

FOCUS



Published by the New South Wales Branch of The Australian Cinematographers Society

Visit the ACS at <http://www.acs.asn.au>

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FEBRUARY 2005

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THURSDAY 3rd MARCH at Rexel Video Systems

2 Giffnock Avenue, North Ryde at 6.30pm

The Panasonic Varicam, High Definition, Variable Frame Rate camera, has become the camera of choice in the USA for film productions going to HD. Varicam will shoot at 24p or 25p as Sync speeds. Being able to over-crank or under-crank at the press of a button, with "Film Gamma" producing film-like pictures, its popularity is easy to understand. As the camera operates on 720p/60 Hi-def Standard, production in the 50Hz world has been more difficult. This has now changed with the introduction of the Panasonic AJ-HD1200A deck, being able to transfer DVCPRO-HD via Firewire into non-linear editing systems such as Final Cut Pro-HD and Avid.

Additionally, Miranda are producing a "slice" to fit on the back of the camera, taking the tagged frames into account, such that if you are shooting 25p, you can get a PAL downconvert for monitoring on set, as well as a PAL DV firewire output. All this will simplify 50Hz production, making Varicam easier to use, bringing rich film quality pictures to High Definition Productions.

Rexel will be hosting an evening with Mr. Taguchi, the Panasonic Engineer responsible for Varicam, and will present the latest information on Varicam film-out and practical demonstrations of Firewire transfers to Avid Adrenelin HD.

Location: Rexel Video Systems, 2 Giffnock Avenue, North Ryde.

When: Thursday 3rd March 2005 6.30pm.

Drinks and nibblies will be provided.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8th – A night of HDV

FILM AUSTRALIA, ETON ROAD, LINFIELD at 7.30pm

SONY HVRZIP PROFESSIONAL 1080I HDV CAMCORDER

Videocraft Australia invites all ACS members to hear fellow member Pieter De Vries ACS discuss Sony's New Professional 1080I HDV camera. Just how good is it? Piet has more professional HDV experience than any other cinematographer in the country. Don't miss the chance to hear how this camcorder works from a creative angle. Refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to Joan.burns@videocraft.com.au or phone 9436 3050

TUESDAY 8th & WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH

THE INDUSTRY TOOLBOX will showcase complete workflow solutions for professionals who must cost effectively produce, package, encode, deliver and display HD and SD programs. The Toolbox combines conference and exhibition in a commercial workflow environment. 200sqm of The Novotel Century Sydney, Little Pier St, Darling Harbour will be transformed into an operational studio, post and distribution facility by six of the world's leading suppliers. Amber, Avid, Miller, ProVideo, Sony and Tandberg are combining for this presentation of free seminars throughout the day.

RSVP: For more info and to register on line go to www.regonow.com/toolbox

THE ROSS WOODsnr ACS AWARD

After the death of Ross Wood Snr ACS his wife, Mary, set up a trust fund primarily to encourage and recognise young cinematographers who like to experiment and be innovative. Subsequently an Award was struck and named in honour of Ross. It consists of an engraved plaque plus a cheque for an amount dictated by current interest rates. This year will be the last in its current form.

The award may be made annually to a member of the Australian Cinematographers Society who has made, or intends to make, a contribution to cinematography and/or develop their career in the areas of research, education, experimentation, or technical, scientific, or aesthetic innovation, or for any worthwhile cause for the advancement of cinematography in Australia.

Any member of the ACS may apply, but preference will be given to young applicants as a form of assistance in furthering their careers. Members who are interested in applying should, in the first instance, contact the State President or forward the application, which can be in any form, direct to David Wakeley ACS at dwakeley@optushome.com.au

NOTES FROM THE ACS COMMITTEE

Our year is getting off to a good start with two nights already; both the Hydrogen battery demonstration presented by **John & Andy Stankovich** and the 'They're a Weird Mob' night were well attended. We would particularly like to thank **Chris Maljers** for donating the dvd of 'Weird Mob', which was the catalyst for the evening and **Don Tanner** who came in from holidays to screen the film and 'The Making of' documentary. Also present on the night, from the 'Weird Mob' cast & crew, were **Tony Bonner, Barry Williams, Charles Little & Kevin Powell**, son of the film's director, **David Powell**.

The 'Making of' film highlighted many industry members now passed away, in particular the late **Grahame Lind ACS, Keith Loone ACS and Dennis Hill**.

Thank you to the many members who responded to our State Awards survey, the results being overwhelmingly in favour of paying a few more dollars for a quality sit down meal event, with the price including beverage, at a location more central, such as the city or Darling Harbour. We are now researching venues and will have some more news in an upcoming Focus. If anyone has suggestions or further comments on the survey, contact David on dwakeley@optushome.com.au or fax 94394788.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events

David Wakeley ACS

For the NSW Branch Committee

A PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Martin Schulte, I study photoengineering & mediatechnology at the university of applied sciences cologne. I'm working on my degree dissertation about how the digitization, in particular the development of the camera technology, affects the film industry. For this I would like to determine the following things:

- The meaning of this development for people who work with cameras,
- which meaning it has for the film work and the film industry and
- how the development in the next years will continue.

It is particularly important to me to determine an overview of personal experiences and attitudes and not only to analyze generally published contributions. For this purpose I would like to ask you to participate in my on-line survey.

Please follow the link at the end of this mail. It will bring you to a questionnaire in which you have both possibilities, choosing selections with a few mouse clicks and writing detailed comments. From the collected results I will evaluate an international analysis of needs, acceptance and prognosis, as well as I will generally win information for my work.

I will send the results to your society, so that they are accessible for you! Please follow the link www.sosue.de/index_eng.htm. I thank you for your support!

IF YOU DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THE GREAT OPEN DAY AT LEMAC LAST WEEK, WE DON'T HAVE YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS. Send it to Roscoaus@rosco.com.au

