



Forest News

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What's on in 2006

Wed. 1st February

- Committee Meeting, Memorial Hall, 1.45 pm.
- Trainers' Meeting, 4 pm

- Wed. 8th February Newsletter Folding, Club Office, 9am.

- Thurs. 23rd February Monthly Meeting Memorial Hall 2pm.

- Wed 1st March Committee Meeting 1.45pm Trainers Meeting 4pm

- Wed 8th March Newsletter Folding, Club Office 9am

- Thurs 23rd March Monthly Meeting Memorial Hall 2pm

- Wed. 5th April Seniors Week 2006 Forest Computer Pals presents—Computers and You—A Voyage of Discovery

WHAT WILL OUR CLUB BE LIKE IN 2015? DOES ANYONE CARE?

Forest Computer Pals is regarded as a pretty good club by computer-oriented people in many different places. Many of our members agree. As a "not-for-profit" organisation, registered under the NSW Incorporated Associations Act, we must abide by our officially registered set of rules, or Constitution, retain all funds for club activities, refrain from commercial buying and selling (we may dispose of unwanted computers etc without breaching that requirement) and generally relying on volunteers to manage our affairs. We have no paid employees. The committee of management consists of the four officers, President, Vice-president, Treasurer and Secretary, plus five ordinary members. Their names appear on every newsletter in case any member wants to talk to them about club business.

There are many other volunteers as well, trainers, Newsletter folders, printers and editor, meeting hostesses, guest speaker organiser, auditor, cleaners, equipment maintenance people, stationery purchasers, member purchasing officer, librarians etc. Without their efforts, our club would collapse very quickly.

In the case of the committee, (as it also for the other volunteers) it is easy for members to say things like "They're doing a good job, let's leave them as they are". Others may say nothing, for fear they might be talked into becoming a committee person. The present committee is a pretty happy bunch and has a lot of fun besides looking after members' interests in a frugal and prudent manner. So why seek change, you may ask?

Change sometimes brings new ideas into play. Serving as a committee person helps us to understand how the club operates. One may learn new useful skills. Finally, it shares the management load. However, if no new people nominate for the committee, none of these ideas can come into play.

One way to make us all consider sharing in the work of running our club would be to alter our rules, limiting the length of time people can serve on the committee. This would force vacancies at set intervals, which in turn would force new nominations. Such a change would require a Special General Meeting where the proposal for change would be debated and a decision made by the members attending to adopt or reject the proposal. Over the next few months, there will be items in this Newsletter setting out arguments for and against any alteration along these lines. Any member who is interested enough may ask Archie Macnaughton, our secretary to see our rules, which are kept in the office.

Please give some thought to this matter, especially if you believe belonging to Forest Computer Pals is useful to you. A final thought – the recent questionnaire in your newsletter was ignored by all but 11 of you! Out of 260 in total! (Our thanks to the eleven!). Please don't leave this matter to the other person.

Dick M (Per the Committee)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Forest Computer Pals for Seniors would like to acknowledge the generous support given by our major sponsors.



Warringah Council

Assessment of Risk and Financial Responsibility.

At the Annual General Meeting 2005 the question was raised regarding the amount in the Club's Banking Accounts and whether part of this money could be used to more directly benefit the individual members. As some of you may be aware the Moocooloo Computer Pals Club at Hunters Hill was burgled and the premises burnt. This meant that their equipment, software, and furnishings were destroyed and they had to look for new premises.

What would happen to our Club in a similar situation?

The Committee considered that the main priority was to bring the Club back into operation with minimal delay so that members were inconvenienced as little as possible. This raised the issue of the costs involved in achieving this outcome.

So what were the cost considerations?

a) New premises: If council premises were not available immediately then we would have to rent elsewhere. This may involve payment of a deposit and the rent would certainly be a lot more than at present.

b) Computer Equipment: Have a look at the extent of equipment, the number of computers, photocopier, printers, scanner, and ancillary equipment.

