The Melbourne Camera Club - Audio Visual Group eNews for March 2018.
Distributed to members and others interested in the Craft of Audio Visual production.

AUDIO VISUAL GROUP – AVG

Annual 4 Way Audio Visual battle – Melbourne Australia – Wantage UK – Exmouth UK – Cardiff Wales – Audience Judging Wed 8pm 2st.of March

AVG this Wednesday evening - Audience Judging of 15 International AVs

This now annual 4 way battle between three Audio Visual groups in the UK and Wales and the MCC AV group will be scored by the audience this Wednesday evening commencing at 8pm in the club's first floor gallery.

All club members along with any interested visitors are most welcome to participate in scoring the 5 audio visuals from each of the Wantage and Exmouth UK AV groups and the South Wales RPS AV Group. Judging sheets will be available on the night (see example below) and the scoring system explained. At the end of the evening the completed scoring sheets are to be handed in to our coordinator for compiling the 'Melbourne' audience judged scores. We do not judge our own AVs, only the 5 AVs submitted by the other 3 clubs. The final results are complied from each of the audience scores at each of the participating clubs by Ian Bateman at the Exmouth club.

No	Club	Sequence	Score/10
1	Wantage	A Mother's Lament	
2	Cardiff	A Rich Legacy	
3	Exmouth	Holsworthy Livestock Market	
4	Wantage	Lichfield Cathedral	
5	Cardiff	Bodnant	
6	Exmouth	Loch Ewe	
7	Wantage	London	
8	Cardiff	Concorde Returns Home	
9	Exmouth	St Matthews Glass Church	
10	Wantage	Sheringham Priory Gardens	
11	Cardiff	Mysterious Stones	
12	Exmouth	The Geddington Squirt	
13	Wantage	Tough Mudder	
14	Cardiff	Paddington	
15	Exmouth	Tommy	

This audience judging & scoring plus related discussions is the only scheduled item for this month's Audio Visual Group meeting and should be completed within the normal meeting time.

The five '4 Way Battle' AV entries submitted from our members were:-

1: 'White Night 2017 Painting Melbourne' - by Peter Tredrea – a Proshow MPEG video - 3m42s

2: 'Fall of the Hammer' by Robert Cutting - a PhotoMagico MP4 video - 7m44s

3: 'Survivor' by Barbara Butler - an MP4 Final Cut ProX Video - 3m25s

4: 'Eulogy to the UnKnown Soldier' by John Spring – a ProShow EXE 6m55s

5: 'Picture a Town' by Susan Rocco – a ProShow EXE - 5m01s

VAPS 2018 Interclub Audio Visual competition

Each member Club of the Victorian Association of Photographic Societies (VAPS) is entitled to enter the annual Interclub competition which is judged and all the entries are shown at the convention. In the Audio Visual competition there are 2 sections (i) Open and (ii) 3:21 (AVs up to 3minutes and 21secons in length)

Every club can submit a maximum of two Open AVs (can be up to 12 minutes duration) and two 3:21 AVs which can be any duration up –

1   OPEN Section entry 'White Night Painting Melbourne' by Peter Tredrea

2   OPEN Section entry 'Fall of the Hammer' by Robert Cutting

3   3:21 Section entry   'Survivor' by Barbara Butler

4   3:21 Section entry   'New Zealand Looking Down' by Charles Kosina

Warrnambool 2018 VAPS Convention – Friday 25th. to Sunday 27th. of May

The annual convention this year will be held in Warrnambool commencing Friday May 25th through to Sunday May 27th. The registration form and details of the convention program are available from the VAPS web site at   http://www.vaps.org.au/downloadable-docs

A number of Melbourne Camera Club members attend the convention and can provide you with further information. Accommodation is the one item if you are considering attending that you must book yourself and as early as possible. Please eMail or phone the AVG coordinator with any questions.

An EXPANDED vision for No rules 'Show & Tell' 5th Mondays for themed images

Following the January 25th Thursday night 'Show & Tell' organised by Paul Palcsek our new Print Competition Steward there is a suggestion for adjusting the 5th Monday no rules Show & Tell nights to include the showing of themed groups of images. A group of themed images does not necessarily have to be with building an AV in mind although the use of AV production techniques might aid the understanding and appreciation of the photographic subject matter.

