

# HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB



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

“keeping up with our grandchildren”

## NEWSLETTER

June 2012

Member of ASCCA

Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs  
Association

### NEW SHORT COURSES

While still offering the tried and tested classes, which members clearly enjoy, the world of computers is radically transforming and your club is obligated to inevitably adjust to these changes in computer learning and the needs of our Senior Community

New short courses have been devised and more are in the pipeline. These courses are geared for members who need a short course, running for five to six sessions, comprising concise, concentrated lessons in these topics.

At present short courses in Google Gmail are being conducted and are so popular there is a waiting list. See page 2 of this newsletter for details of other courses to be offered soon.

### A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER

Your annual \$15.00 membership fee is now due. Payment can be made either

- in cash, by cheque or by money order at the club, 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 2011 the Club had 250 members and a waiting list of senior residents eager to obtain places in our classes.

With petrol, food, rates, and other essentials going up in price, where can you have so much fun receiving friendly instruction for only FOUR DOLLARS a session and an 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".

**REMINDER 2:** Please refer to and consult your Tutors for teaching times during the school holidays which commence on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012.

### OUR GUEST SPEAKER IN MAY



Heather Garnsey, our speaker last month, was introduced by John Shortland. Heather is known to many of our club members who are genealogy and family

history enthusiasts. As well as researching her own family history Heather has been involved in the family history community for over thirty years.

Heather's excellent presentation on [“The Internet in Family History - Friend or Foe?”](#)

was thoroughly enjoyed by the many members who attended. Thanks to the internet, genealogy has seen a tremendous amount of change. The quantity of research materials that is available online has grown dramatically. Researchers can now do most of their searching online and keep in contact with each other. The internet has made it easier, faster and more affordable and the need to travel to archives in order to search over records has been reduced.

Heather also emphasised the need to cross-check information found on the internet because it is not always accurate. The Society of Australian Genealogists offers a wide range of excellent resources for genealogical research.

Members were enthused by Heather's talk, even saying “it was one of the best presentations, if not **the** best, we have ever had”.

### GUEST SPEAKER FOR JUNE



Carolyn Rice of COTA will present a talk

#### Medicine and You

which will cover the safe and responsible use of medicines, as well as cover the knowledge and understanding of the use of medicines. Carolyn will include some tips and tools for the use of medicines specifically for Seniors.

<http://www.cotaaustralia.org.au>

## DETAILS OF OUR SHORT COURSES

Here are details of our existing short courses and some exciting new developments for the future.

### EXCEL

Courses have been offered in Microsoft Excel and more are being planned. Excel is an electronic spreadsheet program used for storing, organising and manipulating data.



This is of our graduate class proudly showing off their certificates. Maria Giannone, extreme left in the photo, will be away in Germany for some months visiting her family.

### BASIC PHOTO-EDITING

These courses are in fact ongoing and have been running successfully for some weeks.

### TABLET COMPUTERS

Members who receive their HSCC newsletter via email also recently received a message seeking expressions of interest in joining a HSCC Tablet Computer Interest Group.

38 members have expressed an interest in learning more about Apple and Android tablet computing devices.

13 currently own an Apple iPad and 4 own a tablet which employs the Android operating system.



The remaining 21 want to find out more about tablet computers before purchasing one.

To cater for this initial level of interest, several presentations on "Comparing Apples with Androids" will be held during July 2012 for the 21 members trying to decide which type of tablet

computer to buy. (These members will be contacted by email shortly).



It is envisaged that separate Apple and Android tablet Interest Groups will commence in September 2012 for members who own one of these devices.

There certainly appears to be a demand for information on this new portable computing technology within our Club.

Geoff Turton

## GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP

Of course we shouldn't forget the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) which provide ongoing support in a variety of topics.

John Shortland is doing some excellent and innovative work with his Genealogy and Family History Group. Members should contact John for more details. (see back page, and also the club web site)

## LEGACY FAMILY TREE

A useful piece of software.

<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com>

The free version of Legacy 7.5 can help organise your family history research and create tree diagrams. Legacy is easy to use and can import any work created in other genealogy programs.

It can be inexpensively upgraded to the full version. It is able to back up your Legacy data. The software runs on XP, Vista and Windows 7

## A BIG THANK YOU



Thanks to Frank Grosz, Ted Crichton and their teams, the Technical and Maintenance Groups are doing a tremendous amount of work on our computer systems and thereby not only

teaching our members about effective maintenance of computers but also saving the club a substantial amount of money.





Members of the Thursday Group

### ASCCA DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITIONS

Members should note that there are major changes to the rules for the ASCCA competitions.

This year, in recognition of the technology changes that allow some cameras to manipulate images and perform corrections at the time of capture, the rules have been changed to allow enhancements with the use of post-capture software in all categories.

Please refer to

<http://www.ascca.org.au>

for the new ASCCA guidelines.

### HOW TO SECURE YOUR WIRELESS NETWORK



Of late there have been a number of sensational scare stories on Current Affairs TV programs, and in Australian newspapers, giving all sorts of dire warnings about how insecure WI-FI (Wireless Internet) can be.

Hackers can easily break into networks and steal personal information, obtain bank details, commit fraud and download child pornography.

Hackers have been known to drive around accessing poorly secured networks to commit cyber crimes.

It is known that more than twenty percent of wireless installations were unprotected or used outdated security which could be cracked in a minute.

In Australia, hackers have been caught and prosecuted for using unsecured networks to commit crimes involving fraud and child exploitation material, and in 2010 the country lost \$63 million to cyber crime.

To make sure that you have a safe and secure Wi-Fi experience, most providers will give you, the beginner, a CD to install your wireless modem and in most cases security is built into the USB modem. Make sure that the security has been switched on.

The first line of defence for your Wi-Fi network is encryption, which encodes the data transmitted between your PC and your wireless router. Unfortunately, most routers ship with encryption turned off, and many users don't turn it on, leaving themselves completely exposed.

If you haven't done so already, enable your router's encryption, and use the strongest form supported by your network.

Never send bank passwords, credit card numbers, confidential e-mail, or other sensitive data unless you know you're on a secure site:

Look for the lock icon in the bottom-right corner of your browser, as well as a URL in the address bar that begins with **https**. Such sites build in their own encryption.

Check your wireless router and find its model number.

Go to <http://bc.whirlpool.net.au/bc/hardware> and click on your router model. If you can't find it, try Googling it.

Type the router's "Default IP address" into your web browser (like Internet Explorer, Chrome or Firefox).

Type in your admin username and password. If you haven't changed them, try the default settings found on Whirlpool.

Follow the prompts and upgrade to WPA2 with a strong password of at least eight random characters.

For more tips on protecting your network, visit

<http://www.police.qld.gov.au/safewifi>

