

# HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

www.hurstvillescc.org.au

"keeping up with our grandchildren"

## NEWSLETTER

September 2010

Member of ASCCA.

Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs  
Association



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB INC. HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2010.**



We are now entering our 13<sup>th</sup> year and it is amazing to see how much members have learned in those thirteen years and also how technology has progressed.

I am sure that you will agree the computer has become a necessity and a great means of entertainment; a single magical box, which has almost every available communication at your finger tips. Access to information on any subject is now in the reach of the average person, due to the popularity and the user friendly nature of the internet.

Firstly, I would like to thank Merv Lynch, our Patron for being here today to conduct the election. Thank you Merv for always being available for us and for your support, concern and interest for this club.

We again participated in Seniors Week, which is organized by Hurstville City Council with the assistance of a small planning committee. We were available for seniors to drop in and see our facilities and to acquire and enjoy some basic computer skills. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Hurstville City Council for their support, interest and co-operation for our group. Also to Owen Hodge, Lawyers, for their assistance and the printing of our newsletter at no cost to the club.

Thanks also to ASCCA, our parent body, and of course Step One Technology who also deserve our thanks for their assistance during the year.

We were once again very successful in the ASCCA Digital Photography Competition. Winners were announced at the ASCCA Annual General Meeting, which was held in Sydney on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. According to ASCCA the most exciting outcome was that the winners represented each state in Australia. We

again achieved great results in this competition. Our photographers excelled with two first prizes going to Barry Porter and Dorothy Anderson. Congratulations to Barry Porter being named ASCCA Photographer of the Year.

We lost our title as the Digital Photography Club of the Year but still came in second to Epping which is still an achievement.

Members excelled with their Photo Story entries, Margaret Barnett taking third place in the Travel Section and Geoff Turton a second and Robin Ireland third in the Special Entry Section, and in the General Section Marilyn Richardson taking second place. Thank you to all who entered the competitions and congratulations to the winners.

The club sponsored five members of our club to attend the ASCCA Annual Conference in 2009. ASCCA is the recognised peak body for seniors and technology and is now represented in every state and territory of Australia.

At the time of preparing this report there were approximately 200 members currently financial to June 2010 and 5 new members who have joined since July. We currently have 10 on our waiting list.

Again the highlight of our Christmas Afternoon Tea Party 2009 was the raffle for a laptop computer donated by our club supplier and good friend, Mr. Sunny Liang, of Step One Technology. The well deserved winner was Frank Grosz. A big thank you to Sunny.

Guest Speakers who have attended our meetings have all been exceptionally interesting, and our members who have made presentations have been more than exceptional, imparting their knowledge to us.

Special Interest Groups are doing well. If you are interested in joining one of the groups please make enquiries to the leader of these groups. Thank you to group leaders who lead these classes - Fred Scott, John Shortland, Frank Grosz, Bill Baker, Ted Crichton and Ian Chesterfield. Thank you to all who assist at these special groups.

Many thanks to Fred Scott and his team for the development and maintenance of our exceptional web page and special thanks also to Ian Chesterfield and his team who assist in preparing the excellent newsletter and making sure it is always out on time. Also special thanks to those who contribute information for the newsletter and to the many helpers right down to the folding, stamping and mailing and also emailing of the newsletter.

Maintaining computers and peripherals is an arduous and time consuming task for our maintenance teams headed by Frank at Queens and Graeme and Ted at the Annexe. May I say how much we appreciate your sacrificing an extraordinary amount of personal time and effort in carrying out this work.

Our tutors continue to keep up with the rapid changes of the computer industry, while maintaining their skills with older machines so endeavouring to ensure that members with older machines are not left behind. May I say on behalf of the many pupils, thank you to the tutors for your time, your patience, and your support for a job well done. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the many volunteers who helped with the continued success of the club. Graeme Gavin for auditing the books and taking on financial duties whilst Geoff is away, Henri Joubert has done an excellent job in finding speakers for our monthly meetings. Marie a great job co-ordinating the lessons. Geoff an excellent job with the finances and other cheerful volunteers helping with the welcoming, putting out and stacking the chairs, folding and posting the newsletter, emailing the newsletter, ordering and looking after our stationery stock, preparing end of year certificates for our volunteers, putting out the sign for the speaker, setting up the projector, computers, etc for our monthly meetings, making curtains for the concertina room, fixing locks and doors, afternoon teas, etc. A big thank you to all involved and my sincere apologies if I have forgotten anyone.