As a starting point bringing along 15 related themed images for presentation and discussion. Perhaps a selection of 15 images from your EDI competition entries could be used to illustrate 'your style of photography' or perhaps 15 images from your recent travel photography. The next level of challenge would be to form the 15 images into a short AV presentation using ProShow Web free production tools. Paul Palcsek would like to receive some feedback on how this expanded concept might be developed and promoted to everybody. *eMail your comments to Paul at mcc-print-comp@melbournephoto.org.au* The next 5th Monday AVG NO RULES 'Show & Tell' will be in the Clubrooms 8pm Monday April 30th 2018 .

Video Production

Last year there was an announcement about the potential formation of a 'Video' or 'Movie Makers' specialist group inspired by ideas from former MCC President Peter Walton. Peter has sent the following on the 12th "..After much consideration, I have decided NOT to continue with the idea of forming a Video Group. My interest in video has not changed, but I feel there is insufficient enthusiasm for it within the club…"

The AVG will continue to support video making education and how it may best be incorporated for into Audio Visual productions to take advantage the recent changes to allow up to 20% of the total playing time of an AV to be made up video. All good specialist AV production software supports the inclusion of video clips and their basic editing. There is a increasing preference and an organizational preference for video output for AV productions. Once there was an almost exclusive preference for AVs to be sent and played in competitions as executable (PC based) files. This has changing slowly but recently accelerated to around 50/50 (video files Vs Executable files).

WHY Video output files for your AV Production ?

One of the issues that is facing the PC (Intel & MS Windows) computer user is the suggestion that as new CPU chips adopt RISC (reduced instruction set computing) and newer versions of Microsoft Windows operating system are unable to be backwardly compatible for running older x86 complex instruction set programs AV makers will not be able play their older Executable (EXE) file productions on current next generation of PC computers.

Some of these possibilities and changed features were discussed at a Qualcomm Tech Summit December 7th 2017 which were reported (https://www.thurrott.com/microsoft/146523/hp-and-asus-reveal-windows-10-always-on-pc-powered-by-snadpragon-835) *"….Always Connected PCs will ship with Windows 10 S, which means you won't be able to run full desktop apps like Photoshop and other Win32 apps that aren't available through the Microsoft Store. You will, however, be able to upgrade these devices to Windows 10 Pro if you want to. This means you will be able to run full desktop apps, thanks to Microsoft's x86 emulation tech built specifically for Windows on ARM. The performance of Microsoft's emulation tech remains a big question, so we will just have to wait and see for the time being…."*

There has been a great deal of comfort in AV makers using EXE file output for their productions as the Windows OS has supported the legacy running of older made EXE programs. However this legacy provision may not continue and AV makers will have to 'plan' for a conversion process.

Just this potential question of loosing 'legacy' file playing has motivated AV makers to ensure they have sure they have both types of file outputs executable and video. The major issue with quality video is that it's always 3 or 4 times the size of a similar resolution executable file. Hence it takes longer to upload over the internet and takes up more storage space. However, videos can be played on phones, Macs, iPads, Chromebooks and future portable devices. Older video formats can be converted to newer video formats. EXEs cannot be converted to video, satisfactorily.

From an organizational point of view AVs in a Video format can be more easily batched together in sequence for playing continuously lopped 'show' of multiple AVs for instance in a Photography Exhibition projection installation. This is accomplished with off the shelf 'free' software like FastStone which is what the AVG is currently using. Another advantage is that we can configure FastStone software to playback video AVs without the progress bar and other menu options being overlaid onto the viewing screen.

The '20 supplied images.AV challenge and other alternatives'

In previous years members of the AVG have been set a challenge by a selected member providing a set subject .'AV theme' for production during the year. for inspiring all AVG members to interpret and produce an imaginative audio visual production. The 2017 theme of 'Street Signs' was not responded on at all. Hence a change in direction is proposed for the 2018 year's challenge.

The AVG supplies the ingredients (by eMail response at the moment) and you choose one of the 3 alternatives to download and make one or more productions not exceeding 3m 21s from that material supplied:-.

I: FIRST OPTION:
Your interpretation in an AV is to be by using the 20 images supplied. You can reorder the images, add blank images or leave some images out, even duplicate some of the images, add captions &/or narration or just add sound effects and/or back ground music.

or

2:      SECOND OPTION
Your digital photo- visual interpretation in an AV of a 2 minute piece of (creative commons) royalty free music supplied by the AVG. You photograph the elements/locations that you 'see' visually illustrating the whole of the music track if sections and bits if appropriate from the music supplied by the AVG,

or

3:      THIRD OPTION
Your use of one or both video clips supplied by the AVG with additional images and music and/or sound effects and/or captions or narration in an AV production of your making.

