

HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

www.hurstvillescc.org.au

"keeping up with our grandchildren"

NEWSLETTER

April 2011

Member of ASCCA.

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs
Association



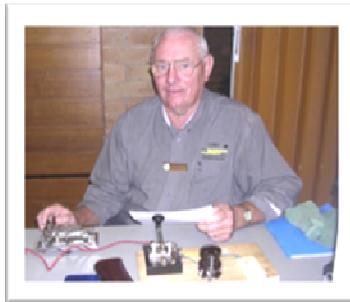
MARCH MEETING



For those who missed our last meeting, I have to say what a superb experience it was to listen to and to watch Les Edwards and Ken Black of the Sydney Morsecodians' Fraternity

address our monthly meeting on the topic of the historical building of the Telegraph line from Port Augusta to Darwin. The Sydney Morsecodians' Fraternity, two of whom are members of our Computer Club, are certainly keeping alive a part of our culture and history.

Ken Black
(above)
and
Les Edwards



APRIL MEETING

This month, Maurice Moroney will demonstrate How to BUY and SELL on EBAY

Our Guest Speaker for this meeting will be Mr Peter McBride of McBride Harle and Martin of Hurstville. Mr McBride also represents the Law Society of New South Wales.

The topic "Older People and the Law" will cover a variety of issues relating to Senior Citizens

We appeal for more members to attend our Monthly meetings. It was pleasing to note that many members who do not take regular lessons still faithfully attend our monthly meetings. Good for them. Our Club truly appreciates their ongoing interest and active involvement in our activities..

COMPUTER MAINTENANCE

Do you know how much hard work is involved in under the bonnet maintenance of our computers?

We thank Frank Grosz and his efficient and cohesive team. They are doing the hard yards, putting in many hours weekly to keep our computers in top form. Say a big **THANK YOU** to The Maintenance team: Ted Barnett, Elsie Elliott, Irene Ramsay, Marie Thompson, Harry Vesely and, of course, the ever reliable Geoff Turton.

From time to time, when such a large number of students use our computers, things are bound to go wrong.

When Tutors report a problem to the team BE VERY SPECIFIC as to the nature of the "fault" then send an EMAIL TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE TEAM. In your description of the fault include the number of the computer, the operating system and a description of the fault.

SCREENSAVERS

Screensavers do retain their appeal and charm for many of our members and for obvious reasons, they are pretty, they are cute, they cheer up the place, but they are no longer necessary for the newer computer monitors. By all means have your screensavers on your home computers but not on the Club's computers as they serve no serious purpose. Screensavers can be pretty invasive as adware, malware, viruses, spyware and placing all sorts of toolbars on your computer.

Screensavers also consume processor time on a computer, possibly causing normal operations to slow or freeze. This system slowdown may occur on screensaver programs included in operating systems,

Have a look at the HELP site EHOW

<http://www.ehow.com/>

While you are on the Internet, have a look at the many "HELP" sites where you will find plenty of excellent self-help articles.

<http://www.selfhelpcollective.com/>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Main-Page>

<http://www.howtoaustralia.com.au/>

<http://www.answersthatwork.com/>

<http://www.pbcomp.com.au/>

I find, however, briefly describe your problem in Google search and you are sure to get numerous responses. It might even save you a few dollars.

For example simply key into Google, in quotes, "my computer freezes".

HARD DRIVES

You may recall that in February we described the work of RAM (Random Access Memory) in your computer and that we recommended that generally you increase RAM to improve computer performance. Indeed quite a few members have done exactly this since that article.

The hard drive is the hardest-working part of your computer, whether you own a desktop or laptop. The hard drive is also the part most vulnerable, getting worse over time and to even total breakdown, because it contains moving parts. So it is important to perform regular "tune ups" such as Checkdisk and defragmentation which can easily be done through your operating system. You do not need additional software. To keep your hard drive in top shape and extend its life, here are some hard drive maintenance tips.

Start by providing a safe environment for your hard drive. Heat is the enemy of electronic components, and most computer cooling fans are aimed at CPU chips, not hard drives. If your desktop computer case is kept under a desk behind a closed door, make sure there are some holes in the top and bottom of the enclosure's back wall to provide adequate cooling air circulation. Do not block the vents on the computer case. Every few months, open the case and blow out dust with a vacuum cleaner hose or a disposable can of compressed air.



Temperature monitoring software such as SpeedFan monitors temperature sensors built into hard drives (and other components) to warn you if the drive is getting too hot.

Vibrations can affect the alignment of a hard drive's delicate read/write head, causing errors and shortening the mechanism's life. Avoid placing your computer near dishwashers, photocopiers, stereo speakers and other sources of vibration. Don't move a desktop computer while its hard drive is spinning.

The less a hard drive's read/write head must move, the faster it will work and the longer it will last. Keep the data on the hard drive optimally organized by running **defragmentation** software regularly.

Windows' built-in defragmentation program is free and convenient, but it does not do as good a job as third-party defraggers.

Bad disk sectors to which data cannot be written can be on even a brand-new hard drive. Bad sectors crop up eventually on every drive. The read/write head tries several times to use a bad sector before giving up, putting extra stress on the head mechanism and slowing disk operations.

Every few months you should **scan your hard drive for bad sectors**; the Windows scan will block out bad sectors so no futile attempt will be made to use them.

