2013 Australian Computer Conference - A Galaxy of Stars

Inside this Issue

Even after being involved in more than a decade of excellent ASCCA Conferences I am (almost) speechless to see the **galaxy of stars** Nan Bosler and the hard working ASCCA Team have managed to bring together for us in 2013!

If you miss this one you will never forgive yourself. Companies that have huge budgets and charge fees many times in excess of our very modest fees would be **green with envy** to see what we have in store over the 12th and 13th November at the beautifully refurbished Rydges World Square Conference Centre in Sydney.

Perhaps you have not looked at the Conference Page on the ASCCA Website for a week or two—if you haven't—take a few minutes to look at the extra **STARS** that have been added to the already brilliant list of quality speakers on a wide and fascinating variety of topics.

Derek Austin Director, Dragon Desktop Solutions, Asia Pacific Nuance Communications is coming along to show you the latest in speech recognition technology That's exciting!

Jill Ball, who is a Genealogist, described as a "connected Granny" will share her passion for integrating technology with genealogy will outline the benefits of digitising our personal collections. Great idea!

Colin Griffith Director of the Australian Centre for Innovation a new collaborative research centre established by the CSIRO will talk about how broadband connectivity can help seniors live independently at home for longer. We like the sound of that!

Jody Bowman Communications Coordinator, Australian Communication Exchange will tell us all about communication access services for people who are deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired. That includes most of us!

Clint Linden Managing Director Advanced Audio Visual & Electrical Solutions Pty Ltd has undertaken to explain the radical Changes to Interactive Classroom/Lecture Rooms Touch Panel Technology in the last five years. We need to know this thanks Clint!

Leonie Smith, known as the Cyber Safety Lady is an educator for teachers, parents, children and business. She is the Author of the online book "Keeping Kids Safe Online" We all want to do that!

This exciting list of **STARS** are just the new ones to be added to the program which was already sparkling with talented an excellent speakers. Check our last two Newsletters.

We do hope to see **YOU** there, Registrations are open **NOW**.

ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

1 - 7 October, 2013 - Tasmania Seniors Week

6 - 13 October, 2013 - Victorian Seniors Festival

14 - 20 October, 2013 - Carers Week

11 - 18 November, 2013 - Western Australia Seniors Week Festival

Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 November, 2013 - 15th Annual ASCCA Computer Conference for Seniors to be held at Rydges World Square Hotel, Pitt Street, Sydney.
Be sure to make your Booking and put these dates in your diary NOW - we are pleased to be able to keep the costs the same as last year! To find out more contact ASCCA Phone 02 9286 3871 or go to the website www.ascca.org.au

Remember, this year, a seat at the ASCCA Conference is reserved just for YOU! Everything is READY! How about YOU? Have you made your Booking? Ph: 02 9286 3871 or www.ascca.org.au

Will we see you at the ASCCA AGM and Annual Competition Presentations? RSVP even if you ARE going to the Conference.

AGM   AGM   AGM   AGM   AGM   AGM   AGM   AGM

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of Voting Members of the

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association

ASCCA

will be held at Rydges World Square,
389 Pitt Street, Sydney
on Tuesday, 12th November 2013 at 3.30pm

Annual reports
Election of Board Members

Announcement of
ASCCA 2013 Competition Winners

RSVP by 4th November 2013,
giving name of Club and delegates attending,
to 02 9286 3871 or ascca@ascca.org.au

**All delegates attending the 13th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors
are welcome to attend but must also RSVP.**

Why ASCCA's Sponsors are so Important

ASCCA receives no core funding, therefore the help provided by our Sponsors is vital for the provision of the wide range of services we make available for all the individual members of our Member Clubs throughout Australia. Our generous sponsors help us to keep our ASCCA Annual fees low without compromising our standards. As we approach our 15th Annual Computer Conference for Seniors, it is appropriate to once again acknowledge the philanthropy of these Sponsors.

Thanks to generous donations from **NSW Government Family & Community Services** and **Telstra** we have been able to proceed with arrangements for the Conference, in the knowledge we will be able to give our members a superb two days of learning.

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy have been long time supporters. Some of you will have attended Broadband for Seniors Kiosks to learn to use a computer and some will have learned with your club computers loaded with free software from **Microsoft** and provided through Connecting Up.

Australian Senior Publications have once again provided funding for successful interstate and remote applicant members to attend the Conference. This is a great help for the members who receive this funding.

Rydges World Square has provided free accommodation for two international speakers. Thank you also to **Australian Communication Exchange** and **Western Australia Community Resource Network** for their support for the Conference.

The continuing support from all these sponsors allows ASCCA to help **YOU** have fun keeping up with technology and most importantly contributes towards the social inclusion of seniors through our work at ASCCA and in our Clubs.

U3A Toowoomba runs Queensland Seniors Week Expo

The Expo is run and organised by Toowoomba U3A and it is sponsored by Toowoomba Regional Council. It is the official key Seniors Week Activity in Toowoomba and has grown from 33 organisations exhibiting in the first year, to 79 this year and it is so successful there is a waiting list of 12 organisations that could not be fitted in this year.

