

# HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB



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

"keeping up with our grandchildren"

## NEWSLETTER

April 2014

Member of ASCCA

Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs  
Association

### CLUB NEWS

#### Seniors Week Open Day

The HSCC Seniors Week Open Day on Wednesday 19 March was an enjoyable day. Approximately 60 members and potential new members called in to see what we do.

The activities of our Video Editing, Digital Imaging and Genealogy special interest groups were on display.



Don Zerafa and Fred Scott discuss genealogy

In addition, Bill McCully had his latest "Take the Teacher Home" DVDs for sale. Margaret Mattingly was available to answer Centrelink enquiries. The Hurstville Family History Society displayed an interesting selection of their members' work.

The kitchen was attractively transformed into a cafe where visitors could relax and chat over a cup of tea or coffee.



Marie Dark and Jean Peters in the "cafe"

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making the day a success.

The lucky door prize, a voucher for legal services from Owen Hodge Lawyers, was won by Liliane Arens.

#### April Committee + Tutors Meeting

As the April Committee meeting falls on the 5th Wednesday of the month, tutors are invited to attend. Discussion will include steps being taken to address our long waiting list and recent equipment purchases to improve class presentations.

Please note that this month's Committee meeting **will commence at 9:30 am.**

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

**Frank Grosz** will be our guest speaker in April. Frank will demonstrate how to use the freeware program, DVD Shrink, in conjunction with a DVD burning program, to create backup copies of video DVDs. DVD Shrink's purpose is, as its name implies, to reduce the amount of data stored on a DVD with minimal loss of quality.

At our March meeting, **Jeffrey Landers**, a low vision consultant with Quantum, described four conditions that affect vision - cataracts (lens gets cloudy), glaucoma (cloudy peripheral vision), diabetic retinopathy (random cloudiness) and macular degeneration (central vision deteriorates). Low vision can lead to social isolation, difficulty with daily living and greater risk of falls.

There are many technical aids available to deal with the effects of low vision and Quantum offers assessment & evaluation, training and support services to assist with making the best choice.



Jeffrey Landers

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## BASIC POSTAGE RATE INCREASE

Electronic mail has had a huge impact on Australia Post's mail business, which lost \$218 million last year. This loss will be partly offset by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) accepting an Australia Post proposal to increase the basic postage rate from 60 cents to 70 cents, effective from 31 March 2014.



Australia Post also proposed to introduce a concession rate stamp for eligible Australians to continue to have access to 60 cent postage for standard letters until 2017.

The following Australian Federal Government concession cards are accepted as proof of eligibility for a MyPost Concession Account:

- Pensioner Concession Card
- Health Care Card
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- Dept of Veteran Affairs Card
- Veteran's Repatriation Health Card

Obtain an application form from your local Post Office or download one at

<http://tinyurl.com/kpl9cv6>

## HEART BLEED BUG

Recently there has been much hype and publicity given to the Heart Bleed Bug.

### What is the Heart Bleed Bug?

Websites with an address starting with https: and displaying a padlock icon encrypt data you send to them for security.

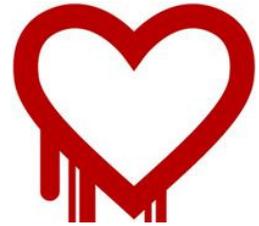
eg:  <https://www.google.com.au>

Approximately 66% of websites employ some open source software called OpenSSL to perform this function.

Unfortunately, since it was introduced about 2 years ago, there has been a vulnerability in early versions of OpenSSL. This flaw was only reported early this month.

Briefly, OpenSSL includes an extension called Heartbeat, whose function is to keep a secure

session between two computers up and running during periods when no data is actually being transmitted, by sending a short message, called a heartbeat request, from the computer at one end and receiving a reply from the computer at the other end. The flaw in the OpenSSL software enables a computer responding to a heartbeat request to be tricked into sending back up to 64 KBytes more data from its memory than it should have - hence the name Heart Bleed.



This data could include confidential user names, passwords and personal details. More importantly, it could also include details of the private keys a site uses to encrypt your data.

