HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

"keeping up with our grandchildren"

NEWS LETTER
FEBRUARY 2006

Member of ASCCA.

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association

SENIOR GALA DAY - Wednesday 29th March

Seniors Week, 27th March to 2nd April, will be a series of daily events especially organised for our Seniors.

Our Gala Day will be held on the **29th March**. So please be there!

We would like to see you all especially at our own exhibition stall where the theme will be Digital Photography. Members will display and demonstrate many aspects of digital photography.

There will also be on display an exhibition of ASCCA photographic competition entries by our members of the Digital Imaging Group.

The Show will be in the Marana Auditorium in McMahon Street, Hurstville

OUR GUEST SPEAKER
for the February Meeting will be the well known and popular Frank J Grosz, who will demonstrate VOIP - Voice over Internet Protocol to you and me.

This is a means to sidestep traditional telephone services allowing for cheap or free phone calls anywhere in the world,

As broadband access grows VOIP will probably become more popular especially with the availability of programmes such as Skype.

OUR 10 MINUTE SPEAKER
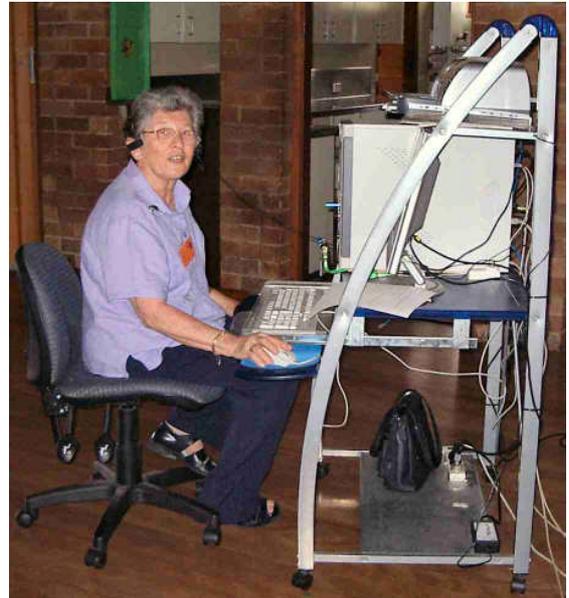for this February meeting is ALAN GIBSON

THANK YOU JOYCE

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the usual very competent and expert demonstration of the many tricks and hints in Paint Shop Pro by our member

JOYCE PICKUP (picture next column).

We sincerely hope that many of our members will now acquire some of these programmes.

Remember that some like Irfanview and Picasa2 are excellent digital photo programmes, and they are free.

In particular Joyce talked about this site **http://www.aboutseniors.com.au/Computers-Seniors-Opinion-QA-Archives2003.html**.
and also demonstrated Paint Shop Pro, lightening photos, scanning in black & white as well as colour when they are very old, and making a scrap page of photos using layers

A thief in Paris planned to steal some paintings from the Louvre. After carefully planning, he got past security, stole the paintings and made it safely to his van.

However, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of gas.

When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied:

"Monsieur, I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh."

(And you thought I lacked De Gaulle to report a story like this.)

NEXT MEETING 1.30pm Wednesday 22ND February

DIGS had their first meeting for 2006 on 6th February with a record turn up of 21 people, including 4 new members

Over the holiday period both Ian and Joyce took a free subscription to David Peterson's Digital Photography Secrets. This was a series of 22 tips over 22 days.

The information overall was interesting and with the assistance of your committee Ian compiled the "secrets" into a couple of booklets for distribution to members.

The tips are still coming so there will be more to follow.

Joyce had a Powerpoint presentation of NBC best pictures for 2005 – fascinating stuff!!

SOME QUICK TIPS TO CONSIDER

1.Quick File Opening

Why click twice when once will do?

Choose **Start**, followed **by My Computer**, then the **Tools** menu and finally, **Folder Options**.