In just six hours, 1,260 members of the public came through the door at this free, Council sponsored event. The aim of the event is to gather as many organisations who are service providers to seniors, in the one place so as to enable people to collect information in an informal environment.   U3A had a cafe operating for morning tea and lunch and also Guest Speakers during the day.

The Expo was a great success and a credit to **Toowoomba U3A Club**. The Club President, Rhonda Weston who sent us this story, believes that the success of the Expo is a strong indication there is an ever growing need to cater to the huge numbers of people entering retirement.

This Toowoomba Club is a recipient of one of the Australian Senior Grants to help with travel and accommodation at our ASCCA Conference. Rhonda mentioned the challenges our clubs face in offering up to date computer classes and in deciding what to offer next. We look forward to welcoming our friends from Toowoomba to the Conference to gather information that will help head them in the right direction. Thanks for telling us about the success of the Expo Rhonda**!**

Congratulations to Microsoft on 'Outstanding Prevention Initiative" Award

Microsoft Australia's ThinkUKnow Program won an award during National Child Protection Week, which was the first week in September. The award, which was part of National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) **'Outstanding Prevention Initiative'** was presented by National Children's Commissioner, Megan Mitchell. during their annual **'Play Your Part' Awards Breakfast.**

ASCCA has always supported this **ThinkUKnow** Program and many of our Clubs have had speakers from Microsoft and have followed this up by encouraging their families and local schools to become partners in the Program. The key message here, is that our members do need to protect themselves and their grandchildren online and this national award recognises how important the role that has been played by Microsoft is, in creating safer online communities for children and young people.

Microsoft is justifiably proud of this important partnership with the Australian Federal Police. It is also supported by Datacom and ninemsn, There are 260 volunteers involved in the program, so the award was also a recognition of their efforts in highlighting the important role we all have to play in protecting children and young people from violence, abuse and neglect online. The program aims to open the lines of communication between adults and children so that activity on the Internet is as much a topic of discussion as what happened at school that day or in sport.

Further information about ThinkUKnow can be found at www.thinkuknow.org.au If you suspect the abuse, neglect or exploitation of a child, report it to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Microsoft Australia reached new heights with their Software Donation Program last financial year donating more than $50 million dollars' worth of software to over 3,300 community organisations.

More History in the Making at Camden, NSW - the home of much of our Colonial History

Typical eight-participant training course being conducted in the new facility.

Wednesday, August 7th 2013, saw the formal beginning of a new phase in the history of **Carrington Computer Club for Seniors** at Camden on the outskirts of Sydney.

In conjunction with the official opening of Carrington Village's major recreational facility extensions by Premier Mr. Barry O'Farrell, it celebrated the Club's transfer to brand new training and administration rooms, a few weeks earlier. This is the third upgrading of the Club's training capacity over the past thirteen years.

Club members (l to r) Les Langston & Mick Rheinberger, seen here demonstrating equipment to NSW Premier Mr. Barry O'Farrell MP.

Initially established in August 2001 for 43 Carrington Village residents, local community seniors were invited from the outset to participate in what was then somewhat of an experiment. Enthusiasm, dedication and more than 50,000 volunteer hours have enabled the Club to successfully conduct almost 3,000 training places over the ensuing period.

Although continuing on with our traditional curriculum style IT subject courses, the Club now faces a new challenge in addressing the knowledge needs of those members embracing the world's most recent phenomena, tablet technology.

Carrington Computer Club for Seniors extends a cordial invitation to members of other ASCCA affiliated computer clubs to attend one of our general meetings and an inspection of our latest facility. **Thanks to Les Langston for this story and the warm Invitation to other Clubs.**

The "Rules" must provide clear skies for "the Cloud"

An article written in the Sydney Morning Herald at the end of last year, by Jeffrey Bleich, who is the US Ambassador to Australia looks at the attitudes and strategies we should adopt regarding "Cloud Computing". He suggested that people who keep their money at home under the mattress because they don't trust banks might be paralleled with people who do not trust cloud computing. Those who would only trust their information being stored on their home computer's hard drive are probably at an equal risk from burglars stealing their data, as the householder whose money can be stolen from under the mattress.

Cloud critics may claim local data centres are safer for storing your data but the reality is once your data is "in the cloud" it could be anywhere, because cloud services are not bound by borders. Jeffrey Bleich put it very clearly; *"What we want is not the best local solution for protecting our sensitive data, but the best global solution. The economies of scale enjoyed by the large cloud service vendors give them the resources and expertise to achieve far higher levels of security than you could with the servers in your IT closet."*

Internet Freedom is perhaps one of the most contentious issues under scrutiny during the 18 rounds of talks so far undertaken by those countries interested in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which is set to become one of the world's most significant free trade deals as it seeks to integrate the economies of the Asia-Pacific.

