

# HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

www.hurstvillesc.org.au

"keeping up with our grandchildren"

## NEWSLETTER

February 2010

Member of ASCCA.

Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs  
Association



Judging from the attendance at our last meeting and the positive responses from those attending I believe that this augers very well for the immediate future for our Club. Moreover, our members look so radiant and healthy!

Many of our Group Leaders are devising new and improved topics for this year. Needless to say the computer world is advancing with headspinning speed and we have to keep up. Amongst other innovations, we need to give serious thought to the effective introduction of Windows 7 which is reported to be a vast improvement on Windows XP and Vista and will make using your computer more enjoyable.

Our technical and maintenance teams are installing new hard drives with Windows 7 operating systems on our teaching computers. Moreover our Tutors, many of whom have been with us for over ten years, are doing a great job familiarizing themselves with Windows 7.

 As students we can show our appreciation by regularly turning up to lessons, doing our assignments and informing tutors of any planned absences from sessions.

If you're like most PC users, you probably got Windows 7 with a new PC or laptop and, if you're like 99% of the population, you got your new machines from one of the major manufacturers. Dell, Acer, HP, Toshiba, Lenovo. These suppliers all have one thing in common: they don't give you a real Windows 7 installation disc with your purchase. Instead, they bundle what they call a "recovery disc".

Anyone who recently acquired a new computer with Windows 7 installed should insist on receiving a recovery disk and should keep it in a safe place in case things go wrong.

It doesn't matter that you just paid a thousand dollars for a machine that comes with a valid Windows 7 license - your computer manufacturer just doesn't want to spend the

money (or perhaps take on the responsibility) of giving you a Windows 7 installation DVD to accompany your expensive purchase. So I repeat - TALK to your sales person.

*Thanks Henri*

### REPORT ON LAST MEETING

The DIGITAL IMAGING team of **Geoff Turton** (our past ASCCA Digital Photography winner) and **Barry Porter** kept us absorbed at the meeting until the very end.



Geoff demonstrated the various technical features and uses of the digital camera and especially the transfer of images from your digital camera to your computer where you can easily carry out all the basic photo improvements using

such free software as the popular Picasa, Irfanview and a few others which may be easily downloaded.

**Barry Porter**, our ASCCA Prizewinner in 2009, showed some interesting heritage photographic equipment and told us of his experiences and travels with these old bulky cameras. Fond memories of those Kodak Brownies.



Doesn't that take one back to the days before Digital!

Barry showed slides of many of his absolutely superb photographs and described how they were done. Some very good advice.

Barry's winning entry, a female Koel (which can be seen in much better detail on the club web site).

## **NEXT MEETING**

Our Guest Speaker for February will be the popular and experienced teacher of all things relating to computers, **Bill McCully**.

**Bil McCully** has a wealth of experience in teaching computers to beginners. Bill is very aware of the pitfalls that can trap and discourage students because of lack of familiarity with their computers. His experience is particularly valuable in clearly explaining the correct paths to follow and how to avoid the little traps that can confuse beginners.

Bill will be accompanied by Phil Hazell of Humanware.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

All members of our club are automatically members of ASCCA, which is the national peak body for computing clubs for Seniors and has negotiated many special deals for us.

ASCCA is often consulted by government agencies about computer advice for Seniors.

You are encouraged to participate in ASCCA activities, including meetings in Sydney as well as workshops and conferences. These events are either free or available at a very reasonable cost. They provide a good opportunity to meet members of other computer clubs.

It's easy to keep up-to-date with ASCCA events and news by visiting the ASCCA website where you will discover many interesting things.

[www.ascca.org.au](http://www.ascca.org.au)

## **SENIORS WEEK**

Hurstville Seniors Week is here again! The programme of events commences on Monday 16th March so watch out for brochures giving detailed information.

Hopefully you will participate and enjoy at least some of the many and varied activities planned for you in the Hurstville area, which will include Information Sessions, computer related Library events such as Using your Mobile Phone, seminars on subjects such as barbecues, bush walks, Share your Memories, multicultural events, Good Time, Line Dancing and other events too numerous to mention here. There is something for everyone and we would like our members to participate and enjoy.

Our Club will have an OPEN HOUSE for the Senior community to drop in and see how we provide facilities for them to acquire, and enjoy, some basic computer skills.

## **ALL-IN-ONE PRINTERS: ARE THEY ANY GOOD?**

Gone are the days when there were different devices for home or office work. It was a headache to use a scanner for scanning things, a separate printer for printing work, a photocopier for making photocopies of original documents, and a fax machine for sending and receiving faxes. It was desirable to get rid of that rat's nest of wires and to manage all things efficiently. Multi function printers evolved as an answer to this need.

A multi function printer can be defined as an office machine having the functionality of many devices within one framework. It is a single device which caters for all needs of printing, scanning, faxing, and copying. Since multi function printers were invented there has been praise as well as criticism of them.

All-in-one printers (also called multi function printers, MFPs or multi function devices) are eminently suited for the home office or photo enthusiast and can be bought for anything from about \$50 to near \$550, some with cashback. But be careful with cashbacks, as some purchasers have had some unpleasant experiences with this type of incentive. Ask many questions of your salesperson.

When purchasing a multi-function printer you need to ask questions regarding print quality and speed, copy performance, scanning performance, ease of use, versatility and energy use.

### **Advantages of multifunction printers**

- Multi function printers occupy less space when compared with space occupied by individual devices. At home, or in small offices, you don't have much space to put individual components. Thus, multi function printers are sometimes the only option.
- These printers superbly cater to the needs of home computer users
- They provide centralized document management.
- Multi function printers minimize the number of power plug-ins required. The reason for this being the number of wires reduces drastically in case of multifunction printers which saves power and hence proves cost-effective. While in the case of individual devices, you need a separate power socket for each device.
- They are cheaper when compared with the total prices of the individual components they encompass.

