



In This Month's Magazine

The President's Report

Tropfest 7 Second Competition

Tech Topics with Joe Leon

Common Mistakes of the Low Budget Filmmaker

February 2018						
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19	20	21	13th February 7.30pm Tuesday Committee Meeting Phil Reynolds			
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March 2018						
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12	13	14				
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Tropfest 7 Second Deadline						

2018 COMPETITIONS & FUNCTIONS	
February 2018	One Minute Competition
March 2018	Novice Competition up to 10min. Plus 15sec. Screening (Any Topic)
April 2018	Open Competition (Any Topic) up to 15min.

# From the President's Desk

Our first meeting and competition for 2018 is fast approaching and I'm predicting it should prove to be a huge occasion! Yes our February 1 minute comp is back. ( and we are hoping to better our last year's effort of 18 films) Plus Geoff & Phil will pitch their new 'chain' film concept, Jim will outline his idea for a club B.B.Q./picnic/filming day in a small local town, Robin will update the club's Production Unit - he seems to be going from strength to strength these days, David will screen his film of the month short film and Stuart will screen his 10 minute Europe Documentary and discuss his thoughts on some editing techniques.

(All if time permits)

For me it's been a very busy month film making wise. So far I've made films with Jim, Robin and Geoff. All three have energy and great film making ideas that they are eager to use in the process.

A good example was the first part of our 'chain' film that Geoff and I shot recently over at Sugar Valley golf course over about an hour. During the filming we spoke about framing, shot selections and just what would be interesting to look at in our film. Geoff has an 'eye' and it is certainly a lot different than what I would choose to shoot. All three proved to be great collaborators and I went away having learnt a bit more about film making...

You may remember I wrote an article for last April's magazine on the Minute Comp Highlights which featured stills from all 18 films entered. With your permission I'd like to repeat this article with new stills from all of the entered films this year ( 20, 21 - who could say?) Plus if someone is interested in writing this I'd be glad to hand over the reins or help (it was actually a lot of fun writing it...)

Again staying with the Minute comp - I'm the caterer on the night and I decided to bring the Popcorn back for another year.



Popcorn is cool - easy to make, tasty and if the mood changes suddenly no one is going to get killed by the popcorn if a food fight breaks out!

Finally, if you have any 15 second films completed for our March meeting could you please bring them along to the February meeting as this will allow Ian to work his magic and start getting them ready to screen.

Its all happening!

*Phillip Reynolds.*



Enter by 6:00 pm EST Monday  
12th February 2018

For more information  
[www.tropfest.org.au](http://www.tropfest.org.au)



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## Microsoft Internet Explorer Alternatives ...

Microsoft Internet Explorer is one of the oldest Internet Browsers which came as part of the Windows Operating System which I've been using for many years and decided to try other Internet Browsers.

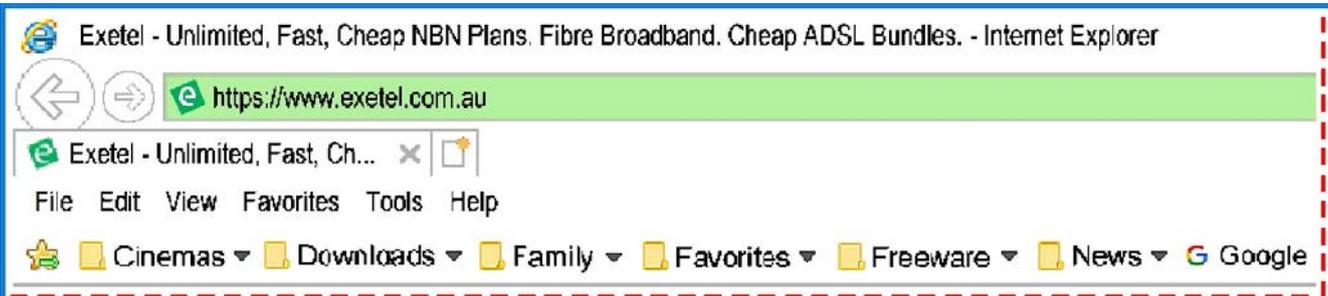
After a brief look at Microsoft Edge and browsing the Internet for alternatives to Internet Explorer I've settled on Google Chrome as it had good reviews and installed it on my computer. As can be seen below I placed Internet Explorer and Google Chrome shortcut icons on my Taskbar in Windows 10 for easy access.



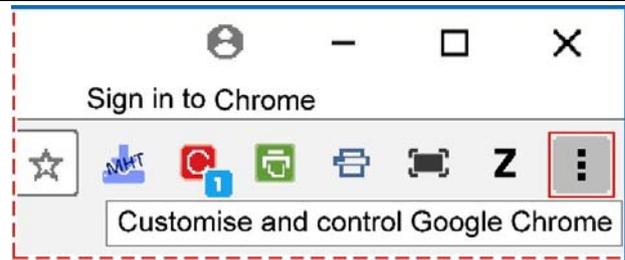
## Migrating to Google Chrome ...

Google Chrome has a Bookmarks bar that has a similar function to Internet Explorer's Favourites bar. Thankfully it's very easy to Import or Export Bookmarks between the two Internet Browsers.