To run the scan, **click Start / Click Computer / Right-click the drive icon / Click Properties / Select Tools tab / Press "Check now" button.**

Ample free space on a hard drive lets data be written in continuous blocks, minimizing fragmentation.

One part of hard drive maintenance is cleaning up clutter: old data and applications you no longer need; temporary files created by software installation packages; and anything rarely used that never changes, such as image, audio, and video files. These files can be stored on a flash drive or DVD until they are needed. Latest hard drives are generally very reliable but they are made up of many components and are therefore liable to fail.

When this happens you will most certainly lose all your data, documents, photos music etc. Hard drive maintenance is vital to your hard drive's health and longevity. Fortunately, maintenance routines can mostly be done while you use the drive for other things, or scheduled to run unattended in the middle of the night. The benefits of regular hard drive maintenance are well worth the effort.

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS WEEK

The week will be held from 30 May to 3 June 2011. A number of cyber security events and activities will be held across Australia during the week to educate Australians about safe online behaviors.



"Australians are increasingly relying on the Internet in their everyday lives, from banking and shopping to accessing news and keeping in touch with friends and family," Senator Conroy said.

"It is important Australians are able to use the Internet

in a secure and confident manner. The Awareness Week aims to educate and empower people with the information, confidence and practical tools they need to protect themselves online."

:
Install security software and update it regularly.
Turn on automatic updates so that all your software receives the latest fixes.

Get a stronger password and change it at least twice a year.

Stop and think before you click on links or attachments.

Stop and think before you share any personal or financial information about yourself, your friends or family.

Know what your children are doing online. Make sure they know how to stay safe and encourage them to report anything suspicious.

The "*Protecting Yourself Online – What Everyone Needs to Know*" booklet is a comprehensive collection of cyber security and safety information and provides advice on the basic steps Australians need to take to stay secure online. This booklet is readily available

"It also contains valuable advice for consumers on how they can secure their computer, be smart with their online finances and identities, and keep themselves and their family safe online."

Raise your cyber security awareness

To learn about cyber security - you can start protecting yourself online right now.

The "Stay Smart Online Alert Service" is a free subscription service that provides easy-to-understand cyber security information. It delivers

the most up-to-date expert cyber security advice straight to your email address—absolutely free. Sign up at www.ssoalertservice.net.au now to better protect yourself online.

SUNNY LIANG of STEP ONE TECHNOLOGY

is offering a couple of excellent deals exclusively for members of the Club



All computer packages purchased by Hurstville Seniors Computer Club members will include one of these two offers:

FREE 1 hour onsite installation OR...

\$60 discount off the listed price.

Flyers detailing these excellent deals will be available at the Meeting.

TELEPHONE COMPLAINTS HEARD

If you're one of the many people who have a grievance with your telephone or Internet service provider that seems beyond resolution, then maybe the Telecommunication Industry Ombudsman (TIO) can help.

First Rule is - Talk to your provider and don't lose your cool !

For the year 2007/08, the TIO have seen an increase of 41% in the number of people who have contacted them with a complaint against the telecom industry. The number of complaints received regarding mobile services increased by 58% and a whopping 122% increase in complaints regarding premium mobile services was recorded.

Complaints can be made to the TIO online, or by phone, fax, email, in writing, by TTY or in person and the TIO aims to settle disputes quickly in a fair and objective manner.

SEVERAL seniors have reported receiving phone calls from people purporting to be computer technicians from Microsoft.

The caller uses a good hook, such as "Your computer has been reported as sending a lot of spam emails," or "It's been reported you are having problems with your computer."

In reality, there is nothing wrong with your computer. The scammer is trying to trick you into believing there is a problem and that paying the fee is the best way to get it fixed.

Often they will push you to buy a one year computer maintenance subscription. Don't be fooled. Simply hang up if you receive a call of this nature and do not respond to any communications from these scammers.

THE CLUB

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The Hurstville Seniors Computer Club was formed in April 1998 to teach Seniors how 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.
PO Box 173, HURSTVILLE BC1481

Telephone - Clubroom, 91 Queens Rd 9585 9184
 Telephone - Annexe, 14 MacMahon St 9580 5233
 Telephone - Senior Citizens Hall 9570 3297
 Web Site www.hurstvillescc.org.au
 E-Mail 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

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
	<i>No lessons on meeting day</i>
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**
Thursday Annexe 10 - 11, 11.15 - 12.15

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 **9522 4658**

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



BIRTHDAY BOYS AND GIRLS For May - Have a great day!

Alan	Sullivan	1-May
Fay	Hanley	4-May
Eileen	Powers	4-May
Beryl	Leverington	6-May
Mary	Blount	7-May
Soula	Meintanis	7-May
Marlene	Featherstone	9-May
Noel	Heffernan	11-May
Dawn	Lee	17-May
Julie	Tsiliris	18-May
Pamela	Donnet	19-May
Robert	Wilson	20-May
John	Canute	21-May
Robin	Ireland	21-May
Lynne	Parker	21-May
Jean	McCormick	22-May
Pamela	Reid	22-May
Lilly	O'Brien	23-May
Merv	Lynch OAM	27-May
Fred	Scott	28-May
John	Shortland	29-May

*Hurstville Seniors Computer Club
Uses the services of Sunny Liang at:*



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 Phone: (02) 9580 5750
www.steponet.com.au

*For printing our monthly newsletters,
we thank:*



Phone: (02) 9570 7844
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