

HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB



www.hurstvillescc.org.au

“keeping up with our grandchildren”

NEWSLETTER

August 2012

Member of ASCCA

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs
Association

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Since the Club's formation in April 1998 our committees have done a tremendous amount of essential work and spent a great amount of time and energy in carrying out a host of computer and senior education related activities and, let us not forget, on a purely voluntary basis. New blood is always essential in an organization such as ours hence, should you feel you could contribute to this essential and very rewarding activity, you should consider nominating to be a member of our Committee.

At the August Annual General Meeting the election of officers will be conducted by our Patron, Mervyn Lynch OAM, an active supporter, since its inception, of our club in Hurstville.

Over the years our committees have been very successful, giving the Club its deserved success and stability. But success does not just happen, a lot of work is done by keen and committed volunteers, many of whom have been at the Club since its foundation.

However, it is not just a matter of attending the Committee Meetings. Members have to be committed to carry out various duties outside the meetings to keep our Club running smoothly and successfully. We provide an essential service to Seniors which requires a very special ability, as well as initiating ongoing improvement and innovation.

Our elected Committee members' duties include attending other clubs and related meetings, finding and inviting guest speakers, maintaining our twenty or more computers, arranging the

general meeting, taking care of the finances or standing in for the Treasurer or Secretary when they are on holidays, organising and purchasing supplies and refreshments, and arranging functions.

Other duties include compiling and editing the Newsletter, assisting with maintenance of equipment and, on monthly meeting days, arranging equipment and setting out the chairs.

Our present Committee, under the able leadership of our President, Pamela Samuels, has done an excellent job keeping this club in the forefront of similar organisations for innovation, enterprise and service to the community.

Our thanks for a **GREAT JOB WELL DONE** is extended to all Committee members, leaders of Special Interest Groups, Tutors, Maintenance Teams and regular volunteers.

Please attend the Annual General Meeting on 29 August.

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 of you as possible to attend and participate in the decision making. Feel free to suggest changes and improvements you might wish to raise for discussion.

Annual fees are now overdue. If not paid at the August meeting you will be unfinancial and a new Joining Fee of \$20 will be payable. As a matter of interest, a large number of our members have as yet not paid their annual fees.

The Committee meeting this August is a joint one and reverts to 10.30am. Co-coordinators of the Special Interest Groups and all Tutors are invited to attend.

LAST MONTH

Our guest speaker was Rayyaan Sheikh, the Hurstville Library Digital Resources Librarian, who presented a comprehensive survey of the Hurstville Library ONLINE. It is encouraging to note that many members have availed themselves of the multitude of resources readily available at the Hurstville Library and especially of the ebook resources.



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Classes on Facebook will commence soon

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UPGRADING WINDOWS XP TO WINDOWS 7

Many of our members still have and are happy with their operating system Windows XP, which first appeared in 2001.

Microsoft has committed to provide support services up to 2014 for its soon to be retired Windows XP -- a full 13 years after the operating system was originally released.

Windows 7 is proving to be a popular operating system and will soon predominate. That means that the question of upgrading an existing XP system has to be considered by our members.



We need to ask the vexing question - when is an upgrade needed or indeed necessary and which version of Windows should be considered alternative to a new computer. If your computer expertise is minimal it is probably best to pick the brains of your neighbourhood computer geek or go to a computer shop of which there are many in the St George area. Many members who recently purchased new laptops probably have Windows 7 pre-installed.

Actually, the term "upgrade" is misleading when considering the path from Windows XP to

Windows 7. No actual direct upgrade path exists and a clean install of Windows 7 is required. This means that the settings and program installations from Windows XP will be lost and will have to be redone from the beginning in a fresh Windows 7 installation.

All the personal and data files from the old system will have to be backed up to an external source and recopied, and that is no easy task.

Many software programs as well as a variety of hardware that work just fine in Windows XP won't work properly or at all in Windows 7. Before attempting any upgrade from Windows XP, download and run the free Microsoft Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor

<http://tinyurl.com/7dczmeg>

Microsoft also has a site called the Windows 7 Compatibility Center where you can check lists of both software and hardware that works with Windows 7.

<http://tinyurl.com/yhs5gab>

UPGRADE, NEW PC, OR STAY WITH XP?

Since many, if not the majority, of older Windows XP systems will run Windows 7 poorly or not at all, a better alternative for most home users wishing to switch from Windows XP is probably to buy a new PC or Laptop with Windows 7 already installed.

Given the hassle and expense of switching from Windows XP to Windows 7, some may wonder if the transition is really necessary.

Although Windows 7 is clearly an improved operating system compared to Windows XP, the truth is that the improvements are probably of marginal interest to many of our members. In fact, from members point of view the Windows operating system is quite mature and Windows XP with service pack 3 is a very serviceable system., Windows XP with regular security updates and one of the recent Internet browsers can be made just about as safe for ordinary users.

As long as the latest web browsers are used properly, the extra safety of Windows 7 can probably be approximated by using available security software and sandboxing. In any event, the major security problems these days rely on social engineering and user gullibility.

Those who are happy with Windows XP and whose existing PC does what they want, have no pressing need to switch. Sooner or later, of course, a new PC will be needed or Windows XP will stop getting security updates (that happens in 2014). That will be the time to say goodbye to Windows XP.

COUNTING BITS AND BYTES

The basic unit of information is called a bit and one bit represents two distinct states. Depending on the system being used to process information, a bit may be represented by 0 and 1, a light or switch that is either ON or OFF, a voltage or tone that is either HIGH or LOW, etc.



Computers process bits of information in groups and the basic group, consisting of 8 bits, is called a byte.

The numbers of bits required to specify the amount of information contained in a book, a digital image, a sound file or a video, and the space required to store digital information, can be extremely large. So, some familiar (and not so familiar) decimal units are used as information measures:

8 bits = 1 byte
1024 bytes = 1 kilobyte
1024 kilobytes = 1 megabyte
1024 megabytes = 1 gigabyte
1024 gigabytes = 1 terabyte
1024 terabytes = 1petabyte

Modern digital cameras can record images with amazing detail and image file sizes frequently exceed 1 megabyte. If you want to send such images by email, as a courtesy to the recipient, resize the images to around 100 kilobytes or less, to reduce the impact on theirs and your monthly upload/download broadband limit.

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
1.00pm, 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
TREASURER Geoff Turton

TUITION IS IN ONE HOUR SESSIONS

If you can't attend your booking, please let your Tutor know.

Mondays

Tuesdays

Margaret Butt

Wednesdays

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 1.00pm

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

Ted Barnett

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!

Kurt	Hofer	5-Sep
Nancy	Soan	9-Sep
Muriel	MacHugh	11-Sep
Jutta	Eizenberg	13-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
Kitty	Gaborou	26-Sep
Robin	Dinham	28-Sep

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



Suite 1 / 2 Woodville St, Hurstville, NSW, 2220
Phone: (02) 9580 5750
www.stepone.com.au

For printing our monthly newsletters,
we thank:

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