The image below shows part of my home page with personally added items to my Favourites bar in Internet Explorer and yours of course will be different.



To import Internet Explorer Favourites Folders into Google Chrome is fairly easy to do. Click on **Customise and control Google Chrome** (continued top right)



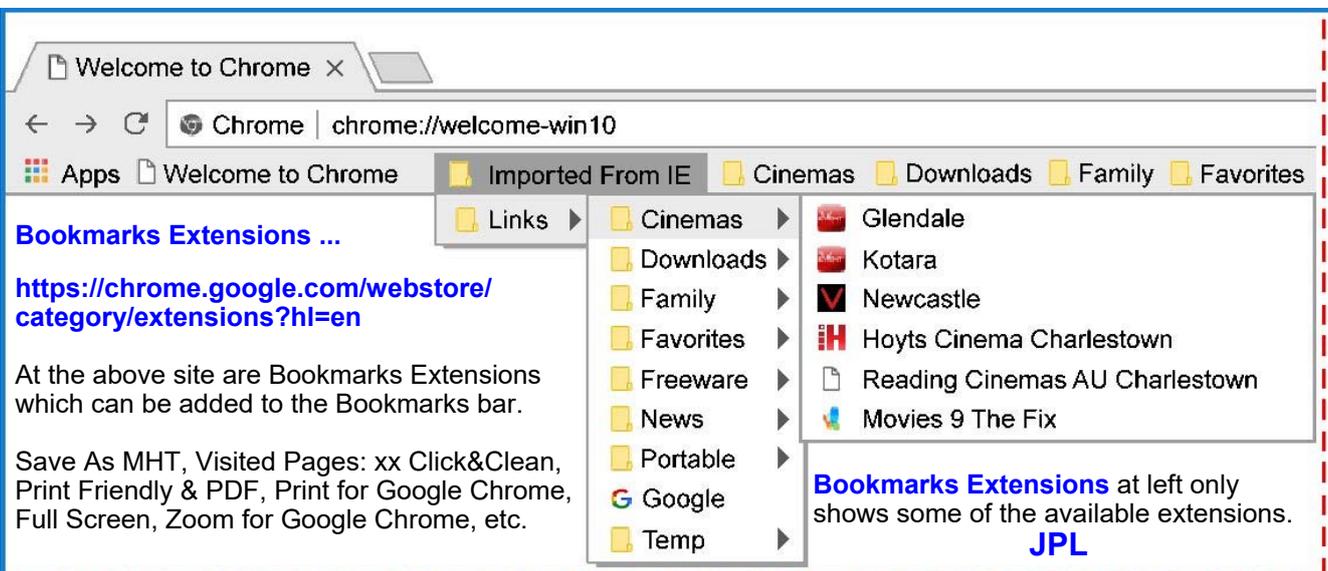
icon and tick Show bookmarks bar and then Click on **Import bookmarks and settings...**, select one or more of the four items you want to import as your selection.

Browsing history, Favourites/bookmarks, Saved passwords, Search engines

I ticked Favourites/bookmarks, Search engines and imported them. The image below shows my Internet Explorer Favourites while the bottom image shows them imported in Google Chrome Bookmarks as "Imported From IE" and their respective Folders.

Dragging the Links or individual Folders to the Bookmarks bar moves them, or Right-Click and copy them to the Bookmarks bar. I prefer individual Folders on the Bookmarks bar instead of the Imported From IE Folder.

The added **Save As MHT** Bookmarks Extension (see top image) lets me save a web page as an \*.mht file just with one click unlike IE which needs several.



## Bookmarks Extensions ...

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/extensions?hl=en>

At the above site are Bookmarks Extensions which can be added to the Bookmarks bar.

Save As MHT, Visited Pages: xx Click&Clean, Print Friendly & PDF, Print for Google Chrome, Full Screen, Zoom for Google Chrome, etc.

Bookmarks Extensions at left only shows some of the available extensions.  
**JPL**

# 6 Common Mistakes of the Low-Budget Filmmaker

By Steven Gladstone



In addition to working on commercials, documentaries, and feature-length films, I've experienced the pleasure and misery of working with low-budget and first-time filmmakers. Most of these filmmakers tend to make the same mistakes and, sadly, I must admit that when I've made my own short films, I've gone down the rabbit hole and made some of the same mistakes against which I've cautioned others. So, in hopes of helping you prepare for your production, I've outlined a variety of problems that often plague the low-budget and first-time filmmaker. Remember, the less money you have, the more planning you need to do.

"If you are a first-time director, an experienced producer can be a great ally to help get you through your first production...."

## **Failure to Delegate**

This is one of the biggest mistakes you can make. There is a lot to handle, including casting, planning, budgeting, transportation, and more, so much more. For example, when I'm casting, I like to have someone with me to handle any details that come up, and they can read with the actor if needed, so I can concentrate on the actor's performance. Your experience, as well as your film, will be so much better when you have a team working with you. So, if you are directing, find a producer. Not only will you have another person to help, but you now expand your circle of contacts. If you are a first-time director, an experienced producer can be a great ally to help get you through your first production.

