HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

NEWSLETTER

August 2013

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting is our SIXTEENTH Annual General Meeting and, as with every AGM, it is important that all members attend to enable and determine the policies, activities and general growth and development of our Club in the years ahead.

The meeting commences at 1:00 pm, preceded by the Committee meeting at 10:00 am.

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

Over the years our existing committee has 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 acquire the computer skills to be independent and self- reliant. In this era of online shopping, online banking the information revolution and general socializing online amongst other things, the use of computers and the Internet for our Seniors have become a real need and indeed crucial for the well being of our Senior community.

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 members of the Club for a long time.

Clearly the world of computers and the skill of teaching Seniors has changed radically in a few short years.

> **"There is no reason anyone in the right state of mind will want a computer in their home."**
> *Ken Olson, President of Digital Equipment Corp, 1977*

JULY MEETING

Microsoft's Customer Analytics Lead, Amos McKegg, gave an interesting talk in his special field of Microsoft Analytics - using Excel to visualise stories hidden in large quantities of data. Excel is a powerful tool!

Amos also mentioned a couple of other items about Microsoft topics:
- Support for Windows XP will cease in April 2014,
- Compared with Windows 7, Windows 8 offers quicker access to content, and
- Windows 8 supports the latest trends in computer mobility and touch screens.

FINAL FEES REMINDER NOTICE

Annual fees for financial year 2013-14 are now overdue. If not paid by the August meeting, you will be unfinancial and will need to pay a new Joining Fee of $20.

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*** **Urgent**: We are seriously in need of Tutors at this time. Experience is not essential as all new tutors will receive full training. Teaching computer skills to Seniors can be a satisfying and fulfilling hour or two of your time. Please come in to Volunteer

Marilyn Richardson and her team will continue to have regular Tutor Training sessions, the aim being the improvement of our teaching skills and acquiring new knowledge in a rapidly changing computer environment.

DESKTOP, LAPTOP OR TABLET?

Yes, it is a difficult choice when you wish to buy a new computer. As laptops have become cheaper and smart phones more common, is the era of the desktop computer over, as the salesmen proclaim?

Is your desktop computer going the way of the dial-up modem?

Figures out today show that desktops have been eclipsed by laptops as the most common type of computer in Australian homes.

More than six out of every 10 households has at least one laptop. In short, laptops are now more popular in Australian homes than desktop PCs.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics said recently that, in 2011, 61 per cent of Australian households owned at least one laptop computer, up from 38 per cent three years earlier.

But if you read the headlines, you might be led to think that the PC is dead and no longer of value. That is very far from the truth,.even with PCs being down 7% this year we will still see over 340 million PCs and laptops sold around the world.

But it's not all bad news for the humble desktop computer. Rather than going the way of the manual typewriter, it's more like the QWERTY keyboard - although it is odd and antiquated, it gets the job done so we stick with it.

For a start, a desktop computer is cheaper. Cramming the hardware into the confines of a laptop means the portable will always be more expensive. Despite the price drops, a laptop is still around 30% dearer than a comparable desktop. So budget users are always going to find value in desktop computers.

Laptops hold the same hardware as Desktops, albeit confined in a much smaller container, therefore producing more heat. Some Laptop manufacturers are already creating special cradlers for their products to keep them in a cooler environment (60°Celsius)

DOUGLAS ENGELBART DIES AT 88

Douglas Engelbart, the visionary electrical engineer who invented the computer mouse decades before the influx of personal computers into homes and workplaces, died recently at the age of 88.

"Doug's legacy is immense. Anyone in the world who uses a mouse or enjoys the productive benefits of a personal computer is indebted to him."

First prototype of a computer mouse as designed from Engelbart's sketches

SENIORS AND THE INTERNET

Did you know that the number of seniors using social media more than tripled in the last four years, according to news reports from a number of Internet researchers.

About 43% of Internet users aged 65 and older say they use social media, compared with just 13% in spring 2009, a Pew report (USA) said.
Older people are looking to maintain ties with their family, particularly those who live far away. With the majority (76%) using sites such as Facebook to connect with friends and family, social media has become the go-to tool for grandparents who want to keep up to date with their grandkids. They want to see pictures of their grandchildren. Seniors also look up old friends and connect with people who share similar hobbies.

The majority of seniors using Facebook spend an average of 128 minutes a day online. The most popular activities for 'Silver Surfers' include browsing through pictures of their grandchildren, seeing what their own kids are doing and e-shopping.