My appreciation is extended to the outgoing committee who have done an excellent job and who have supported me throughout the year. I am sure the club will be in safe hands during 2010/2011 and I wish the new Committee and Executive Officers the very best for the forthcoming year.

Pamela Samuels

## NEXT MEETING

Spring is here after a long and freezing winter, and it is hoped the warmer weather will inspire our members, committee and tutors to renewed activities and enterprises. This is also the month of the Combined Meeting. Our meeting of combined Committee, Tutors and Head Tutors, and not least Leaders of the Special Interest Groups, will commence at 10.30 am. These combined meetings are vital for the development and growth of our organization. Amongst the many things we need to discuss are the progress and future growth of our club and, essentially, the nature of computers, the rapid growth and changes that are essential elements of computers in general and which are crucial for both teachers and senior learners. Think of the fact that Microsoft is already talking about Windows 8 and Office 2010 is already with us. A light lunch will be served.

We need to catch up really fast to provide real benefits to our members and to remain always relevant.



The popular Kel

Our usual meeting will commence at 1.30pm with interesting and essential computer related talks. Please make your best effort to attend our monthly meetings. Your attendance is equally essential for the effective operation of our Club.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

**Matt McCarthy**, of the Intelligence and Fraud services of the NSW Police, will be our September Speaker. He will give preventative advice on how to minimise the risk of becoming victims of fraud and general computer scams. This is close to the heart of computer users, given the fact that billions of dollars are lost to Australians alone through computer fraud and identity theft. This topic has been canvassed extensively in earlier newsletters.

**Fred Scott**, our Webmaster (have you accessed our NEW website?) will demonstrate some interesting and useful computer utilities. Fred has been using these small programmes for some time as useful aids to make computing more efficient and fun!



## CAN YOU HELP?

Examination of the President's Address as well as the Treasurer's Report (Geoff Turton is on a well deserved holiday in Canada) reveals a healthy, innovative and progressive Seniors Computer Club and a club of which our members should be rightly proud.



The Technical Group

The success of our club is reflected in the continuing waiting list for regular tuition. On the other hand two of our Special Interest Groups, the Internet and Video Editing classes, are appealing for new members or else they will cease to operate. Conversely, the Digital Photography, Technical, Genealogy and Web Design groups have to virtually turn away prospective members because of their popularity.

*As a cost saving measure, delivery of the Newsletter by post will be discontinued. Delivery by e-mail will continue as well as on the Web Page. Hard copies of the monthly newsletter will be available at classes and at monthly meetings.*

*Postal delivery will cease at the end of this year.*

## DIGITAL TV

Some two years ago Minister Conroy promised low income households and pensioners would be given a free set-top box to permit analog TVs to receive a digital signal as the Federal Government gears up for the biggest changeover since the introduction of decimal currency.

Who qualifies?

To help you make the switch to digital, Centrelink customers may be eligible for the Australian Government's Household Assistance Scheme. The scheme includes a free high definition set top box and installation. You may

be eligible for the scheme if you or someone in your household is receiving the maximum rate of one of the following payments, and you do not already have access to digital TV.

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)
- DVA Income Support Supplement.

This will be done region by region and has in fact already been rolled out in some country areas.

## TERRIBLE TOOLBARS

I have noticed some weird and intrusive toolbars on our classroom computers, particularly on web browsers such as Internet Explorer. They are often unnecessary and confusing and can take up a lot of screen space. They could also be regarded as spyware.

When installing programmes, there is often a checkbox on one of the installation screens that is pre-selected to also install one or other toolbar. Be sure to uncheck these boxes unless you really want these toolbars.

**Stay away from additional toolbars if you want to protect your computer from a spyware infection.** Some of the lesser known toolbars are actually data-mining programs that send your traffic information back to their creators, which is then sold to marketing strategy firms to help them form a better ad campaign. If you're sick of being targeted by this kind of spyware, don't install such programs.

To uninstall add-on toolbars from Internet Explorer, first exit all Internet Explorer windows. Next, from the Start menu, select the Control Panel command. In the Control Panel window, select the Add or Remove Programs link. Next, scroll through the currently installed programs list, select the toolbar you want to uninstall, and select the Change/Remove or Remove button, whichever one is available. After the uninstall process is complete, restart Internet Explorer to verify that the uninstall was successful.

Thanks Henri

*He had a photographic memory that was never developed.  
A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.*

