

HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

www.hurstvillescc.org.au

“keeping up with our grandchildren”

NEWSLETTER

August 2011

Member of ASCCA.

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs
Association



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This month's members' meeting is our Annual General Meeting. Please be there.

This is an important meeting in which Committee members and other Office Bearers are elected and at which important decisions are made. We need as many members as possible to attend and participate in the decision making of our Club.

Our existing committee has, over the years, been very successful in many aspects of its growth and development, contributing in a major way to the spirit and philosophy of helping the community in a very specific sector of community activity.

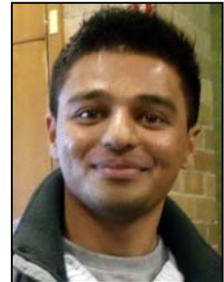
This has become a real need for our Seniors. Needless to say, success and service does not just happen. A lot of hard work is done by keen and enthusiastic and committed volunteers, many of whom have been with our organization since its inception.



The Returning Officer for this meeting will be our Patron, Mr Mervyn Lynch OM, a long-standing member and active supporter of our Club.

JULY MEETING

We thank **Anoop Mehta** from Microsoft for an interesting, useful and animated talk and demonstration on Windows LIVE, the all-in-one suite provided by Microsoft. You will find more information on



<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/products/windows-live>

Anoop showed how versatile and varied this **FREE** suite of Microsoft utilities can be and how easy it is to use. This versatile suite can make your computer more fun and useful and facilitate efficiency in your computer activities.

Of interest is the facility called SKYDRIVE which enables you to securely save your documents, pictures, presentations, spreadsheets and so on. In this regard, 25 gigabytes of free space is provided. It works for all operating systems and is easy to use.

We also have to express our thanks and admiration for the expertise and readiness of Club members to step in when our Guest Speaker arrived late due to a minor misunderstanding. Geoff, Henry and Maurie filled in with an impromptu demonstration of the many aspects of Gmail.

REMINDER

Our monthly meetings now commence at 1:00pm sharp.



This month's Committee meeting, which commences at 10:30am, is a JOINT MEETING of Committee members, Head Tutors, Tutors and Leaders of the Special Interest Groups.

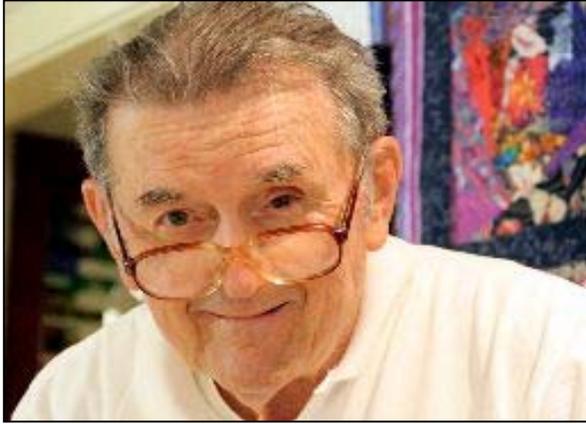
Please make an extra effort to attend.

A light lunch will be served.



Committee Deliberations

VALE HARRY VESELY



It is with sadness that we report the passing of Harry Vesely at age 81.

Born in Manchester in 1929, Harry arrived in Australia with his parents and sister in 1934.

Harry's adventurous spirit led him through the first half of his working life as a wool classer in the outback, before he returned to Sydney in the early 1970s.

Following his retirement in 1997, Harry pursued his keen interests in photography and his recent discovery of computers.

Harry participated in the computer maintenance team's activities and regularly presented photos (often from his outback travels) at our Digital Imaging Group meetings.

We will miss Harry's quiet nature, positive attitude and subtle sense of humour.



Photo from Harry's outback travels

PHONE CARDS and SKYPE

Of late, there have been a large number of complaints regarding phone cards which are, nevertheless quite popular with Seniors who have to watch their cents and who frequently call overseas. There are many types of cards with different rates, and they can be confusing. But on the positive side phone cards are a fraction of the cost of landline calls, they are great value and very convenient. For example it costs about 30 cents for the first five minutes with a typical phone card, compared with up to \$1.30 with the telcos, which is a huge saving

A word of caution: CHOICE magazine has recently surveyed phone cards and one can only say there are some dodgy card sellers out there. Some card vendors have been prosecuted by the ACCC after numerous complaints to the Telecommunications Ombudsman.