One main rules is that you cannot exceed 3minute 21seconds in any production option.

The OPTION base ingredients would be available to download from the AVG Web page but unfortunately there are current technical restrictions with the operation of the Club's web site which means that you have to eMail the AVG coordinator and request one option or all three options base 'ingredients'. Because of the MB size of the 'ingredients' most sending of the ingredients to you will be by 'WeTransfer.com' file transfer process (FTP) unless a single option request can be reply eMail'ed with a total attachment under 10MB.

This AVG initiative is an experiment to challenge new and existing members to produce new, shorter, and imaginative AV productions that say something. Please come along to the AVG and see the base ingredients that you can use in almost any way you can devise.

eMail John the AVG coordinator at MCC-audiovisual@melbournephoto.org.au requesting one of the options above or all three. The '20 supplied images.AV challenge and other alternatives'.

The History of Audio Visuals at the Melbourne Camera Club
The brief history of Audio Visuals at the Melbourne Camera Club announced in the pervious AVG eNews is now in a different sub-folder (see below) but can also be directly accessed from the AVG main Web Page location (http://www.melbournephoto.org.au/audio-visual-group) following the solving of the 2MB up load limit (now 20MB).

Alternatively you can view each of the history chapters directly from these URLs below:-
Chapter 1 http://www.melbournephoto.org.au/file/774
Chapter 2 http://www.melbournephoto.org.au/file/775
Chapter 3 http://www.melbournephoto.org.au/file/776

AV competition rules adjusted for max 20% Video inclusion in all categories

The three levels of Audio Visual competition rules are almost now in synchronisation in allowing 20% of an AV's total playing time to be made up from video clips. APS does not have a 3:21 category like VAPS and many Victorian Camera Clubs. The 3:32 category has been changed to allow AV productions up to 3minutes 21seconds maximum. Previously 3:21 AVs had to be exactly 3:21.

1: The Australian Photographic Society's national Audio Visual rules have been 'adjusted'. The 5th entry category of 'Fusion' has now been deleted and a 20% max video allowance been inserted in the remaining 4 categories – '…The video content must not be more than 20% of the duration of the whole sequence. Any combination of text, narration, music and sound effects may be used…" see the APS definitions on the AV Division's web page at   http://a-p-s.org.au/index.php/av-definitions

A further APS AV news announcement can be read at   http://a-p-s.org.au/index.php/av-news

2: The VAPS 2017 AGM approved a revised set of AV production rules for the Interclub competition which basically allows Video up to 20% maximum by time of the total playing time. Applies to both AV categories 'Open' and '3:21'. The new rules and the new interclub AV entry form can be located and downloaded from URL http://www.vaps.org.au/competitions

3: The Melbourne Camera Club competition committee has also recommended changes to the Club's End of Year AV competition rules to follow the basic new VAPS interclub competition rules with 20% video maximum measured by time in both Open and 3:21 AVs. The 3:21 category will also be up to 3minutes 21 seconds. The revised AV rules for MCC End of Year competition will shortly be available. NOTE you're your other non-competition AV's you produce do not have to comply with the AV rules.

A maximum selection of four AVs (2x Open and 2x 3:21) representing the Melbourne Camera Club in the 2018 VAPS Interclub will be under taken for entry at the VAPS half yearly meeting Sunday March 18th 2018.

It is important to note that if you produce an AV under the 'former' VAPS AV rules your AV will still comply with any new proposed changes to the new VAPS Interclub AV rules with one exception that Fotomagico FRM files are no longer acceptable but MP4 or other MPEG video output from Fotomagico productions are encouraged and acceptable.

The Challenge 321 in 2018

Challenge 321 International Audiovisual Contest
Tell your story in 3 Minutes and 21 Seconds

The 321 International AV Challenge competition is under way. A complete revised set of the rules is available from the web site. They are almost identical as in 2017.

URL: http://www.challenge321.org/index.php?lang=en&page=2018

Main rules for 2018 are :

- The maximum runtime is 3 Minutes and 21 Seconds
- AV submissions created in 2016 or later
- Every genre is accepted, but the submissions regarding design, idea, story or originality and should have a certain quality claim.
- Possibly a pre-selection will be made

Key Dates:

Closing date:	31 March 2018
Distribution:	15 April 2018
End of judging:	15 June 2018
Publishing of total ranking:	30 June 2018

Canadian AV FESTIVAL at Latow – 4 entries by MCC AVG members

This is the first time we have entered Club member's AVs into the Canadian Latow AV Festival. Four members AVs were submitted. Congratulations to Bob Thomas yours was the only one chosen by the Latow AV Festival committee.