### What it is Not!

The Heart Bleed bug is not a virus. Anti-virus software on your computer will not detect or protect your computer from this problem.

### What Needs to Happen?

Administrators of websites that employ vulnerable versions of OpenSSL need to:

1. Update their version of OpenSSL to remove the vulnerability, and
2. Revoke any security certificates for sites that may have had their certificate details stolen and obtain new security certificates.

### What Should I Do?

Check that the websites to which you entrust personal data have upgraded their OpenSSL software and are not operating with compromised security certificates. A few websites offer this service for free, including:

<http://filippo.io/Heartbleed/> and  
<https://lastpass.com/heartbleed/>

### Heart Bleed Phishing Scams

With the amount of publicity the Heart Bleed bug has received, and the recommendations to change passwords, there is a high likelihood that phishing emails will circulate, urging people to update their passwords by clicking on a link in an email. NEVER update your personal information via a link in an email. Always use your web browser to go to the site directly.

References:

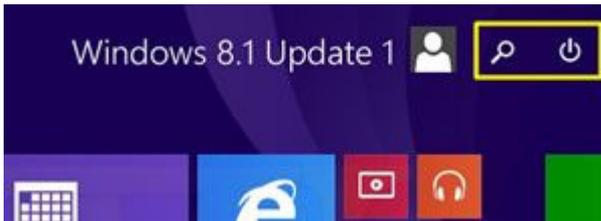
<http://heartbleed.com/> and  
<http://vimeo.com/91425662>

## WINDOWS 8.1 UPDATE 1

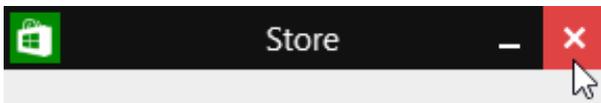
To make Windows 8.1 more mouse-friendly, particularly for long-term Windows 7 and XP users, Microsoft has recently released Windows 8.1 Update number KB2919355.

The most obvious improvement is the inclusion of a power options icon in the top right-hand corner of the start screen, for shutting down the computer.

A magnifying glass icon for initiating a search is located nearby.



Another useful feature for long-term mouse users is the appearance of minimise and close icons at the right-hand end of a title bar across the top of Windows Store apps. This now makes these apps more compatible with traditional Windows desktop apps.



The title bar appears for a few seconds when the cursor is moved to the top of the screen.

This Windows 8.1 Update 1 is available via the usual Windows update process and is a prerequisite for installing future Windows 8.1 updates.

## RYERSON INDEX

The Ryerson Index is an index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the *Sydney Gazette* of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries.

Because the Index was originally created by the Sydney Dead Persons Society, its strength lies in notices from NSW papers - including in excess of one million notices from the *Sydney Morning Herald* alone. However, the representation from papers from other states continues to grow, with additional papers being

regularly added, so that the Index can now truly be considered an Australian index.

Indexing is being continuously carried out by a team of volunteers, too numerous to mention individually, who give freely of their time to ensure the site continues to grow. Site updates occur every couple of weeks, and more often in periods of high activity.

The index itself cannot by definition be considered a primary source of data, but is purely a research aid to direct the researcher to the original source of a notice.

[www.rversonindex.org](http://www.rversonindex.org).

Contributed by J. Shortland

## WHAT IS INSTAGRAM?

Instagram is a free online photo sharing and social network platform that was acquired by Facebook in 2012. Instagram allows members to upload, edit and share photos and short videos with other members through the Instagram website, email, and social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Foursquare and Flickr.



Instagram

Instagram's editing features include various digital filters, one-click rotation and optional borders. Photos can be shared, at once with a single click, on one or several social media sites.

The Instagram app is available for Apple and Android mobile phones and tablets. More than 200 million users are now using this service.

**Trivia** - The name Instagram is a combination of "Instant and Telegram" inspired by polaroid photography and an older idea of what "instant" meant. The name is also inspired by the telegram which was a one to one text message over a wire. This application is reminiscent of those older forms of social communication except that now, the process is images and text being shared from one person to a larger community of users over an international wireless network.

Answer to a member's question by M. Richardson

