



In This Months Mag

Presidents Report

Club Photos

Tech Topics with Joe Leon

DJI Mavic Pro 4K Drone

June 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	7th June 7.30pm Wednesday Club Meeting Theme Competition 'Time'		
12	13	14	15			
19	20	13th June 7.30pm Tuesday Committee Meeting Phil Reynolds		24	25	
26	27					

July 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	5th July 7.30pm Wednesday Club Meeting Intermediate Competition Plus A.G.M.		
10	11	12	13			
17	11th July 7.30pm Tuesday Committee Meeting T.B.A		20	28	29	30
24						
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2017 COMPETITIONS & FUNCTIONS	
June 2017	Theme Competition 'Time' (Up to 5 min duration)
July 2017	Intermediate Competition PLUS A.G.M.

From the President's Desk



At our June meeting we will be screening entries in our open theme competition "TIME". It'll be great to see some more new films made by our members up on the big screen. Also in June Ian Huish will be presenting another informative session on Picture Profiles. Sounds interesting...

The committee has decided to screen the completed "Boot Hill" films at our August meeting. Hopefully this will give members participating plenty of time to complete their films. After the screening we will have an open discussion on people's editing decisions, music choices & story concepts.

And talking of stories, I think that in a club as big as ours there would have to be a heap of 'life' stories. Stories that you carry with you formed from experiences picked up in your own life. Love stories- how you met your partner.

Near miss stories. A story from some incredible event that you witnessed. Tough times stories. Best day in your life stories. Stories from your childhood.

I remember a story from my childhood that still tickles me - I got the giggles during a

Sunday lunch at the family dining table. I got warned to stop it and was sent outside... Let me tell you, I soon stopped giggling! My mother who felt sorry for me smuggled me out a piece of bread & butter saying " don't tell your father."

A short while later my father came out with another piece of bread & butter saying "don't tell your mother."

I often think the secret to making a good short film is having a decent story to tell and these 'life' stories are quite wonderful because you were there and you know exactly how you felt - plus you know this story so well.

So if you have a special 'life' story, and its not too massive or unfilmable, then tell us about it or rope in a few of your club mates and shoot it. We'd love to see it!

Phillip Reynolds.

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CLUB PHOTOS



Ian Selby receiving 1st for 'Snake Two' in our Open Competition



Phil Reynolds showing us his new extension camera holder



Ian Huish receiving 1st for 'Pressure' in Animation Category from Sydney Videomakers Club



Phil Reynolds receiving 1st for 'Snake Two' in our Open Competition



Laura Owens presenting Mike Creevey, David Elliott, Mark Owens, Geoff Peel, Ian Huish, Laurie Chesterfield & Phil Reynolds 2nd for 'Blackout' in Team Category from Sydney Videomakers Club



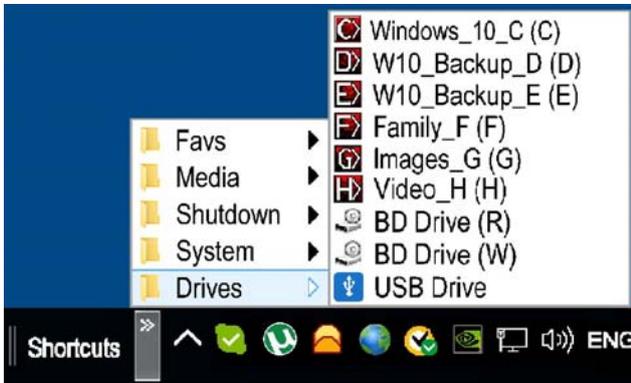
Note: All images have been enhanced for clarity.

Please read my article on **Organizing Desktop & Start Menu Shortcuts** in NVM December issue.

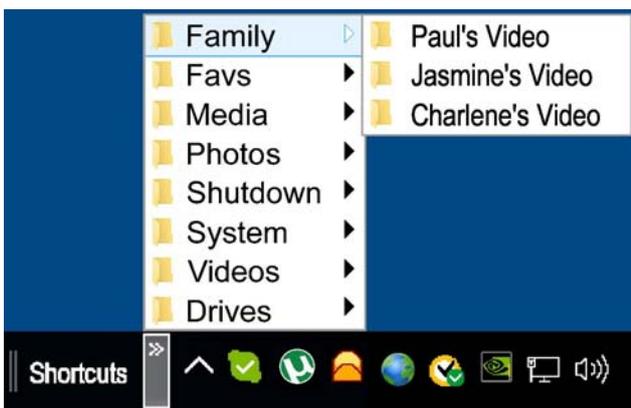


I've added another **Taskbar Shortcut** called **Drives** which personally I think is the most useful for me at least to all of the previous ones.