'Genesis' by Bob Thomas

'Another One' by John Spring

'Holding On ...Letting Go' by Barbara Butler

'Lake Eyre' by Ruth Burleigh

Here's some background regarding the Festival...

The Latow AV Festival started way back in the 1970's as an exhibition of "slide shows" to highlight what could be done with images and music married together. Back then of course the shows used 1 or 2 projectors and a tape system for playback but throughout the subsequent decades the sophistication of the shows grew to move into multi image/multiple banks of projectors (you remember those?). Because of the presentation logistics back then most of the photographers presenting were local. Then when the digital medium took over we moved with the technology and photographers starting creating their shows using software. With the advent of "digital" shows we could now solicit submissions from around the world.

The medium may have changed over the years but the goal of the AV Festival has always remained the same... to present productions that "raise the bar" over the traditional AV show. Not just simple slide shows but audio-visual experiences the goal is to arouse in the audience an emotional response, tell them a story or simply entertain them... but to do it in a way that takes the images beyond just what is seen and make the audience really "experience" them in a way not present in the images themselves.

The factors that go into the final selection do not only depend on the photography, but also the creation of the soundtrack, how the images and soundtrack worked together (the flow of the images to the music), how the show uses the AV medium to further the overall production and the technical quality of the images and the soundtrack.

You should be aware that the closing date for submissions is next week January 19th to get shows to me. The reason for this is we have a long lead time after the final selections are made (which is done at the end of this month) so we can get all the promotional material out to promote the selected photographers and their shows for the April 14th presentation at the Art Gallery of Burlington.

All the best... Paul Sparrow

Director – Latow International AV Festival

Latow's AV festival web site can be seen at URL   http://latowseminar.com/av-festival/

Ideas and suggestions for 2018 Audio Visual Group Syllabus & AV participation projects

Just a reminder that ideas and suggestions are needed for this years AVG syllabus and activities.

Pictures to Exe Version 9 available
After much anticipation PTE 9 is now available. There are major improvements to this popular AV software. Details can be viewed at www.wnsoft.com.

Audacity 2.1.3 - Audio Editor – is yours up to date ?
URL: http://www.audacityteam.org/ Audacity is a free, easy-to-use, multi-track audio editor and recorder for Windows, Mac OS X, GNU/Linux and other operating systems. This will be the last version of Audacity that will support Windows XP. You can use Audacity to:

Mar 17th, 2017: Audacity 2.1.3 Released
See URL   http://manual.audacityteam.org/man/new_features_in_this_release.html\

State, National and International AVs reference web site

1. Victorian association of Photographic Societies AV Interclub rules –
    http://www.vaps.org.au/downloadable-docs
    http://www.vaps.org.au/competitions

2. Australian Photographic Society AV Division – National & Adelaide International AV Comp rules –
    http://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/av-download
    http://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/downloads/audio-visual-division
    http://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/exhibition/adelaide-av-national
    http://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/exhibition/adelaide-av-fest

3. Royal Photographic Society International AV Festival rules :-
    http://rps.org/special-interest-groups/audio-visual/about/iavf-2016-information-for-entrants

4. South African – AV makers:-
    https://av-makers-south-africa.wikispaces.com/

5. French – Epinal AV International :-*http://diapimages.free.fr/spip.php?article502*

6. Netherland – Europoort AV Festival rules :-
    http://www.avwest.nl/AVwest_public/AVwest_04.php?session_control=0

7. Belgium – Digirama 2016 AV Rules :-
    http://www.av-group.org.uk/avnews/images/eventdetails/events2016/digirama-details.pdf
    http://www.sfnk.be/download.html

8. UK Great Northern AV Festival rules :-
    http://www.av-group.org.uk/gnfestival/web2/gnf-images/documents/GNF2016-Brochure.pdf

9. International 3-21 AV Challenge .   http://www.challenge321.org

**Hope to see you at one or more of these events. Any questions eMail or phone me.
To unsubscribe to this AVG eNews send eMail to the coordinator with UN-SUBSCRIBE in the subject line**

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