In fact, 85% agree that being online and staying connected makes their life easier, with 63% agreeing that being connected helps in a variety of ways to improve the quality of their lives.

INTERNET BANKING

Tutors are sometimes asked about how to use Internet banking. For your security, we are not able to assist you to access your bank account details online on any of the Club's computers or your own laptop.

However, banks provide some excellent online demonstration videos and/or descriptions to show you how to use their Internet banking facilities, as follows:

St George
http://tinyurl.com/mz4bl5n

Commonwealth
http://tinyurl.com/lc4a5d7

ANZ
http://tinyurl.com/q6xwage

NAB
http://tinyurl.com/k2stbug

Westpac
http://tinyurl.com/onwjyx5

For more information, staff at most bank branches will be happy to demonstrate how to use Internet banking.

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With Skype, you can share a story, celebrate a birthday, learn a language, hold a meeting, work with colleagues – just about anything you need to do together every day. You can use Skype wherever it works best for you - on your phone or computer or some TVs. Using Skype is free for basic features such as conversing, video contacting and instant messaging with other people who are also on Skype With the latest version of Skype you can even try out group video.

If you pay a little, you can do more things, in more ways, with more people –such as call phones, access WiFi or send texts. You can pay as you go or buy a subscription, whatever works for you. Try out Skype today and start adding your friends, family and colleagues. They won't be hard to find; hundreds of millions of people are already using Skype to do all sorts of things together.

The Club will conduct a short three week course on Skype in September-October.

Eleven members have already indicated their interest, and more are welcome

PREVIEW TinyURLs

From time to time, including in this newsletter, TinyURLs are used to fit long web addresses into one column line.

When you click on a TinyURL link, your computer is directed to tinyurl.com where the TinyURL address is translated into the required destination web address, to which your computer is then redirected.

You can be confident that TinyURL addresses in our newsletters lead to legitimate websites. However, if you come across a TinyURL address in another email or web page, how do you know you will not be directed to a suspicious website?

To discover the destination address before you are redirected there, go to website **http://tinyurl.com** and click on the *Preview Feature* link on the left-hand side of the page.

On the next page, click on *Click here to enable previews* to enable a cookie in your web browser so that whenever you click on a TinyURL link in future, a preview of the final destination link will be displayed. You can then choose whether or not to proceed to the destination web page.

WHERE'S MY MOUSE POINTER?

Sometimes it can be a frustrating exercise to find the mouse pointer on your computer screen, particularly if it is at the bottom or right-hand edges.

Windows **7** can help! (The same commands work in XP and Vista)

Go to **Control Panel > Mouse > Pointer Options** and tick the Visibility option *"Show location of pointer when I press the CTRL key"*.

Now, instead of searching for the pointer, just press the **CTRL** key and a set of concentric circles home in on the pointer.

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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

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PATRON	**Mervyn Lynch OAM**
PRESIDENT	**Pamela Samuels**
VICE-PRESIDENT	**Frank Grosz**
SECRETARY	**Lilly O'Brien**
TREASURER	**Geoff Turton**

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TUITION IS IN ONE HOUR SESSIONS

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

Mondays		**Geoff Turton**
Tuesdays		**Margaret Butt**
Wednesdays	*No lessons on meeting day*	**John Shortland**
Thursdays		**Geoff Turton**
Fridays		**Shirley Boxhall**

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Technical - **Advanced and Basic**   **Ted Crichton**
       Mondays at the Annexe

Digital Imaging Group   **Geoff Turton**
       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

Video Editing Group   **Ted Barnett**
       Friday Annexe 9 - 10.30, 11 - 12.30

Maintenance Crew - *Queens Rd*   **Frank Grosz**
                                    Ted Barnett

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Newsletter Editor   **Henry Joubert**
       henryjoub@gmail.com   **9567 2933**

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!

Dorothy	Dunphy	1-Sep
Marjorie	McGrath	2-Sep
Kurt	Hofer	5-Sep
Nancy	Soan	9-Sep
Jutta	Eizenberg	13-Sep
Joyce	Schmidt	15-Sep
Faye	Ferris	17-Sep
Theresa	Mezzina	20-Sep
Maria	Giannone	21-Sep
Don	Hird	21-Sep
Robyn	Plowright	22-Sep
Shirley	Davy	24-Sep
Katina	Poulos	27-Sep
Robin	Dinham	28-Sep