The image above shows that the **Taskbar** was getting crowded as it took about 25% of the available space on the **Taskbar**. As in previous **NVM** issue a **Shortcuts Folder** was used and all the above were placed in it as (shown below).



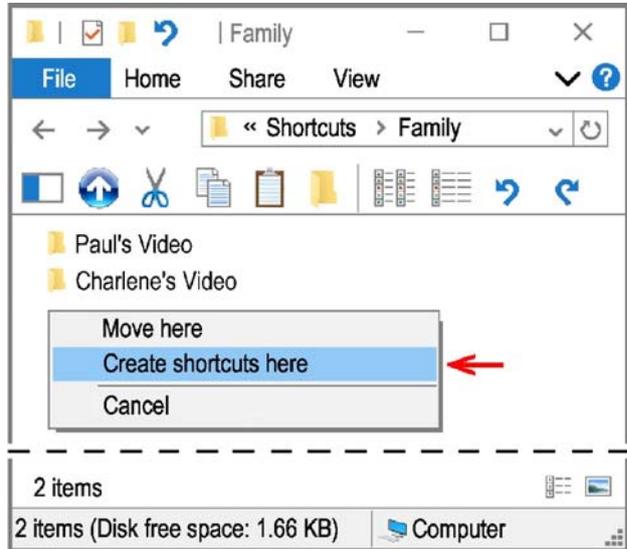
The open **Drives Folder** image above displays most of my **HDD** and or **Partitions**, plus **Blu-ray** and **USB Drives**. It increased the **Clicks** needed to open any **Shortcuts Folder** menu item from **2 to 3 Clicks**. Click on the **Shortcuts Folder** on the **Taskbar**, select **Drives** and then choose which **Drive** you want to open. Since then other **Folders** were added to the **Taskbar**



Shortcuts Folder or **Sub Folders** like my **Family**, **Photo** and **Video Sub Folders** as shown in the expanded **Shortcuts Menu** above. Other **Folder** and **Sub Folders** categories can be added or deleted as may suit your needs.

Creating Shortcuts Covered in this Article ...

Open all **Drives** by holding down the **Win Key** and press **"E"** and then open **Drive "C"**. Next open the **Shortcuts Folder** and one its **Sub Folders** like one of the **Family Sub Folders**.



Next **Right-Click** on any **Drive, Folder, Sub Folder** and drag it to one of the open **Shortcuts Folders** on **Drive "C"** and **Click** on **Create shortcuts here**. It's possible to drag more than one item at a time. The image above shows more **Folders** being added to the two already there.

SMPTE Conference & Exhibition Sydney at International Convention Centre Darling Harbour.

Home Page: <http://smpte.com.au/2017>



SMPTE - Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers Trade Exhibition.

Opening Times ...
 Tuesday – Thursday
 10am – 6pm
 Friday 10am – 3pm



Registration: Logon to **SMPTE** home page, **Click** on **VISITOR INFORMATION** followed by **REGISTER TO ATTEND** option to **Register** to attend for free.

Also browse **Exhibitor List 2017** for more details on **Exhibitors**.
JPL

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DJI Mavic Pro 4K Drone Review: So Close To Terrific

[Adam Clark Estes](#)

Dec 25, 2016



When the Mavic Pro arrived in our offices, the reaction was unanimous: holy shit, it's small. The folding drone is roughly the size and weight of a hefty Italian sandwich. This compact form factor, I'd come to learn, is a blessing and a curse for the Mavic Pro — emphasis on the blessing.

Images: Adam Clark Estes / Gizmodo

Let's get one thing straight: this drone is a thrill to fly. Once I felt comfortable with the controls, I giggled when I flew it down a tight tree-lined street, even between the branches, without crashing. In fact, after a month of testing, I haven't crashed the Mavic Pro once. (This [is basically never the case](#) when I test drones.)

What's more thrilling is the fact that we're entering an exciting new era of super smart, super small quadcopters. Tiny drones with high definition cameras and advanced autonomous features are the future we were promised. But the balance is difficult to strike. Lower-priced efforts like the \$999 [Parrot Bebop 2](#) feel like toys, while [the \\$1699 DJI Phantom 4](#) could be seen as too big or a beginner drone pilot who craves portability. Also priced at \$1699, the DJI Mavic Pro fits in your jacket pocket and do just as many neat tricks as its storied older sibling. The whole package is almost smaller than your lunch. The Mavic Pro and the Phantom 4 are actually pretty comparable in terms of specs. Both feature good 4K cameras. (The Phantom 4 is slightly more robust with HDR still photog-

raphy capabilities and a slightly wider-angle lens.) Both come with obstacle avoidance technology as well as visual tracking that will follow a subject with the tap of a smartphone screen. Both can exceed speeds of 64km-per-hour and fly almost completely autonomously with tap-to-fly and waypoint functionality.

