

SUBMISSION FOR SUPPLEMENTARY  
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT SUBSIDY  
1976/77

AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

Western Communications Co-operative Limited,  
Yarraville Community Centre,  
59 Francis Street,  
Yarraville. Vic. 3013. \_\_\_\_\_

MAY, 1977.

## NATIONAL EDIT DECK

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We need simple, reliable editing.  
You don't get it on a punch-drunk old deck.

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One 3160 Edit Deck - an excellent machine, specially designed for editing, with one of the better existing decks will give videomakers a greatly improved system.

With a second 3160 edit deck (see 1977/78 submission) it will be excellent.

## MICROPHONES

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The three microphones will replace present ones now faulty or broken beyond repair.

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The three pack microphone will add to the range in the studio and be available for loan.

## MOBILE VIDEO UNIT

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A mobile unit for videomaking, replaying and teaching at natural community meeting times and places.

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The unit will further allow Western Communications to decentralize the introduction of video to where people naturally live and meet in settings where they have the time and confidence to explore and develop their communications abilities.

It will be used to make outside multi-camera recordings and for issue/event centred training workshops.

The presence of the van and activities associated with it can be expected to reinforce the resources of the "access points" in the network.

Mobile Unit - a caravan shell to be modified by voluntary labour.

Van Equipment - the video equipment for the van will consist of items already owned by the Co-operative and items listed in this submission. Those listed here will also be back-up equipment for the access network.

## FLYING SPOT SCANNER

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It's the simplest and cheapest introduction of colour we can think of.

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More and more Super 8 cameras are around and available. It's hard to beat them for location colour when you don't need lip sync.

Having a flying spot scanner gives the opportunity to transfer film to video, enables film and video to be complementary media, expanding the uses of present video equipment available and recognizes the economics of trial editing image and sound on video before cutting and striping film.

SUBMISSION - SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL EQUIPMENT SUBSIDY 1976/77

1.	1 x 'National' 3160 Edit Deck		1560
2.	MICROPHONES		
	3 x 'Sony' ECM 150 Microphones	100	
	1 x 'Sennheiser' Power Module & 3 Mike Pack	250	350
3.	MOBILE VIDEO UNIT		
	1 x Modified Caravan Shell	2240	
	1 x 'Teac' A170 Audio Cassette Recorder	200	
	1 x 'Sony' MX 610 Audio Mixer	350	
	Camera Cables	300	
	UHF and Audio Cables	150	
	Video Monitors	300	3890
4.	1 x 'Normende' CCS Colourvision Flying Spot Scanner		1700
5.	1 x 'National' Portapak System		1500
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			<u>\$9,000</u>

If funds are available:

6.	1 x 'National' 3160 Edit Deck	1560
7.	1 x 'Hitachi' FP 3030A Colour Video Camera	3800

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SUBMISSION FOR FUNDING 1977/78

AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

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MAY, 1977

## INTRODUCTION

1976/77

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We have found portable video ideal for  
"show and tell" community communications.

So, throughout 1976/77 Western Communications operated  
an access network for video and film makers - particularly  
those based in the western region of Melbourne.

We tested two ways of operating the network during the year.

- \* For the first and last parts - by part-time staff and volunteers
- \* During the middle of the year - by volunteers only.

We learned a lot.

First the strengths. Organizing from a base of active  
volunteers has

1. provoked serious reflection on appropriate standards for  
community videomaking by a wide range of people;
2. led to matching of particular skills and resources to  
particular tasks.

Next, that the strains experienced, especially during the  
middle of the year show

1. the valuable contribution made by organizations at the  
"access points", particularly  
Altona City Library,  
Western Region Education Centre,  
Laverton Community Centre.
2. Systems needed to operate the network effectively.
3. Absence of staff based at the studio seriously hampers its value
4. Need for "decentralized program" to supplement and reinforce  
the "access points".

1977/78 IN PROSPECT

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As a result of last year's experience we've decided on these  
emphases:

1. to operate simple video systems for video and film makers -  
portapaks  
simple editing  
small studio  
simple colour capacity

1977/78 IN PROSPECT (cont.)

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2. To maintain an "access network" through which information, equipment and assistance is available.  
The operation backed-up by a video systems worker, a permanent staff member responsible for
  - low level maintenance
  - network communications.
  - studio and production assistance.
  
3. To consolidate a secure organizational foundation for long-term operation.  
A mobile video unit will be used to extend the "access points" capacity for video introduction, recording and replay.  
Operated by part-time video education worker/s, also responsible for fostering growth in the number of film and videomakers sharing their skills on a voluntary basis.

WESTERN COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHERS...

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In 1977/78 Western Communications programs will continue to mesh in with those of co-operating organizations in the "access network".

Contributions to the network by these groups are conservatively estimated to have a value equivalent to \$9,000 this year.

WESTERN COMMUNICATIONS AND MELBOURNE ACCESS VIDEO AND MEDIA CO-OPERATIVE (MAVAM)

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Western Communications supports the MAVAM submission for an Australian Film Commission subsidy for its 1977/78 program.

