



**NOTICE**

The library is not going to be at our meetings from now on. All contents of the library, books and visual/sound aids will now be stored at Laurie Chesterfields home.

Members wanting anything from our library, will have to document what they want in the new library loan book. Your request will be brought to the next meeting.

## February 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8			
12	13		15			
			22	23	24	25
20	21	26	29			

**1st February 7.30pm  
Wednesday Club Meeting  
One Minute Competition  
and Club Auction**

**7th February 7.30pm  
Monday Committee Meeting  
With David Elliot**

## March 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14			
18	19		26	27	28	
			31	29	30	31

**7th March 7.30pm  
Wednesday Club Meeting  
Novice Competition**

**13th March 7.30pm  
Tuesday Committee Meeting  
with Peter Reeves**

2011 COMPETITIONS & FUNCTIONS	
<b>February 2012</b>	One Minute Competition and Club Auction
<b>March 2012</b>	Novice Competition: Any Topic - Up to 10min
<b>April 2012</b>	Open Competition: Any Topic - Up to 15min
<b>May 2012</b>	Themed Competition using an Unexpected Outcome <b>OR</b> Parkland - Up to 15 min

# *From the Presidents Desk*



## **JANUARY MEETING**

Only a small number of members turned out for this meeting, with some very useful items shown by a couple of members. We had an early night for a change, being out of the venue by 10.15PM.

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

Auction Night, so please bring along **working** items that you no longer use, to help with this night's activity. Please fill in the form so our Auctioneer Colin has all items listed.

Tonight we are holding the "One Minute" Competition, and by all accounts from my spies we look like having at least eight entries, with a selection to be taken to the FAMM convention in March.

We will be drawing out members' names who wish to be in this year's Group Productions, so if you cannot attend, please notify a committee person, so your name is in the mix.

## **MARCH MEETING**

"Novice" Competition, on any topic with a duration of up to 10 minutes. We have five members eligible to have an entry in this competition, so have a go, and remember if you need any help with your video you only have to ask other members.

Ian Huish will demonstrate some techniques in animation with the programs on his computer.

## **APRIL MEETING**

This will be the first of our Open Competition for the year, on any topic with a running time not to exceed 15 minutes. This is open to all members, no matter what level you are at.

## **MAY MEETING**

Our first Themed Competition using an Unexpected Outcome **OR** Parkland, duration of up to 15 minutes.

This should be an interesting night, as we have a diversified group of members.

## **NEWS**

Our club has now a new Philips DVD/Bluray player that will play from your USB flash drive. (See Ian's article) FAMM has notified me that they have 48 entries in this year's Federation Shield competition.

Our club has had the privilege of winning this Shield at the last two Conventions, with only two other clubs winning it three times in a row, the last being in 1970-1974.

**Laurie Chesterfield**

### **DISCLAIMER**

In regard to products, services and/or procedures which are either advertised or mentioned in this magazine, members should determine for themselves the reliability and/or suitability of these products for their own particular requirements. Newcastle Video Moviemakers inc., cannot accept responsibility for any products or service statement made herein and the opinions or comments by contributors are not necessarily the views of the club, its committee, its members or the editor.

# CLUB PHOTOS



Richard McFadden showing us an inexpensive battery operated LED light source (bike riders light)

Below is a small tripod for personal cameras



Ian Huish showing us a cheap alternative, a surveyors tripod



Mansel Williams checking out Mark Owens Wireless Voice Microphone



### Freemake Freeware Software ...

Occasionally while Browsing the Net I come across user friendly software which can be very useful, is free and does the job easily which are:

- Freemake Audio Converter**
- Freemake Video Converter**
- Freemake Video Downloader**
- Freemake Music Box**

**Home Page:** <http://www.freemake.com>

**D'loads:** <http://www.freemake.com/downloads>

**Requirements:** To work with **Freemake software**, you will need **.NET Framework 4.0 Client Profile**. If you don't have it, **Freemake Setup Wizard** will install it to your PC. Or you could download the **offline** version (**48.1 MB**) using Google to find it.

**Downloads:** You must be **online** to install **Freemake freeware**. If your **PC** isn't connected to the **Internet**, get somebody to download the **offline versions**. (Scroll down on the download page and **Click** on the blue **off-line versions** link to take you to the **offline** downloads page.

My two favourites are **Freemake Video Converter** and **Video Downloader**.

### Free Video Converter ...

**Convert Video Free to AVI, MP4, WMV, MKV, FLV, 3GP, MPEG, DVD, Blu-ray, MP3, iPod, iPhone, iPad, PSP, Android, Nokia, Samsung, BlackBerry** with our **Free Video Converter**.

I tried the **Video Converter** to convert some of my favourite **DVD Movies** and **Series** to **.MP4** Video files with embedded **Subtitles** for playback on my **TV** which has **USB 2.0** and **USB HDD** ports and they worked very well. The **USB Flash Drives** and **HDD** can store a lot of Videos and have no moving parts. They can and will save wear and tear on expensive **DVD/Blu-ray Players** prolonging their life.



Please take time to try some or all the functions of the **Video Converter** like **Photo Slideshow**, converting to **DVD/Blu-ray** with **Motion Menus**, etc.

