

HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

www.hurstvillesc.org.au

"keeping up with our grandchildren"

NEWSLETTER

October 2013



Member of ASCCA.

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs
Association

CLUB NEWS

Welcome back after our brief break.. We have work to do! Students, tutors and the committee are entering the last quarter of this year together with some challenging tasks ahead.

Committee members and Tutors are reminded that this month there is a joint meeting of tutors and committee. This is a unique opportunity to discuss the innovation and changes which we are in the process of initiating. We thank **Marilyn Richardson**, our new member of the committee, as the main driver of these innovations at the Club. Amongst other things, short courses are being organised and tutor education is taking place on a systematic basis. Things are looking well for the future.

Hurstville Council will be undertaking a major renovation of the Senior Citizens Hall from late December to mid January. This means that EVERYTHING will have to be removed from the computer room for the duration of the renovation. Hopefully there will be no disruption to our normal classes.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Peter Walker of COTA will be our guest speaker in October. His topic will be **Security Online: Internet Safety - Be Confident Online.**



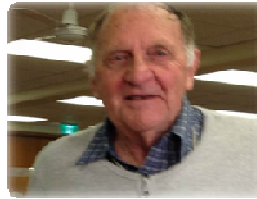
Last month **Bill McCully**, ably assisted by **Ron Keyes**, demonstrated a variety of DVDs for teaching yourself Windows 7, Facebook, Photostory and Email in an easy and fun way. If you wish to purchase the "Teach Yourself" DVDs please contact Bill by email or phone.

TUTORS

Tutor Training Sessions for the remainder of this year will be held on Friday 18th October and 15th November.

All tutors are invited to attend the Combined Committee and Tutors Meeting commencing at 10:00am on Wednesday 30 October, before the main meeting.

GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP



For those unable to attend John's meetings because of time and inability to manage the stairs at the Annexe, John may be available at convenient times to help. John is an

expert with long experience in Genealogy. Below is a brief report of the HSCC Genealogy Group.

In the course of this year the group addressed a wide range of interesting topics tracing family roots, but of course with an accent on what can be found searching the internet. We explored and navigated many International databases from the USA and UK and websites from Australian government sites including the State Libraries of NSW and Queensland, the State Records of NSW and independent home grown sites such as Genies Downunder which I recommend as it gives a lot of Tips, Tricks and useful Tools for family research.

You are most welcome to attend John's sessions in the Annexe on the Second Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm.

DIGITAL IMAGING GROUP

A reminder for the members of the Digital Imaging Group - the subject for next month's meeting is **Face**.

TIP OF THE DAY

Google's knowledge graph now allows you to compare different things (if it knows about them). For example, you can perform a Google search for "pear vs banana" and see the difference in nutritional content between these two types of fruit. Or there is that old favourite "ford vs holden".

ONLINE COMPUTER HELP

There are a vast number of HELP websites, the most important being that of Microsoft itself which is extremely useful for anything Windows related

<http://support.microsoft.com>

Other useful sites are:

Free on-line computer lessons

www.meganga.com

Free computer tutorials

www.free-computer-tutorials.net

LAPTOPS AND MOBILE DEVICES

We acknowledge that many students feel more comfortable using their own personal laptops or tablets for lessons. Please be mindful of the following guidelines.

- The owner must accept full responsibility for the care and use of their own laptop or device.
- Tablets or laptops must not be left unattended.
- Prior to your lesson the battery should be fully charged.
- The latest security updates or patches for the operating system must have been installed.
- Antivirus programs must be kept up-to-date.
- Your tutor will assist with connecting to the club network.

and most importantly

- **The club network must not be used to download material that infringes Copyright or Licensing Agreements or that contains inappropriate or offensive content.**

If you require any further information about these guidelines please speak to your tutor.

COPYRIGHT PROBLEM

Recently we have been informed by TPG (our Internet provider), that a student had inadvertently partly downloaded copyright movies while in a class. This is NOT permitted. Students are advised to disable Torrent Clients before they enter the classroom - or alternatively NOT bring their laptops into the computer room.

WINDOWS 8.1

Windows 8.1, the comprehensive update to Windows 8, has been released.

It's available now to existing Windows 8 users, although it is not an automatic update. To get hold of the new version, you'll need to launch the store app in the Modern UI, where the Windows 8.1 upgrade should appear as a pending upgrade. The download is around 3GB and may take up to around 3 hours. Once the download starts the rest should be automatic.

But be aware of your download limit using the internet. Depending on your internet provider, if you exceed your monthly download limit your speed may be greatly decreased for the remainder of the month, or you may incur an excess charge.

It is also available for purchase in retail stores for about \$149.

TABLET BUYERS' GUIDE

So you're looking at Tablets. They come in all sizes and formats and maybe you would like to purchase one soon. We are fortunate that **Geoff Turton** has done much to popularise the use of Tablets in our Club by running a number of courses over the past year. By all reports these courses have been well received .

Tablet computers are the biggest growth area for computers. The growing popularity of these highly portable, touch-driven devices is fuelled by their light weight, relatively low cost and non-technical ease of use.

There is now a wide selection of tablets with varying screen sizes, processors, operating systems and prices - but which one do you choose?