- Don't just look at the calling rates — check if the card has extra fees and any add-on charges. Many of them do.
- Shop around, as different vendors sell prepaid phone cards with the same credit value at different prices.

Most people buying a phone card will probably be hooked by the lowest rates advertised but that's just half the story. Extra costs, such as "service" fees that gobble up credit even when you're not making calls, are not printed on the posters or cards.

To make an overseas call, you dial a local phone number, select your preferred language and enter the phone card personal id.

An alternative to phone cards for low cost overseas calls is SKYPE, which works by computer to computer transmission over the internet. We hope to demonstrate this soon.

Skype calls are free; but there are hidden costs. You are paying for bandwidth to your ISP (Internet Provider) and it can be a bit complex to install and set up.

EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES

I note that some members have acquired the popular external hard drives in various capacities and various forms. As prices are getting lower all the time it is indeed while considering one.

As the number of digital files we create increases we need to store these files in a secure and cost effective manner. External hard drives are a perfect solution and they are quite affordable. In fact a one terabyte external drive costs less than 80 dollars.

Our lives today are digital. Our photos, our videos, our documents, certificates and communications are a collection of zeros and ones. As we amass more and more digital data, we need more and more hard drive space. Hard drives are cheap these days, but a desktop computer or laptop comes with a limited amount of storage. We are now collecting bigger and bigger files as all our entertainment, including movies and music, turns digital. Eventually we will run out of space and will need to invest in an external hard drive.

Basic Benefits of an External Drive

1. They are great for backing up your data in case your main internal hard drive fails.
2. They are small and portable and can be easily moved from computer to computer.
3. They will extend the storage capacity of a desktop or laptop.
4. Some external drives have inbuilt encryption and allow you to lock your sensitive data away from prying eyes. They can, of course, also be stored in safes or other secure places.
5. Your entire operating systems can be stored on external hard drives which can be used as boot-up devices to restore an operating system on a PC in case of any malfunction or serious security issues.
6. They are getting cheaper and larger every month!
7. USB is pretty much the standard connection protocol now, so hard drives can be connected easily to almost any computer.

WHAT IS A WEB BROWSER?

A web browser (browser for short) is a free computer application that enables you to view web pages on your computer.

Just type the web address you require into your browser's address bar and press the <Enter> key. Your computer uses the web address to find the page you requested, retrieve it and display it in your browser's window.

For example, type www.hurstvillescc.org.au into

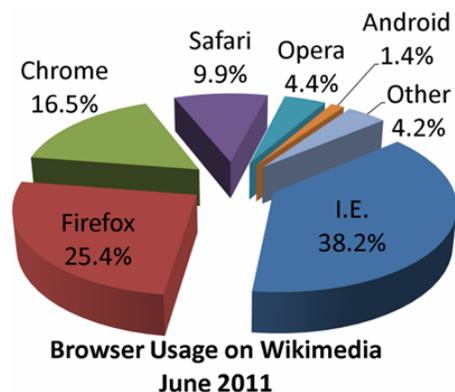


your browser's address bar and press <Enter>.

Some of the different browsers that are available include:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Mozilla Firefox
- Google Chrome
- Apple Safari
- Opera

Wikipedia records the current popularity of different browsers as follows:



For more information on browsers, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_browser

THE CLUB

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.
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

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
Thursday 10 - 12.15 Annexe, 12.45 - 1.45 Clubroom

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 September - Have a great day!

George	Hastie	5-Sep
Kurt	Hofer	5-Sep
Nancy	Soan	9-Sep
Muriel	MacHugh	11-Sep
Jutta	Eizenberg	13-Sep
Doris	Glover	14-Sep
Faye	Ferris	17-Sep
Jean	Sapsed	17-Sep
Marilyn	Marsh	20-Sep
Theresa	Mezzina	20-Sep
Maria	Giannone	21-Sep
Don	Hird	21-Sep
Tania	Antonaz	22-Sep
Shirley	Davy	24-Sep
Barbara	Walter	24-Sep
Kitty	Gaborou	26-Sep
Robin	Dinham	28-Sep

Hurstville Seniors Computer Club
uses the services of Sunny Liang at:



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

For printing our monthly newsletters,
we thank:

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