



Using iMovie to make photo documentaries

iMovie and iPhoto provides a simple way to create photo documentaries. The images can either be scanned from books, downloaded from the Internet or even taken with a digital camera. My original idea was to use a song such as Eric Bogle's song, "The Band Played Waltzing Matilda". This song tells a harrowing tale of the fate of a young volunteer who joined up to fight with the ANZACs at Gallipoli. This song will form the backing to a photo documentary of this ill fated campaign. The images can then reflect the words in the song. This is not necessary and effective documentaries can be made by just using instrumental backing. Students could even use Garage Band to make their own backing track.

1. The first task is to research appropriate pictorial resources and import them (scanned or downloaded) into the computer. (Remember to consider copyright issues with both images and music). Although not essential, you will find it easier to use iPhoto to organise your images and edit them where appropriate. Start by dragging the folder containing the images into the iPhoto window.
2. Some photos may have been scanned upside down. Select the photo or photos (hold the "⌘" key down to select multiple images).



Click the "Rotate" button to rotate the required image/s. Holding down the "option" key will reverse the direction of the "Rotate" button.

3. If appropriate, read through the words to the song and look at which images might be used for each verse and chorus.



4. Click on the "+" button to make a new album and name it "1st Verse".
5. Drag images you want to include while the 1st verse is playing into this album.

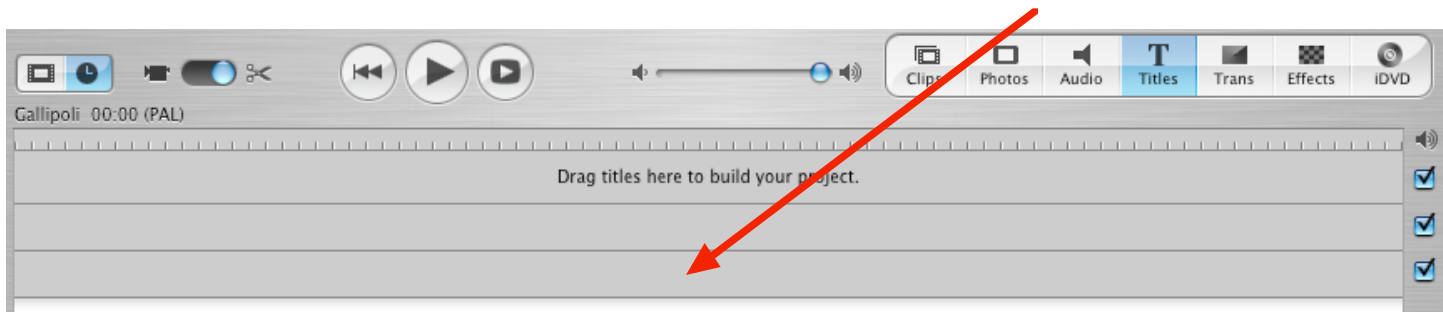
6. Create another album named "1st Chorus" and drag in the required photos.
7. Repeat for the other verses and choruses as required.

Note: Steps 4-7 are not essential but will make the task easier when using iMovie

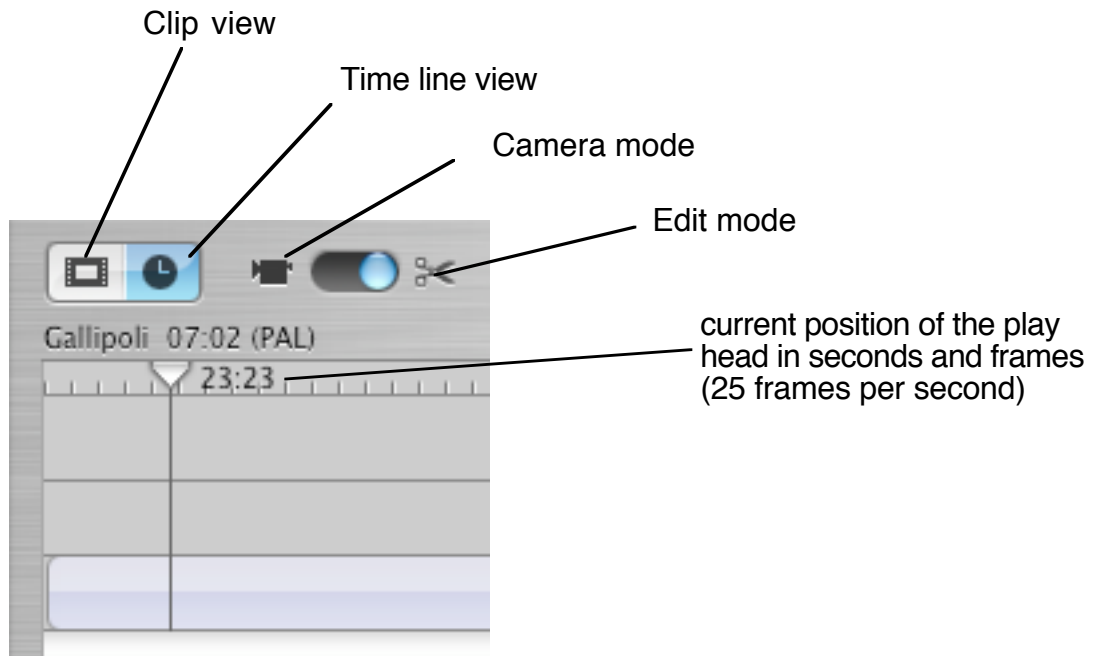
8. Open iMovie and create a new project.