But the Mavic Pro is so delightfully small. Having tested over a dozen drones in New York City, I've always struggled with the fact that these gadgets don't travel well. Even throwing a Phantom in the trunk of a car feels like you're a speed bump away from breaking some of the sophisticated guts. Forget carrying a Phantom to a picnic in the park without feeling like a goon. The Mavic Pro, however, in its hoagie-sized brilliance, changes the game.

The Mavic Pro is almost smaller than the Phantom 4's seemingly compact controller, and the folding process is delightfully easy. (Gif: Mandy Mandelstein)

The folding part works kind of like a Transformer. The forward rotor arms wing out horizontally when it's time to fly, and the aft rotors swing down and back. Meanwhile, the new controller unfolds from the bottom in a gull wing sort of motion to create a cosy space for your mobile device.

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The process requires a lot of moving parts, but by the time you're ready to take off, the overall design feels nothing short of elegant. The Mavic Pro's controller is roughly the size of an iPhone, albeit much thicker. That's delightfully compact, even though the joysticks are also tiny and sometimes hard to use. (Gif: Mandy Mandelstein) But once the Mavic Pro is in the air things get a little bit dicey. As any experienced pilot will tell you, slimming down the size of a drone sacrifices stability and payload capabilities. The diagonal size of the unfolded Mavic Pro is just 15 millimetres smaller than the Phantom 4, and the smaller aircraft, at 1kg, is over a pound lighter than its bigger sibling. This matters when the drone is getting hit by a gust of wind while in the air or trying and failing to match the boy-wow acceleration of the beefier Phantom 4.

All that said, DJI's fancy Intelligent Flight Modes are incredibly impressive, especially when it comes to avoiding jerky footage.

Using the Waypoint and TapFly features serves up buttery smooth movements without touching the sticks at all. The Mavic Pro also includes ActiveTrack wherein the camera recognises a subject (like you) and keeps that subject in the center of the frame as it moves. ActiveTrack works ok, but it's not hard to move too quickly for the drone to follow.

The Follow Me mode is less enchanting. It should be the holy grail of aerial photography for activities like mountain biking and snowboarding, but it's a tough task to accomplish. The Mavic Pro can recognise the radio signal from the controller and follow that signal wherever it goes.

Unfortunately for me, I never got Follow Me to work, due to issues with satellite connectivity. There's a solid chance that this is a New York City radio interference problem, but I can't say so for sure. (I reached out to DJI to find out

more about the satellite issue; the company did not respond.) In any case, the Mavic Pro does feature some very useful obstacle avoidance sensors on the front that work up to speeds of 35km per hour.

The bottom of the Mavic Pro features one optical camera and two ultrasonic sensors to watch the ground. The Mavic Pro's gimbal is also terribly finicky. For drone newbies, the gimbal is the very important, robotic mount that holds the camera. The gimbal is what lets you pan the camera up and down, and it also stabilizes the camera when the drone is in the air. If the gimbal gets out of whack, you're going to end up with shaky or crooked images. Crooked is the problem with the Mavic Pro, and you can see it in our test footage.

The folding drone's camera and gimbal are about a third the size of the setup of the Phantom 4, and they also feel more fragile. After my first few flights, I noticed that my footage would become increasingly crooked the longer I stayed airborne. This was obvious since I like taking shots of the New York City skyline at sunset, but the footage looks silly when the horizon is tilted at a 5-degree angle. Thankfully, there's an easy fix in adjusting the gimbal roll (i.e. the horizontal position of the camera), but the added frustration of calibrating the drone mid-flight sucks.

That tiny gimbal comes with consequences. When it comes to considering the Mavic Pro as an aerial photography drone, the apples-to-apples comparison to the Phantom 4 make less sense. Larger drones mean bigger payloads that can carry beefier cameras. And sturdier drones offer more stable flights and often smoother footage. The Mavic Pro is not a large or sturdy drone, and you can tell when you're shooting video. If you want to capture beautiful footage from above, you should be considering a wider range of devices, including not only the Phantom series but also Yuneec's Typhoon range (namely the Typhoon H).

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Those will give you better camera control. The short RC controller sticks on the Mavic Pro's controller makes subtle movements and rotating shots tough. Meanwhile, the forward-facing camera means that rotating the drone is the only way to get panoramic shots. This isn't a deal breaker, but the Mavic Pro is definitely geared more towards the mobile, adventuring crew than the cinematographer hopefuls.

The Mavic Pro also struggles with low light video, compared to other drones I've tested, including the Phantom 4 and the Typhoon H. There are ISO and exposure settings adjustments that could improve the footage, especially for still photography. But tweaking settings, isn't very helpful if you're shooting on the fly and need to get the perfect shot right away.

