

HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

www.hurstvillesc.org.au

"keeping up with our grandchildren"

NEWSLETTER

July 2010

Member of ASCCA.

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs
Association



IMPORTANT

We are preparing for the **August Annual General Meeting** which is the election time for our Office bearers.

Nomination forms must be lodged with the Secretary by this July meeting. You are of course free to nominate any paid up member of the Club. New blood is always essential for a healthy organization to grow, develop and innovate. We understand that after more than ten years things tend to stagnate and further development slows down quite substantially. We are glad to announce that, due to the hard and selfless work by the existing committee, our members have retained that vitality and enthusiasm for the life of this Club and we salute and thank them all. The future bodes well for our Club.

FROM THE TREASURER

- *Your Annual \$15.00 membership fees are now due.*
- *Payments can be made at the Club by cash, cheque or money order.*
- *OR by cheque or money order mailed to: The Treasurer, Hurstville Seniors Computer Club Inc, P.O. Box 173, Hurstville BC 1481*

As at 30 June 2010 the Club had 320 members.

A FINAL MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

With petrol and food rates and other essentials going up in price, where can you get so much fun, learning and friendly instruction for only **FOUR DOLLARS** a session and annual membership fee of **ONLY FIFTEEN DOLLARS**?

While you are renewing your subscription please inform the Treasurer of any new or changed email address. Surely you don't wish to miss out on your monthly newsletter. Yes, while fewer snail mail PRINTED monthly newsletters are returned and fewer emails are bounced, please help us save a few trees by providing your correct email addresses. We are aware that many members change ISP's during the year and a number of emailed newsletters are returned each month endorsed "User Unknown".

CONGRATULATIONS

The sun is trying to come out and it is not so cold today.

Henri provides much of the information for the newsletter and I was about to thank him for his hard work when I thought of all the other committee members, group leaders, tutors, maintenance team, etc and just want to say how much I appreciate each and every one of you and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you all for your generous support on so many occasions.

You are an excellent team.

President Pamela.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest Speakers next meeting will be **JOHN GEREMIN**, John Webster and John Deane of the **AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER MUSEUM SOCIETY** who will present an interactive talk involving members as well as a history of computers.

The Society has collected computer "dinosaurs" since the birth of computers as we know them.

The Society has kept mechanical computers from the 1920s and calculators from even earlier times. The relics include punch card machines, pieces of SILLIAC -- one of Australia's first computers belonging to the University of Sydney -- and personal computers that date from before the time IBM was a player in the industry.

The collection is unique worldwide, according to Deane. In other countries, old systems have been destroyed to protect industrial secrets. However, in Australia, this hasn't been the case. Deane said: "A few crazies saved them."

This means the Society has been able to provide copies of technical information for American and British computer history museums.

www.acms.org.au

Our July Ten minute Speaker will demonstrate some more interesting and useful websites.

GUEST SPEAKERS LAST MONTH

ANOOP MEHTA, our Guest Speaker and Microsoft representative, gave a no nonsense demonstration of the advantages and efficiencies of the new Office 2010.

Mr Mehta presented the Club with copies of the programme for tutor familiarisation.



You may purchase a copy from OfficeWorks, Harvey Norman or any computer store for about \$170. You can also try-before-you-buy by downloading a trial version copy from the

Microsoft downloads.

As with Office 2007 the new version is easy to get used to, but practice is still important to become familiar with the many useful facilities. Your Tutor will introduce you to the programme and give you a few lessons. In addition the new version has some useful components such as copying and saving documents on the "CLOUD".

With Microsoft Office 2010, you can directly upload documents to your Windows Live [SkyDrive account](#) and access them from any other computer. SkyDrive provides 25 GB of free online storage and, since the service is [integrated with Office Web Apps](#), you can view and edit these documents anywhere in the web browser without requiring Microsoft Office (even on a Mac).

Over the years our tutors have recommended the free AVG anti-virus programme as an efficient and safe tool to keep your computer secure from all the gremlins out there.

[Microsoft Security Essentials](#) too, is a winner and pretty effective tool, protecting you from all the nasties. It is free. Under a clean and uncluttered interface, Security Essentials wraps antivirus and anti spyware engines, rootkit protection, and real-time detection. You can download the software from most free download sites including Microsoft's own website.