Under the **General Tab**, choose " **Single Click to open an item**" and then click **OK**

2.Quick Launch

Start your favourite program with one click from the Taskbar by right-clicking a blank space on the Taskbar then choose **Properties.**

Choose **Show quick Launch** then **Apply** and then **OK.**

It will appear on the left hand side.

3.Quick Search

If you often run the same kind of search with the Windows Search Tool and want to save time, choose **File-Save Search** and save it to the Desktop.

Alternatively, you could right click it and drag it to **Quick Launch**

4.Quick Print

Need a hard copy of a file this instant?. Choose Start - Printers and Faxes then drag your preferred printer onto the Desktop. Now you can drag any printable document from a folder onto the printer icon and it will print immediately.

5.Quick Application switching

Stop wasting your time trying to find your programme on the overcrowded taskbar and just use <Alt> - <Tab> to quickly cycle through all the open applications.

MOBILE PHONE DISPOSAL

There was an article in the Leader some time ago about recycling mobile phones. It is covered on www.mobilephonerecycling.com.au The Spastic Centre in NSW gets a small amount for each phone but more importantly, it keeps them out of the tip.

While our members may not be great users or disposers, they may be able to save some from their children and grandchildren.

COMPUTER RANDOMLY PLAYS CLASSICAL MUSIC

Do you have mysterious music playing from your computer? If you hear "Fur Elise" or "It's a Small Word" emanating from your CPU, Microsoft Knowledge Base Article: 261186 has the answer –

During normal operation or in Safe mode, your computer may play "Fur Elise" or "It's a Small, Small World" seemingly at random. This is an indication sent to the PC speaker from the computer's BIOS that the CPU fan is failing or has failed, or that the power supply voltages have drifted out of tolerance.

This is a design feature of a detection circuit and system BIOSes developed by Award/Unicore from 1997 on.

Waltz on over to your nearest repair shop and get it fixed. (Henry)

TECHNICAL CLASSES

For any Club member with an interest in the technical aspects of computers - what the insides look like, what the various bits do - and to acquire a general idea of how computers work - the Monday Technical Class would be a good starting point.

After a few weeks of just listening at the hour long "Question and Answer" session - where members discuss not only problems they have encountered but any aspects of computer technology - new members should readily acquire a basic knowledge of computer hardware and terminology.

After the Q&A session and a welcome cup of coffee any member is encouraged to conduct a short presentation, by projector if appropriate, of technical matters of interest in which they may have some expertise, such as maintenance of anti virus and spyware programs, CD and DVD burning, hard disk partitioning, hard disk imaging, etc.

At present the average attendance at the morning class is ten to fifteen members and this makes it easy for "first timers to lose themselves" before gaining the confidence to join in the discussions.

After the lunch break, the more enthusiastic members stay on to attend to general computer maintenance and to carry out any hardware or software changes which may be necessary for the efficient running of the computers. This hands-on experience also enables members to be invited to join the Technical Crew which, each Tuesday afternoon, maintains the computers located in the Queens Road clubrooms.

Classes commence at 10.00am and are held in what we refer to as "The Annexe", adjacent to the Hurstville Council Offices in McMahon Street - on the second floor through the Wandarrah and Kanyana Rooms entrance.

Classes are informal, the members have a common interest in computers, and therefore relate easily to each other.

Is there is a better way to spend a Monday??

Ted Crichton

GENEALOGY

Fourteen members attended our February meeting being the first for the New Year. Firstly, we discussed the necessity of commencing a beginners group in addition to our normal meetings on the second Wednesday of the month; as yet this has not been finalized and will depend on numbers and times available in the Annex. The beginners sessions would start with the basics of tracing your family roots and lead into the use of charts and the PAF5 computer program for documentation of records.

The formal part of our meeting started with an introduction to Irish genealogy and Paper 1/06 was distributed for information. For our March meeting it is planned to have an invited speaker with expertise in Irish research to provide us with guidelines into overcoming many of the difficulties surrounding Irish genealogy.