It flies. The Mavic Pro experience is littered with little tradeoffs like these. There's also the fact that DJI has delayed shipping on countless orders, so you might not even receive your Mavic Pro for a few weeks. (I reached out to DJI to ask about on-going delays; the company didn't respond.)

Personally, I'd trade portability for some gimbal quirks and camera shortcomings any day of the week. But I'm a daytime flier who doesn't own a

car and enjoys taking my drones on trips. Other drone-curious consumers should also be attracted to the price: \$US200 (\$267) less than the Phantom. Until I find something better, the Mavic Pro is what I'd buy if I had decently deep pockets and seriously wanted to get into the quadcopter game. You probably want it, too.

Video: Melissa Murray

README

- Delightfully foldable and portable without sacrificing features
- Camera gets crooked on longer flights, but it's easy enough to correct
- Autopilot features offer lots of effortless flight possibilities
- Lightweight construction can struggle in the wind
- \$US1,000 (\$1,336) is a lot of money
But it's so tiny!

Read more at <https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2016/12/the-dji-mavic-pro-is-so-close-to-terrific/#6zEoZkVx4Zd8mcB6.99>



Amanda Thompson showing us her new DJI Mavic Pro

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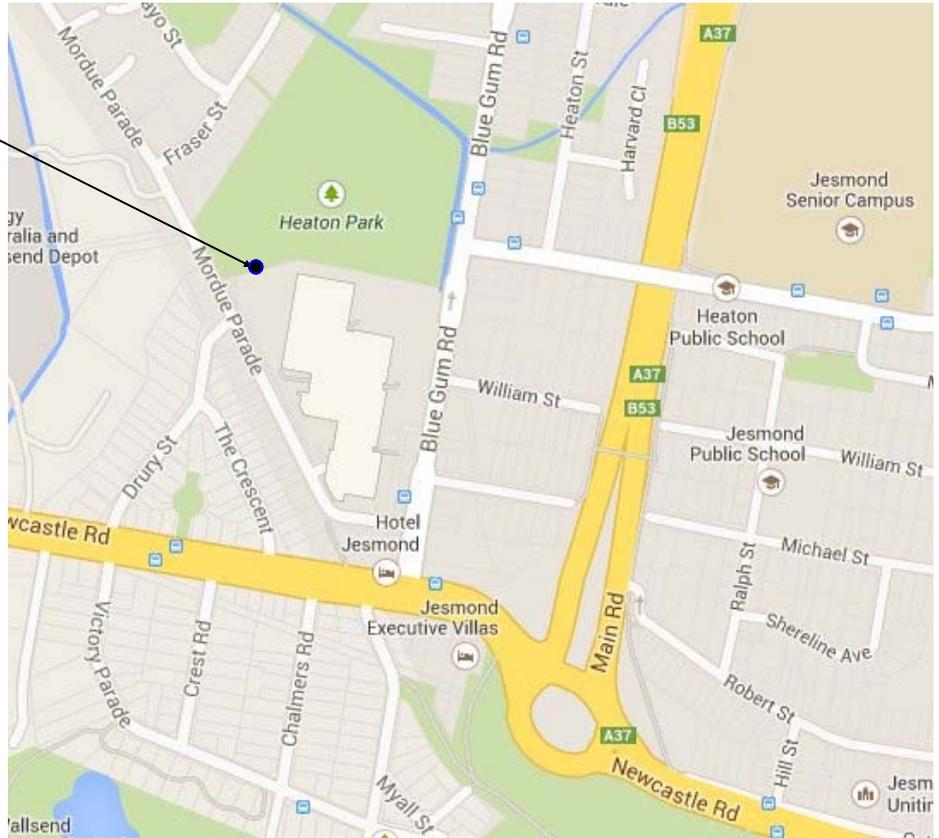
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Location of
NVM Club
room
44 Mordue Pd
Jesmond
Neighbourhood
Centre



CLUB MEETINGS	
WHEN:	The first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.
WHERE:	Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre 44 Mordue Parade Jesmond
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.

Newcastle Video Moviemakers Inc. Officers for 2016 - 2017

President	Phil Reynolds	49981006	phillpreynolds1@gmail.com
Vice President	Ian Huish	0411488789	ianhuish6@gmail.com
Treasurer	Laurie Chesterfield	4965 6449	lauriechesterfield@gmail.com
Secretary	Geoff Peel	49680977	newo@bigpond.com.au
Editor	Ralf Jorg	49336931	ralfjorg@hotmail.com
Tech Officer	Terry Farrelly		
Committee	Mark Owens	49693117	mowens@y7mail.com
Committee	Mike Creevey		
Committee	Robin Godson King	0431940659	robinhatim@bigpond.com
Committee	Ian Selby		
Public Officer	Bob Cook	4926 1117	bobcooknewcastle@gmail.com
FAMM President	Robert Farquharson		robertf.FAMM@exemail.com.au

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