FRANK GROSZ, in the Ten Minute Speaker slot, showed us some interesting websites for downloading music. How to download music is one of the most popular requests by students.



One of the more popular sites called **HELP** can be found at <http://mp3.about.com/>

ASCCA COMPETITIONS

THE DIGITAL IMAGING GROUP is again getting ready to enter the 2010 ASCCA digital photograph competition.

We have been the champion club for three of the last four years and have enjoyed much success with wins and places in many categories. We look forward to more success in 2010.

All entries need to be with Ian Chesterfield at our August DIGs meeting, Tuesday 3rd August, 1:30 pm at Queens Road.

12TH ASCCA CONFERENCE

The Annual ASCCA conference will be held at the Powerhouse Museum on **Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th September 2010.**

If you are wondering if there will be something of interest for you at the ASCCA Conference, wonder no more!

Go to the ASCCA website where you will find out why you should not miss this wonderful opportunity. Each day will begin with an exciting and varied morning program of presentations and forums. After lunch (which is provided) you have a choice of technical training or just enjoyable learning based break-out sessions, then finish back in the auditorium with a topic of interest to everyone. The only problem you will have will be choosing which of the concurrent afternoon sessions to attend.

Details are now available at

www.ascca.org.au/conference

WORTH THINKING ABOUT

Did you know that Finland has become the first country in the world to make fast broadband a legally enforceable human right.

From 1st July every Finn has the right to have access to 1 megabit per second through their broadband internet connection.

The new law requires all telecommunications companies to provide all 5.3 million residents with that capacity.

In Australia, the universal service obligation provided by Telstra entitles Australian households to 64 kilobits per second, which is 16 times slower than the speed for which Finland has legislated.

The Finnish Government has committed to connecting everyone to 100 megabits by 2015. at speeds many times that of Australia.

IDENTITY THEFT

Galaxy, a research and survey company, recently released figures showing the incidence of identity theft in Australia is increasing, with 4.4 million Australians (26%) affected by identity theft, compared to 3.8 million (23%) for the same period last year.

Galaxy Research also found that, despite increasing attacks of identity theft, 67% of Australians have failed to take even simple measures to protect their identity.

The cost of identity theft to Australians is reported to be \$3.5 billion annually according to the NSW Crimes Commission. "Many Australians could have had their identities used for money laundering, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and even terrorism. Yet, despite these rising statistics, the majority of Australians haven't taken any action to protect themselves."

Protecting your identity can be as simple as placing an alert system on your credit file, or calling a hotline which will cancel your credit cards for you. Both these steps should now be a routine measure for all credit-active adult Australians.

Here are some strategies to protect you against identity theft and other identity crimes.

- Remember to notify institutions when you move house, shred important documents from your mail and put in place a secure mail box. If you are going away, have mail held at the post office.
- Check your bank accounts each month or check them online and look into any abnormal account activities.
- Hide passwords and information such as birth dates and phone numbers when using an open online environment and elect the 'private' option on social networking sites.

- Track changes to your credit file. A low-cost solution is to set up an e-Alert service which notifies you to any changes on your credit file that may imply someone is applying for credit in your name.
- Shred any paperwork with personal information or account details, including bank and credit card statements, phone, and gas/electricity.
- Use secure transactions. If using a shared computer, regularly update security software, and don't open any attachments from an unreliable source.
- Inform your credit providers immediately if you find any suspicious activity in your financial accounts.

PANORAMA

Bought a new camera. It is a Sony Cyber shot DSC-W370 which can produce panoramic photos straight out of the camera, with no stitching. The photos can then be resized and jpg optimised to make them small enough to send by email. We are going on a tour of the Kimberley area in August and decided to get it for then.

You just focus preferably on the middle of the sweep and pan from left to right with the button held down and, hey presto, there it is.

The photos are 4912 x 1080 pixels, which is 51.167 X 11.250 inches. One photo called Henri (not shown) has been resized by 50% then jpg optimised down to size 73.5 . On screen you can not see any difference in quality.

I discovered you must pan from left to right. There is a big learning curve and a bit of "READ THE BOOK", but overall I am very happy with it.

See picture below.

Thanks Joyce



