

# HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB



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

“keeping up with our grandchildren”

## NEWSLETTER

August 2015

Member of ASCCA

Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs  
Association

### CLUB NEWS

In accordance with the Club's constitution, our Annual General Meeting for financial year 2014-15 will be held immediately following our regular monthly meeting on 26 August 2015.

### SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is the occasion when your Committee reports on the achievements of the year just ended and the Committee for the year ahead is elected.

Come along and hear how your Club has handled the challenge of "keeping up with our grandchildren". We have a lot of members to thank for volunteering their time and expertise to make the fascinating and rewarding world of computers less intimidating for their fellow seniors.

Two members will leave the Committee this year.

**Margaret Butt** has contributed to the Club as a tutor and head tutor on Tuesdays and as a Committee member for many years.

**Mary King** joined the Club as a tutor in 2010 and became a Committee member in 2013.

We thank Margaret and Mary for their valuable contributions to the Club.

### FROM THE TREASURER

A **final reminder** that payments of 2015-16 annual \$15 membership fees are now due.

*From our Constitution By-Laws, Article IX - (c) If subscriptions have not been paid by the conclusion of the September general meeting, membership is deemed to be terminated, unless prior arrangements have been made with the president or treasurer, or the member is on extended leave of absence due to sickness or other reasonable grounds.*

### JULY MEETING

**Mabel Wardrop's** life before computers began in Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, before moving to Sydney in 1941.



Mabel has a keen interest in genealogy and noted that it is much easier to trace your family history now via the Internet. Her maternal great great grandfather arrived in 1791 as a Third Fleeter.

Recognising the importance of continual learning, and to pursue her interest in leadlighting, Mabel graduated with a BA (Visual Arts) degree in 1991 after three years full-time study as a mature aged student at Sydney College of the Arts.

Mabel joined Hurstville Seniors Computer Club in July 2011.

**James Kelly** from Owen Hodge Lawyers, gave us an informative talk on a range of accommodation options for Seniors and highlighted <http://www.myagedcare.gov.au> as a valuable source of useful information.



Pressures on aged care living include:

- Australians are living longer,
- Restraints on government spending,
- Increased aged care fees and
- Waiting lists for aged care.

Choices include:

- Living at home,
- Move in with family,
- Downsizing and
- Retirement villages and homes.

Transition to any aged accommodation option deserves careful consideration, in conjunction with good professional advice.

## COURSES - AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

### 1. "Introduction to Gmail"

from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm on four consecutive Thursdays, commencing on 20 August 2015.

Contact: Lilly O'Brien.

Phone: 9570 7031

### 2. "Using Facebook"

from 10:30 am - 11:30 am on three consecutive Tuesdays, commencing on 1 September 2015.

This practical course is designed for those who have wondered what Facebook is all about and would like to find out how to use it.

Contact: Geoff Turton.

Email Address: geoffrosst@gmail.com

### 3. "Excel Design Workshop"

from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm on four consecutive Wednesdays, commencing on 2 September.

These sessions aim to help members create Excel worksheets for their personal use (eg: budgets, financial or personal records, etc.)

Contact: Geoff Turton.

Email Address: geoffrosst@gmail.com

## COMPUTING IN AUGUST

**On 3 August 1977**, Radio Shack introduced their first computer, the TRS-80. With the support of 3500 Radio Shack stores and a relatively low cost, the TRS-80 helped drive the acceptance of the personal computer in the home. Originally forecasting sales of just 3,000 to 5,000 per year, the TRS-80 sold over 10,000 units in the first month-and-a-half of sales and 200,000 over the lifetime of the product.



**On August 20 1911**, The New York Times sent a telegram message to test how fast a commercial message could be sent around the world. Reading simply, "This message sent around the world", it left at 7pm, travelled over 28,000 miles and was relayed by 16 different operators. It arrived back at The Times only 16.5 minutes later. The building where the message originated is now called One Times Square and is best known for where the ball drops on New Year's Eve.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/piqeu9m>

## NEED HELP WITH YOUR COMPUTER?

Book a one hour appointment on a Monday with **Vince Blayne** who will guide you through identifying problems and offer a solution. Members have found this service to be very helpful. For further information, contact Vince at [vincesmessages@gmail.com](mailto:vincesmessages@gmail.com).