We have been told by the USA and Australian leaders, *"This is a critical time to understand and embrace the cloud, as "the rules" of this agreement must provide clear skies for the cloud by ensuring data flows just as freely as goods, services and investment."*

For some of us, all this is a bit scary as we wonder about the reality and consequences of integrating our own economy with the economies of the whole Asia-Pacific area. However we are told the TPP gives us the chance to develop a common approach to protecting privacy and enjoying the full benefits of the cloud for all consumers in TPP nations. Our trade success will outstrip other nations that rely on older, slower, more expensive, less secure and less capable data systems.

We personally already use the global "cloud" for many of the things we do daily on our computers, tablets and mobile phones and even our smart TVs and fridges which are connected to the internet. Jeffrey Bleich writes; *"By 2015, most data will be in the cloud, where each of us can access it safely and cheaply."* We who are perhaps a little more cautious may be persuaded in time; but most will still be very careful to keep our own backups of our most important data back here on our own "down to earth" devices!

When we hear that more than 90 per cent of all data that exists in the world today was generated in just the past two years, and that the pace is accelerating; all this conjures up thoughts about what this might be like in the future if we all continue to create and store data in such ever increasing amounts. This makes Google's plan which "*enables you to plan your digital afterlife — in a way that protects your privacy and security — and makes life easier for your loved ones after you're gone*", seem to be a sensible one. Google allows for the deletion or the willing of our "digital assets" like our Picasa Albums or our blogs.

What an amazing world of technical advances we have seen - no wonder it is sometimes hard for those of us who have not grown up with all this at our fingertips to take it all in. Now a cloud service provider can have direct and immediate access to more than one billion broadband consumers in any part of the globe.
To read more: http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/society-and-culture/cloud-agreement-can-bring-blue-skies-20121210-2b5ov.html#ixzz2dEBpsfDs

Pass on this issue of the ASCCA newsletter by printing copies for distribution, or make a list of all your club members with email addresses and forward it to them. It is of interest to each member of every club, not just Committee members.

The newsletter can also be read and/or downloaded from our website:- www.ascca.org.au You are welcome to copy items from this newsletter but acknowledgment of **ASCCA** is required.

Membership of *ASCCA* is open to all Seniors Computer Clubs, Organisations with a membership including Seniors, and organisations that recognise the value of computer technology for Seniors.

Cost of *ASCCA* membership Up to, and including, 40 members - $110 Incl. GST Over 40 and up to 100 members - $150 Incl. GST Over 100 members - $250 Incl. GST Corporate Membership also welcome.

If you fit one of those categories and are interested in joining *ASCCA* please go to our website www.ascca.org.au or email office@ascca.org.au to find out how to start a club or read some of the advantages of joining *ASCCA* if you are an existing club.
An Application Form is available on the website.

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Newsletter Editor: Joan Craymer, Email: ascca@ascca.org.au Contributions are welcome. Remember this is **YOUR NEWSLETTER**. Please take special note clubs outside Sydney and NSW. Please forward contributions by email to the editor.

Welcome to Gunnedah Computer Club for Seniors in Rural NSW

Welcome to ASCCA's newest Club, **Gunnedah Computer Club for Seniors**, which started up in July 2013. They will be offering, "Basic tuition to seniors, in the use of computers and software, in a relaxed atmosphere and at a pace that allows all members to learn." They will be able to train all seniors, in Apple as well as in PCs.

Gunnedah is in the heart of the Namoi Valley on the Oxley and Kamilaroi Highways and its nearest regional centre is Tamworth.

Gunnedah was first settled by Europeans in 1833 and the town was gazetted in 1856. In the local Aboriginal language, the name Gunnedah means, "place of white stones". It is now the hub of one of Australia's richest agricultural regions, the Liverpool Plains.

The area is noted for its large and healthy koala colony, resulting from Gunnedah Shire Council and Landcare Groups initiating the planting and expansion of tree corridors which allow the koalas food and access in and around the town and the district.

It is thought Dorothea Mackellar was inspired by her early life in the Gunnedah district, to write her famous Australian poem, "My Country".

Australian Human Rights Commission marks the International Day of Older Persons

The 1st October is the day set aside each year by the United Nations, to mark the **International Day of Older Persons**.

At the Australian Human Rights Commission it was a fitting way to celebrate this Day by inviting David Malouf to make a presentation, "Longevity and creativity: Does living longer change and extend the writer's world?" David Malouf is a distinguished and much admired Australian writer of literary novels, essays and poetry. Although now in his eighth decade, David's imagination is still in great shape, as he continues to produce such outstanding new literary works.

Your ASCCA Newsletter Editor was fascinated and pleased to have the opportunity to hear the Age Discrimination Commissioner Hon. Susan Ryan OA and Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr. Tim Soutphommasane question David about changes in his approach, subject and form, that he attributes to his current perspective of many years of great life experience.

This talk was presented as part of the Australian Human Rights Commission's "Rights Talks" Series.