venue to be advised.

Aug 19

John Millard, Jack Vaux - project shoot.

Sept 2

**A. Quarterly Competition No1 (2011-2012)

B. Film show. (Projected from reels)

** Members are invited to show their own movies.

Please bring a plate of supper.

RINGWOOD MOVIE MAKERS INC.

www.ringwoodvideo.org.au

Was established to foster and enjoy the hobby of quality movie making on film and video.

“Make Movies – Make Friends”
The Club meets at 8.00 pm on the first and third Friday of each month at
Ringwood East Senior Citizens Centre
6 Laurence Grove
East Ringwood. (Melway 50 B8)

Committee 2010/11

President	Ron Fry
V. President	Tony King
Secretary	Norm Tillack
Treasurer/Public Officer	Phyl Coffey
Competition Co-ordinator	Alan Battye
General Committee	Alan Battye
	Brian Endersbee
	Jim Craig
	Neil Howard
	Stuart Walker
	Graham Woolley
Webmaster	Tony King
Welfare	Jim Craig
Newsletter	John Millard

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