## WINDOWS 10 ROLLOUT

Reports on the rollout of Windows 10 since its launch on 29 July 2015 have generally been positive.

At HSCC, we are in the process of upgrading a Windows 7 PC to Windows 10. This will give tutors and members a chance to see what Windows 10 has to offer. So far, we have discovered the importance of ensuring that all updates have been applied to the original operating system before proceeding with the Windows 10 upgrade.



- If you visit a website frequently, here's how you can create a shortcut to that website on your desktop:

1. Access the website and resize your browser so you can also see part of the desktop.
2. Left-click on the small icon at the left-hand end of the browser address bar, then drag the icon onto the desktop.



3. If required, right-click on the new shortcut and select Rename to change the shortcut description.

- Many programs support zooming in and out with keyboard shortcuts.

Hold down the **Ctrl** key and press the

+ key to zoom in,

- key to zoom out, and

0 (zero) key to restore zoom back to its default position.

## ADVENTURES OF hitchBOT

In 2014, two Canadian researchers, Dr David Smith and Dr Frauke Zeller, set out to explore various aspects of human-robot interaction, to test various aspects of artificial intelligence and speech recognition and processing technologies and to discover if robots could trust humans.

Their robot was about the size of a six-year-old child, its body made from a plastic bucket, pool noodles formed its arms and legs and it wore bright coloured gloves and boots. Its more technical attributes included computing power, solar cells, a camera for taking a photo every twenty minutes and light panels to display facial expressions and other information. It was equipped with GPS and 3G wireless to post updates of its position on the Internet.



To get around, it relied on the goodwill of humans to give it a ride - hence the name "hitchBOT". Drivers who stop have to physically lift hitchBOT into their vehicles and buckle it in.



From 27 July to 21 August 2014 it travelled 6000 km across Canada. After publicity commitments and learning German, hitchBOT travelled around Germany in February 2015 and across the Netherlands in June 2015.

On 17 July 2015 hitchBOT set out to cross the USA from the east coast to San Francisco in the west. Sadly, after travelling for just two weeks, hitchBOT was found vandalised in Philadelphia.

hitchBOT's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hitchbot> makes interesting reading, as does its website at <http://www.hitchbot.me/>

"Sometimes bad things happen to good robots".

## TECHNOLOGY TANKA

Tanka is a form of Japanese poetry consisting of five lines.

In accepting our invitation to contribute items on a technology theme, **Margaret Ruckert**, the facilitator of Hurstville Discovery Writers Group, has submitted these tanka... Enjoy!

*mobiles per minute—  
I ring the phone company  
for assistance  
half an hour later I see  
the real cost of time*

*coffee conference—  
four men in hard hats and vests  
around a table  
each listening intently  
to their own mobile phone*

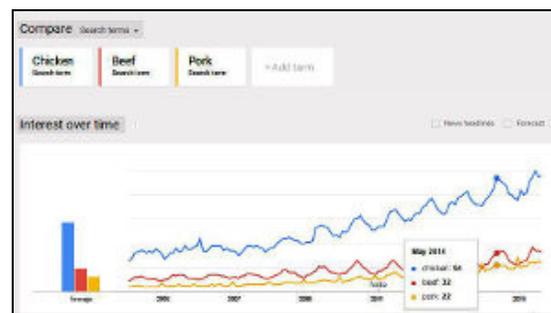
*a toy telephone  
and a blonde under two  
pressing in numbers  
just like his parents – hello  
looking just like his parents*

## GOOGLE TRENDS

"Trending" is the term used to describe the changing popularity of subjects in social media.

Google Trends is a public web facility of Google Inc., based on the billions of daily worldwide Google searches, that shows how often a particular search-term is entered relative to the search-volume across various regions of the world and in various languages.

Enter an individual search term or compare two or more search terms separated by commas. Graphs plot interest in these terms over time from 2004 to the present. The following analysis compares 'Chicken', 'Beef' and 'Pork' in Australia



Google Trends can be found at <https://www.google.com.au/trends/>