The programs of the two co-operatives continue to be complementary - offering a range of videomaking experience and opportunities not so effectively available through one body.

Western Communications continues to focus on basic video literacy - familiarization programs for individuals and community groups using simple systems.

We value the existence of MAVAM to manage advanced systems and "top of the range" equipment.

## NOTES ON SUBMISSION ITEMS

### OPERATING COSTS

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The trick, to maintain the operating costs but expand the videomaking opportunities.

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We continue to decant much of the operating costs to other bodies.

Some we can't.

Phone - bookings, updating information on accessible resources  
Photocopying, printing - distributing information  
Postage  
Rent - expected to rise considerably this year  
Insurance - equipment, public liability, worker's compensation.  
Travelling & Transport  
Petty Cash  
Stationery.

### SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

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The lesson of three years is clear.  
We need       consistent inspection and low-level maintenance  
                  access to a competent technical establishment  
                  a regular replacement program

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Melbourne Access Video and Media Co-operative (MAVAM)  
has demonstrated technical competence to handle repairs.  
We want to continue to use it.  
But we'll pay differently and boost our local maintenance  
program (see notes on staff).  
We will also make use of the distributor's service for  
National brand equipment.



#### SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

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During 1976/77 Western Communications devoted some of its finances to the establishing of a 'Special Projects Fund'.

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Originally as an alternative to funding staff time, "the intention of the fund is to provide financial and technical support for original media projects, particularly by people living and/or working in Melbourne's western suburbs".

The fund enables people to set their own priorities in productions.

Decisions on applications to the fund are made at general meetings of Western Communications Co-operative.

#### PORTABLE VIDEO

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The following items are to replace ones worn out from three years hard use and to improve present systems.

One National portapak system

To replace one worn to the point where service costs are prohibitive; the second such system to be purchased during 1977/78; (the first appears in items on the '76/77 supplementary capital equipment submission).

Six Sony microphones

We consider the best lending arrangements are to have a separate microphone with each portapak in the operation.

Two original mikes need to be replaced and supplemented with four new ones.

RF Kits

When made up it will allow an RF unit to be permanently fitted to each portapak.

Two Portable Lighting Units

Lights that can be set up when speed is essential or AC power is not readily available.

A valuable addition to our present 'Redhead' lights.

## SALARIES

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To keep video resources available for a range of videomakers requires consistent, careful maintenance of equipment and frequent trouble-shooting to back-up the people and arrangements through which videomakers have access to it.

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### Video Systems Worker

In 1977/78 Western Communications will employ one worker for four days a week on:

1. Low-level Maintenance
  - \* maintain an inspection and minor "fix it" program on the Co-operative's equipment;
  - \* arrange, when necessary, for major repairs and modifications to be carried out.
  
2. Network Communications
  - \* maintain communication between people handling loans at "access points";
  - \* regularly update public information service on resources available.
  
3. Studio and Production Assistance
  - \* includes supervision of booking and use of studio and post production resources at Turtle Video Studio, North Williamstown.

### Video Education Worker/s

We will employ part-time staff to:

- \* organize on-the-spot community-based contacts, demonstrations, workshops, recording, replay with the mobile video unit.
  
- \* Expand the Video Learning Exchange.

#### TOOLS AND SPARES

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Western Communications has contributed to setting up a joint workshop at the Media Resource Centre, Carlton, with MAVAM.

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That handles the big problems.

In addition we need to supplement this with a small workshop with tools and test equipment at the Turtle Video Studio, North Williamstown.

So as most small problems don't become big ones.

#### NATIONAL EDIT DECK

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At last.  
Decent edits again.

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A necessary accompaniment to a similar machine bought with the 1976/77 supplementary capital equipment subsidy.

#### COLOUR VIDEO CAMERA

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Is a modest colour video set-up possible?  
We think so.

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The first part of the system is a flying spot scanner for use with 'Super 8" (see notes on Western Communications capital equipment submission May, 1977).

The second part is a colour video camera - simple, blackboxless.

It will be used together with the National Cartridge Recorders of the Altona Library and with the National 3160 decks of Western Communications.

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SUBMISSION 1977/78

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1.	OPERATING COSTS		
	Operating costs	3000	
	Travelling & Transport	1000	4000
2.	SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT		5000
3.	SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND		1000
4.	PORTABLE VIDEO		
	1x "National" Portapak system	1500	
	6x "Sony" ECM 32 Microphones	210	
	Lens Filters	40	
	R.F. Unit Kits	60	
	2x "Sun Gun" SG 77 Portable		
	Lighting Kits	390	2200
5.	SALARIES		13700
6.	REPAIR TOOLS AND SPARE PARTS		500
7.	CONTINGENCIES		1200
*8.	1 x "National" 3160 Edit Deck		1560
*9.	1 x "Hitachi" FP 3030A Colour Video Camera		3800
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		Total	\$32,960
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\* If not funded from Supplementary Capital  
Equipment Subsidy 1976/77.

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Western Communications has made a solid review of its operations  
over the past year.

Reports of this review - which has involved over 25 meetings in  
the region - together with the annual financial report and  
'Community Report No.4' will be available at the end of June.