John Shortland

WEB DESIGN

The Web Design Classes resumed this year with a Beginners Class on the first Wednesday in February. Students were shown a selection of web sites which could provide ideas for what to include in a personal web page. They were then supplied with a copy of FrontPage Express which will be used in future lessons. There are still vacancies in this class so any interested members are welcome to attend the first Wednesday in March in the Annexe.

The Advanced Class meets on the third Wednesday in each month, continuing the topic of Style Sheets which we started last year. Some very impressive sites have been created by these students so far, and even more are anticipated during the coming year.

A clash with the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne will cause the cancellation of the Advanced Class in March, but there will be no interruption to the Beginners Class.

Fred Scott

COMPUTERS HAPPEN

1. When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.
2. When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.
3. The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.
4. When the going gets tough, upgrade.
5. For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.
6. To err is human . . . to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human, it is downright natural.
7. He who laughs last probably made a back-up.
8. If at first you do not succeed, blame your computer.
9. A complex system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.
10. The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.
11. A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want it to do.

(origin not mine - Henry)

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Web Site -   www.hurstvillescc.org.au
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E-Mail - Annexe   hscc2@swiftdsl.com.au

Monthly Meeting   Hurstville Seniors Centre
                                91 Queens Road, Hurstville
        1.30pm, last Wednesday of the month   (except December)

Fees   Joining Fee $20
                Annual Fee $15
                Training Fee $4 per session

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PATRON   **Mervyn Lynch**
PRESIDENT   **Pamela Samuels**
VICE-PRESIDENT   **Frank Grosz**
SECRETARY   **Marie Thompson**
TREASURER   **Geoff Turton**

            TUITION IS IN ONE HOUR SESSIONS
    If you can't attend your booking, please let your Tutor know.

Mondays   **Joyce Pickup**

Tuesdays   **Margaret Butt**

Wednesdays   **Marie Thompson**
            No lessons on meeting day
Thursdays   **Betty Saltmiras**

Fridays   **Shirley Boxhall**

Technical - Advanced and Basic   **Rob Mills**
            Mondays at the Annexe
Digital Imaging Group   **Ian Chesterfield**
            First Tuesday at the Annexe 1.30pm
Genealogy   **John Shortland**
            Second Wednesday at the Annexe
Web Design Group   **Fred Scott**
            First and Third Wednesday 1.30pm
Internet   **Frank Grosz**
            Thursdays at the Annexe
Maintenance Crew - *Queens Rd*   **Frank Grosz**
                                                Ted Barnett

Editor   **Ian Chesterfield**
            imcpvc@aol.com   9529 3420

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. If you change your address, phone number
or e-mail, please inform the Treasurer.

BIRTHDAY BOYS AND GIRLS
For March
Have a great day!!!

John	Mair	1-Mar
Lois	Burns	4-Mar
Vijay	Balachandran	6-Mar
Robin	Bevan	6-Mar
Joseph	Aghazarmian	9-Mar
Graeme	Gavin	13-Mar
Vince	Blayney	16-Mar
Ronald	Cawdell-Smith	17-Mar
Merle	Henry	20-Mar
Philipia	Khabbaz	21-Mar
Gordon	Hosking	22-Mar
Donald	Pickup	24-Mar
Margaret	Pickup	24-Mar
Ken	Smith	26-Mar
Mary	Cusato	27-Mar
Joyce	Pickup	27-Mar
Francis	Brown	28-Mar
Roy	Ellis	29-Mar
Margaret	Barnett	30-Mar
Ted	Barnett	30-Mar
Barbara	Maude	30-Mar
Teresa	Wall	30-Mar

I would like to thank all the contributors to this issue
Henry, Joyce, Ted, John, Fred and any one I missed.
I particularly appreciated the input from special interest groups.
However there are more members in HSCC than go to classes or special interest groups and I would like anyone/everyone to be represented. It's up to you to get the info to me. I can except in any format **except verbal.** I look forward to hearing from you - Ed