The “new wave” of consumer tablets arrived just three short years ago with the launch of the iPad in 2010. However, the rapid adoption of

tablets by every category of user from children to grandparents makes it seem like they've been around a lot longer.

Tablets put everything you need right at your fingertips, from the Web and Facebook to games, movies, email and lots more with more than 870,000 apps available for all sorts of uses. The trick is getting the right tablet for you. If you don't already have a tablet, chances are you soon will. In fact, this year analysts predict that sales of tablets will surpass desktop PCs, and they'll overtake laptops by 2014. Even if you do own a tablet, it's nearly time for an upgrade. But do you go with the iPad, Android or Windows 8? How do you decide which Tablet to acquire?

Prices vary widely, from \$150 to \$2000, covering a very basic unit to one with every bell and whistle imaginable.

Four Questions to Ask Before You Buy

1. Which Platform Is Best for You? (Apple, Android or Windows?)

Here's what you need to know about each of the big three operating systems.

iOS + iPad or iPad mini

You can now choose between the 9.7 inch iPad 4th generation with fabulous Retina display or the

7.9 inch iPad mini, which is a more convenient size. It is the dead-simple interface and vast number of apps that attracts most fans to Apple's platform.

With something like 375,000 apps designed specifically for the iPad (900,000 total), Apple's tablet app selection is clearly superior to anything else on the market.

Android

The world of Android tablets can definitely be confusing. On one side you have Tablets that offer a pure version of Google's OS, such as the Google Nexus 7 and 10.

Windows

The fact that there are two versions of Windows for tablets (8 and RT) will confuse some members. Both offer Microsoft's new Live Tile-based user interface, feature the new Windows Store, but lack the familiar Start button.

2. What size screen do you need?

If you're looking for a lightweight device that fits in a purse or bag and allows you to read and watch video on the go, you'll want to consider a 7 inch tablet such as the Google Nexus 7 or a slightly larger device like the 20cm iPad mini. 7 inch tablets are easy to hold with just one hand, but they don't provide the most immersive experience.

8.9, 10 or 11.6 inch tablets provides a bigger canvas for surfing the Web and watching video and more real estate for editing documents.

3. Where will you get content?

Tablets are great for media usage - whether you're watching videos, reading ebooks or playing games or seeking information, using Skype and Facebook - which is why the media stores appropriate for a specific tablet should influence your purchasing decision.

Examine where your existing content lives before making a new purchase. Apple's robust app and content selection is still tops, but Amazon is a close second, especially if you're an Amazon Prime member.

4. How much do you want to spend?

Prices of tablets vary widely depending on brands and specification. Checking prices on-line is recommended, and watch out for specials that pop up from time to time.

Bottom Line

Apple's iPad line is still the king of tablets because of its ease of use, design and vast app selection. However, Android tablets tend to be

more affordable, and on the higher end you'll find unique features such as pen input in the Galaxy.

So by now you've likely made up your mind on a platform and size, and it's just a matter of deciding on an exact model. If you frequently need to use a tablet outside of an area with Wi-Fi, you can purchase a tablet with built-in 4G.

For an in-depth review of some popular tablets see www.laptopmag.com/best-tablets.aspx.

SOFTWARE YOU DON'T NEED

While surfing the Net you may see advertisements for all sorts of system tools and optimization utilities. What is worse, a message can pop up on your screen telling you to download a program to clean your computer. It's easy for companies to tell you that you absolutely have to run these tools, but you don't need most of the junk on offer.

Using these system tools most often slows down your computer, wastes your time, and makes your life more complicated. Simplify your life and skip these system tools - you only need the essentials

If you must use a registry cleaner, use the registry cleaner built into **CCleaner** and skip all the paid registry cleaners produced by shady companies. See www.piriform.com/ccleaner

Computer cleaning utilities are another worthless category of software. Like registry cleaners, they're advertised on banner ads all over the web.

In previous editions of this newsletter we have covered why PC-cleaning software programs are generally scams. Sure, you can free up space and maybe even speed up your PC by deleting temporary files - but you can do that with the free CCleaner application or even the Disk Cleanup tool included with Windows. Skip the paid applications, which quite often don't work as well as the free alternatives.

Much more information on this topic can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ops59o5>.

Observations about getting older

- Going Out is good.. Coming Home is better!
- The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

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.

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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
PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER

Mervyn Lynch OAM
Pamela Samuels
Frank Grosz
Lilly O'Brien
Geoff Turton

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

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

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 November

Have a great day!

Pedr	Davis	3-Nov
Robert	Emery	4-Nov
Leo	Lennon	7-Nov
Jill	Gault	8-Nov
Patricia	Bates	10-Nov
Charles	Wong	11-Nov
John	Yates	14-Nov
Teresa	Lamberton	15-Nov
Michael	Parzakonis	15-Nov
Irene	Ramsay	17-Nov
Jenny	Lennon	22-Nov
Christine	Riley	22-Nov
Ron	Hillier	23-Nov
Barry	Beggs	27-Nov
Maryann	Paterson	28-Nov
Sisinio	Montenegro	29-Nov

*Don't worry about avoiding temptation...
as you grow older, it will avoid you.*

- Winston Churchill

*For printing our monthly newsletters,
we thank:*

OWEN HODGE



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