### Free Video Downloader ...

**Download** any **Video** from **thousands websites!** From **YouTube, Facebook, Vimeo, Veoh, Dailymotion** and **10,000+** sites. **Extract audio, MP3** from **YouTube**, **convert** any **online video** to **AVI, MKV, MP3, iPhone, iPod, PSP, Android**.

I use **Free Video Downloader** to download **Tutorials** for a variety of **Video Editors** and **Applications** as used by our **NVM PC Groups**. As an example, I ran **Free Video Downloader**, Clicked on **YouTube Icon** and once there searched for **Creating a PiP in CyberLink PowerDirector**. Next played the found tutorial, **Right Clicked** on the Playing Video, **Clicked Copy video URL** option.



Went back to **Free Video Downloader** and **Clicked** on the **Paste URL** button which brought up the **Options Menu** after a while allowing me to chose **File Type, Resolution, Save Location** and **Convert Options** if needed. Once downloaded two further options are available, **Show in folder** and green **Play** downloaded file button. **JPL**



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# NVM DVD/BLUERAY PLAYER

by Ian Huish

## The Club has a new DVD/Bluray Player

The club has purchased a new DVD/Bluray player. The old player was becoming unreliable, and it also required a very specific AVCHD format to play High Definition videos. The new player, while it wasn't very expensive, can play quite a wide range of video formats, and can accept them on DVD media, CD media, Bluray disks, or on USB flashdrives or hard disks.

Many club members have cameras and editing software that are able to produce 'high definition' (1280x720) or 'full high definition' (1920x1080 or 1440x1080) videos. Here are some options that will work on the new player. Windows 7 will play all of these formats directly, so check they play on your computer with good quality!

### 1) MP4 files

The MP4 file format (based on Apple's MOV quick-time format) is now very common, and is supported by most editors. It normally contains video encoded using the H264 (MPEG4 AVC) codec, and audio encoded as AAC (The successor format to MP3). Make sure you check when you render the MP4 file to make sure your software is using the same resolution and frame rate as your camera, and that the bit rate is around 8Mbps/sec or higher. Many editors seem to assume that if you're saving to MP4 format, you're going to upload it to Youtube, or put it onto an iPhone, and so by default they tightly compress it, losing quality. If you use Vegas editing software, try using the Sony AVC rendering option, but using the 'Custom' button to check resolution, frame rate, and bitrate.

You can just burn the MP4 file directly to a DVD or CD, or copy it to an empty USB flash drive.

### 2) AVCHD/Bluray format

The new DVD/Bluray player will accept disks in AVCHD or Bluray format. You don't have to use Bluray disks (unless you've made a two hour movie!), ordinary DVDs are fine. This format uses M2TS or MTS files, where the video is encoded using H264 (MPEG4 AVC) or H262(MPEG2 DVD) codecs and audio encoded as Dolby Digital (AC3).

The disk must have a Bluray directory structure, including BDMV and Streams directories. Most editors can burn an AVCHD or Bluray disk in this format.

### 3) DIVX AVI files

The player can play AVI files, as long as the video is encoded using a DIVX or XVID (H263/MPEG4-ASP) codec. The AVI file can be burnt directly to a DVD or CD disk, or copied to a USB flash drive. Again, be wary of the editor settings as you render the file, as it's likely the editor will assume you want it in normal standard definition resolution.

### 4) MKV formats

The MKV format is becoming more and more popular. It's not owned by any company and has no license fees to the DVD player manufacturers, and it's very flexible. The new player can play MKV files as long as the video is encoded as H264 or DIVX or MPEG2-DVD, and the audio is AAC or AC3 or PCM.

### 5) MPG/VOB formats

Even if you don't edit high definition, you might still find it convenient to bring your movie on a USB flash drive instead of burning it to a DVD. Most editors will let you render the DVD format to your hard disk rather than burning it directly. There should be a VIDEO\_TS directory, containing a number of 'VOB' files. One of these files is normally very large compared to the others - this is your video. You can copy it directly to an empty USB flash drive, and it will play the same as a DVD on the new player.

### Things that won't work!

Unfortunately, not all files will work! Here are some things that definitely won't play...

a) MOV files

b) AVI files not using DIVX/XVID encoding

c) MTS/M2TS files not in an AVCHD or Bluray file structure

d) WMV files

If you're trying this for the first time, it's probably a good idea to bring along a DVD version as a backup.



Laura Owens enjoying Australia Day



Australia Day party photo at the Chesterfield's

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**CLUB MEETINGS**

**WHEN:** The first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.  
**WHERE:** Wallsend Community Health Centre Meeting Room.  
Behind Wallsend Hospital, Nash Street Wallsend.  
(Map ref: UBD 17-L9)

**CORRESPONDENCE TO:**  
The Secretary,  
NEWCASTLE VIDEO MOVIE MAKERS Inc  
PO Box 67 ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289

**Committee meetings:** These are held on the Tuesday following the club meeting each month at a committee member's home in rotation. All members are welcome to attend, however a courtesy call to the committee member concerned would be appreciated.

**Salon Lisa**

**RALF – ELKE**

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