### Disadvantages of multifunction printers

- Multi function printers lack the efficiency and the quality which individual devices can provide. The main reason for this is, as everything is packed into one framework, quality and efficiency has to be sacrificed.
- Multi function printers are perfectly suitable for the home but they cannot deliver top quality printing.
- They lack robustness. If a fault develops in a multi function printer you have no idea where it has occurred. Moreover, all the functions cease. So until the problem is resolved, you can't do any printing, scanning, copying, or faxing.
- At roughly \$20 per teaspoon inkjet ink costs more than all but the most expensive champagne. Obviously, you want to get a printer that uses as little ink as possible, but does this mean spending more money on the printer itself? It is important therefore to also check the price of ink before you go out and buy a multi-function device.

### WHY ARE WE PAYING MORE?

Nowadays manufacturers attach a chip to inkjet printer cartridges which increases the cost. These sets of ink cartridges are expensive and I have friends who buy a new printer when the original ink runs out! Manufacturers attach the chip to stop legal parallel importation (also known as grey importation).

Another effect of the addition of a chip is that third party ink manufacturers have a much harder job competing. The brand manufacturers own the patents for the chips which means third party manufacturers can't legally copy them.

The result? Consumers pay more.

There's no reason Australians should pay more than anyone else for the same product. Unfortunately, this isn't a sentiment printer manufacturers share. *(Henri)*

### KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

You can save yourself a lot of "mousework" by using different combinations of keys on your keyboard:

Alt+F4 gets rid of an existing Window. This sure beats reaching for that evasive **little red X** in the top right corner!

Ctrl+S for save

Windows key + M = minimize

Windows key + D brings up your desktop

Ctrl+Escape for Start Menu

Do a search on the Internet for more shortcuts to save you time and effort.

### COMPUTER TIDBITS

When you're working on your computer you sometimes need help. When that happens, and there's absolutely no one else around, go to Start and then click on the Help and Support option.

The Help and Support Centre provides a place for you to ask questions about help topics, tutorials, troubleshooting and other general support issues.

The best thing of all is that it's right there on your computer, so you don't have to waste time on the phone trying to get through to your provider.

### AUSLAN

A new multimedia tool to help hearing parents communicate with their deaf children has been launched.

Auslan is the language of the Australian deaf community. It is a complex, visual language which uses signs, facial expressions, and space to convey meaning.

The RIDBC Auslan tutor is not just for parents, but anyone who has regular contact with someone who is deaf. Call (02) 9871-1233 or go to [www.ridbc.org.au](http://www.ridbc.org.au).

### BEWARE OF THOSE INTERNET BURGLARS

National e-Security Awareness Week is celebrated in June, but I suggest you observe e-security every week of the year.

Have an anti-virus program installed on your computer.

You can get a good program for a modest fee or select a free one. Installing the program is only the first step as it is essential for you to update the program at very regular intervals.

New nasties are being created all the time and the producer of your ant-virus program is working hard to develop safeguards to keep your computer safe from those new threats.

You can only take advantage of those safeguards if you regularly update.

Go to [www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au) for more information about staying smart when online.

While visiting that site, why not register for your free subscription to the Stay Smart Online Alert Service



The Hurstville Seniors Computer Club was formed in April, 1998 to teach Seniors to use computers. Clubrooms are in premises provided by the Hurstville Council in the Hurstville Seniors Centre, and in an Annexe in the MacMahon St. building. Tuition is held during week days in an informal atmosphere - cost being a minimum. We are an entirely voluntary organisation, the aim being to help fellow Seniors.

Correspondence Hurstville Seniors Computer Club Inc.  
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Web Site - [www.hurstvillescc.org.au](http://www.hurstvillescc.org.au)  
E-Mail - [admin@hurstvillescc.org.au](mailto:admin@hurstvillescc.org.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 OAM  
**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** Ted Crichton  
*Mondays at the Annexe*  
**Digital Imaging Group** Ian Chesterfield  
*First Tuesday in the Clubroom 1.30pm*  
**Genealogy** John Shortland  
*Second Wednesday at the Annexe 1.30pm*  
**Web Design Group** Fred Scott  
*First and Third Wednesday 1.30pm*  
**Internet** Frank Grosz  
*Thursdays at the Annexe*  
**Video Editing Group** Bill Baker  
*Friday Annexe 9 - 10.30, 11 - 12.30*  
**Maintenance Crew - Queens Rd** Frank Grosz  
Ted Barnett  
**Newsletter Editor** Ian Chesterfield  
[editor@hurstvillescc.org.au](mailto:editor@hurstvillescc.org.au) 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!!**

Elaine	Earle	1-Mar
Peter	Miners	2-Mar
Lois	Burns	4-Mar
Robert	Green	4-Mar
Robin	Bevan	6-Mar
Rhonda	Host	6-Mar
Suzie	Lum	7-Mar
Ilma	Bishop	9-Mar
Allan	Gault	11-Mar
Graeme	Gavin	13-Mar
John	Kneipp	13-Mar
Judy	Carr	14-Mar
Dorothy	Mammatt	14-Mar
Vince	Blayney	16-Mar
Donald	Pickup	24-Mar
Margaret	Pickup	24-Mar
Joyce	Pickup	27-Mar
Francis	Brown	28-Mar
Ted	Barnett	30-Mar
Teresa	Wall	30-Mar

**Be nice to your children.**  
they will choose your nursing home.  
[www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm](http://www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm)

For printing our monthly newsletters,  
we thank:

OWEN HODGE  
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