9. Click the "Timeline" view button
10. Locate the MP3 file for the backing track and drag it into the bottom audio track of the iMovie window.

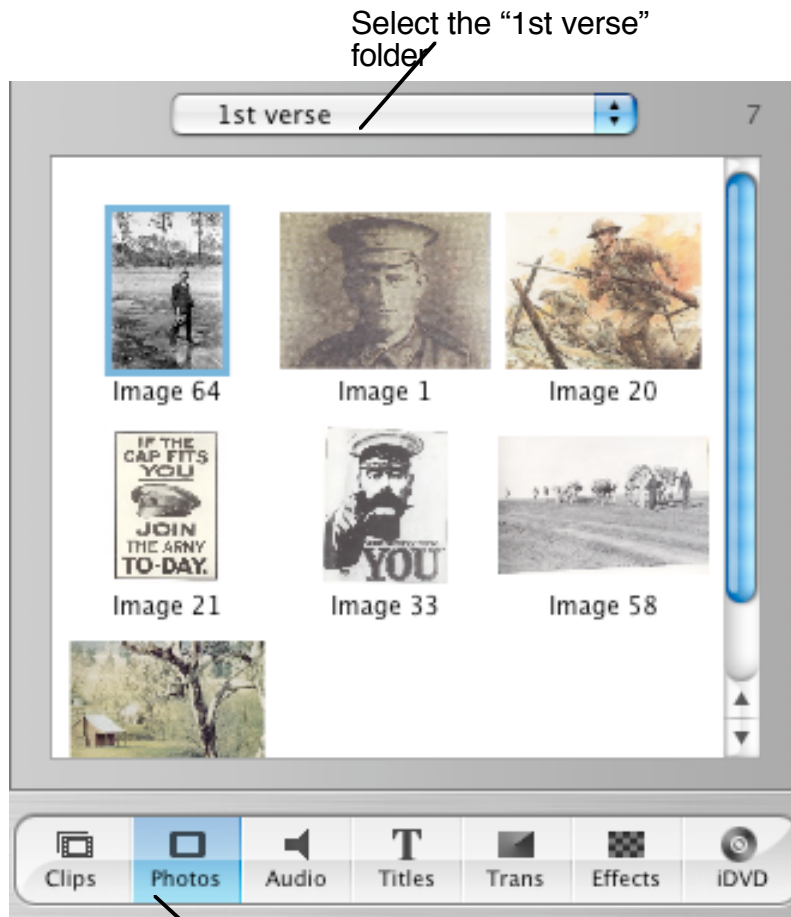


11. You can either set all photos to show for a fixed period of time or make some attempt to fit them to the music.
12. You could play the movie and note the position of the play head at each stage of the backing song. eg. the first verse finishes at approximately 56 seconds. Using this information may allow you to decide which images to use and for what duration to display them.



For the sake of simplicity we will set the duration of each song to 10 seconds.

13. Select the “Photos” tab and then choose the “1st verse” folder. This is the folder of photos you created in step 5.

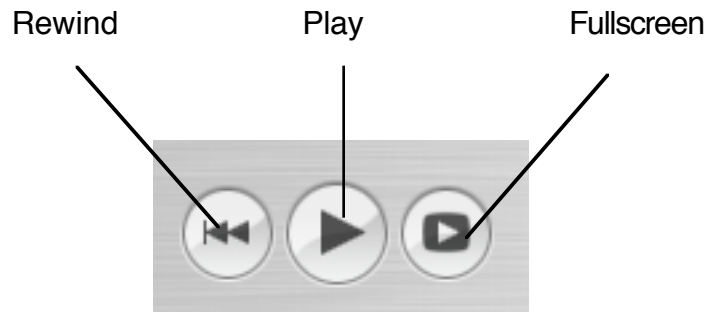


Click the Photos tab to display the photos from iPhoto

14. Select the first photo you want to use and click the “start” button.



15. Drag the photo in the preview window to the position you want the image to start displaying and drag the zoom slider (or type a number for the zoom factor) to set the scale of the image.
16. Click the “Finish” button and repeat the process in step 15. You can click the “Preview” button to view the effect.
17. When you are satisfied with the effect, click the “Apply” button to apply the effect to the photo.
18. Continue to add the images for the 1st verse.
19. Click somewhere in the timeline so that no images or sounds are selected, click “Rewind” and then “Play”.



20. To alter the duration of an image, click the image in the time line and type a new duration (or drag the slider).
21. To rearrange the order of the images it is easier to work in the “Story Board” view. The images can now be dragged into new positions as required.



22. Titles and transitions can be added as required. Consult the tutorial notes on the CD to see how to add these.