## **Plan your Shoot**

Story boards, shot lists, crew positions, who is handling what, who is driving to get the gear, who is

helping you plan? Remember that producer you didn't get—wouldn't they be so helpful now? Here is my cautionary tale. Way back in college, I was making a short, and I left too much to chance. I needed someone to pick up the small put-put generator for the night scenes, but on the day of the shoot no one volunteered, so I had to go. Bad planning on my part, trusting that one of my classmates would be all too happy to take my van and pick up the genny. We wrapped our location, agreed to all meet up at the next location (this was before cell phones), and I went to get the genny. After I picked up the genny, I drove past the first location and the crew was still there. Turns out the AC had discovered a camera problem and the film hadn't taken up properly, so they reshot the last couple of shots without me. The original film, it turns out, was fine, and that is what I used, as if I would use even one frame shot when I wasn't there. But my mistake was in not planning who would get the genny in the first place. Decades later, I can own that mistake. Things change during the production day, of course, but without planning your shots, and planning who is taking care of what, you start off like a leaf in hurricane, and it just gets worse from there.

Continued on next page

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# 6 Common Mistakes of the Low-Budget Filmmaker

By Steven Gladstone

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## **Don't Stay up all Night before You Shoot**

Get a good night's sleep. Yes, of course, issues will crop up, but don't plan your schedule so you are the one who is supposed to be taking care of things the day/night before the shoot. Filmmaking is hard enough without starting the day tired. Soon comes exhaustion, less-than-crisp decision making, and the loss of the will to push for the best performance.

## **Don't be Arrogant**

Be bold instead. Think of the Director as the captain of a ship: if they are unsure of what they want to do, the crew may start having doubts about following their captain into the Heart of Darkness (which is what filmmaking is). Take input from the appropriate crew members (your DP, Sound Mixer, AD, etc.) but don't struggle with making the decisions. If your decision is wrong, you will know soon enough—just say so, fix it, and move on. Crews hate to sit around because the director doesn't know what he or she wants, or how to get it. A bold director will get a much more energetic crew than a director who isn't sure about what they want. Do be careful that you don't become callous though, or arrogant. No one likes working for a slave-driver who takes them for granted, but people generally like working for someone who is driven, inspiring, and acknowledges the efforts and contributions of others. It can be a difficult balance to strike.

## **Feed and Water your Cast and Crew**

Whether you are paying people their full rate, or they are doing you a favor, good food, and plenty of it, goes a long way in keeping cast and crew happy. Although film shoots aren't supposed to be an all-day grazing fest, healthy snacks and fluids are a good idea, especially when sets and locations get very hot. The last thing you want is for a cast or crew member to pass out from lack of water. The second to last thing you want is for cast or crew members to walk off set in search of something to drink—they just might not come back.

## **Your Non-Filmmaking Buddies Belong in the Audience, not in the Crew**

Do not hire friends of yours to work on your film if they are not interested in working in the film busi-

ness. I cringe every time I walk onto a set and the Director has brought a friend or two to "help out." What usually happens is that their friend ends up sitting around and reading because you can't ask them to do anything that needs to be done, and the Director doesn't want to insult their friend by asking them to go get donuts, so the Director leaves the set to get the donuts. I recall a lovely conversation where I asked the Director's friend who was there to "help" to move a chair out of the way. They did so, but two minutes later the Director chewed my ear off for asking their friend to help. When I asked the Director what their friend was there to do, the Director said, "Help." It still boggles my mind. So, I can only reiterate, don't ask your non-filmmaking friends to be your crew; they have no idea what is involved, no desire to learn, and once they realize they aren't there to direct the movie, they leave.

## **That's a Wrap**

These are just a few recommendations to help you get your film made well, and without putting you through so much stress that you need to sleep for a week to recover—although some people like that kind of drama. It may cost you some money, or you may have to trade work for work, or whatever you need to do to avoid these mistakes. But I've never regretted having the right cast and crew when shooting, and taking care of food and transportation pays off with more and better shots and takes—far more than what it costs you in money.

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/video/tips-and-solutions/6-common-mistakes-of-the-low-budget-filmmaker?utm\\_medium=Email%201661785&utm\\_campaign=Content&utm\\_source=WeeklyContent%20180106&utm\\_content=Explora&utm\\_term=6-common-mistakes-filmmaker](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/video/tips-and-solutions/6-common-mistakes-of-the-low-budget-filmmaker?utm_medium=Email%201661785&utm_campaign=Content&utm_source=WeeklyContent%20180106&utm_content=Explora&utm_term=6-common-mistakes-filmmaker)

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<b>CLUB MEETINGS</b>	
<b>WHEN:</b>	The first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.
<b>WHERE:</b>	Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre      44 Mordue Parade Jesmond
<b>CORRESPONDENCE TO:</b>	The Secretary, NEWCASTLE VIDEO MOVIE MAKERS Inc PO Box 67 ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289
<b>Committee meetings:</b>	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.

Contact us Email: [contact@nvm.org.au](mailto:contact@nvm.org.au)

Location of  
NVM Club room  
  
44 Mordue Pd  
Jesmond  
Neighbourhood  
Centre