This equipment does depreciate rapidly and requires replacement regularly to keep abreast of technology and match the level of technology being used or purchased by members.

c) Software: That's all the commercial programs available on the computers.

Computer Software is upgraded at an incredible rate and the Club has to be up-to-date in order to instruct on the latest versions. Check on some of the computers to see the number of purchases required to replace the programs.

Remember these are nearly all individual licensed programs on each computer not just copies of one original purchase.

d) Furnishings: In the past a lot of the furniture was made by members in keeping with the growth of the Club and when we moved to the present premises there was adequate cupboard space that is well utilised. To replace this with furnishings suitable for Club use will be expensive.

e) Miscellaneous: There are all the odds and ends that are required to run the operation such as, paper for printing and photocopying, office supplies, that individually are not worth much but they mount up.

f) Grants and Donations: The Club has been very fortunate in receiving Grants and Donations for equipment and software in the past. However these are not guaranteed so cannot be factored into this assessment.

When the associated costs were appraised the Committee considered the objective of resuming Club activities as quickly as possible was achievable.

What about insurance? Yes we do have insurance but do we have the time to wait for settlement?

So do some mental arithmetic and figure out how much would be needed to get up and going if a disaster hit the Club. It will be a tidy sum and it pays to be prepared.

Notwithstanding the need to budget for emergency situations there is also the need to consider normal replacement of equipment. Most of the computers will need replacement within the next few years. Microsoft XP will soon be replaced with a new Operating System. Software seems to need upgrading or replacement every year. New software is required to meet the needs of members. Already there is a demand for DVD Burners to replace CD Burners.

The Committee considers that with the present approach to financial stability the Club is in a position to meet all contingencies and maintain its position in the forefront of Seniors Computer Clubs.

AM 17/01/06

Editor's Corner

Extract from NZ Herald courtesy of Joan Willis—From an Electronics Company's Customer Service Log.

Caller: Can you give me the telephone number of Jack?

Operator: I'm sorry, sir. I don't understand who you are talking about.

Caller: On page 1, section 5, of the users guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now can you give me the number for Jack?

Operator: I think you mean the telephone point on the wall.

I would like to wish all my readers a very happy and prosperous New Year. Joan brought the above clipping back with her from a trip to New Zealand, thanks Joan. Please send me any little snippets you find to keep this corner going.

Rowena



WAL ANDERSON

While on holiday in New Zealand with his wife Ruth and two of their children, Stephen and Tim, Wal died in his sleep on December 31. Wal was one of the founder members of Forest Computer Pals and later was a member of the inaugural management committee of ASSCA. He was its Development Officer for a time, in which role he encouraged many new branches to become established. He was very keen for Seniors to learn how to use computers effectively.

Prior to becoming a computer wiz, Wal had been very active in the Scouting movement. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and relatives. He is survived by his wife, Ruth and children Stephen, Katrina (Trene) and Tim and several grandchildren.

An Urgent Warning Fake Emails for Internet Banking Account Updates



A number of fake emails have been received by members requesting that they update their Internet Banking details. Please remember that Banks do not contact their customers by email. If you receive one of these messages do not respond just delete it.

Cheers 2006 Luncheon No. 1

Venue: Mezzanotte Restaurant, The Strand Dee Why Beach front.

Date Wednesday 22nd February, time 12 noon.

RSVP Melissa Palermo



An object of the Cheers Luncheon Program is to address social isolation. The Cheers Luncheons offer elderly residents and seniors the opportunity to meet new people, form new friendships and hopefully develop their own friendship groups outside the scheduled luncheons. If you are a regular Cheers participant or if you are new to Cheers bring along a friend, especially if they live alone or have just moved into the area.

SPECIAL COURSES

WORD PROCESSING-GROUP TUITION—Microsoft Word - Basic to Intermediate levels

Derek Rowland has advised that the next Course will commence on Friday 27th January 2006. (minimum 6) If you are interested in doing this course you will learn how to enter, select and edit text, work with fonts, formatting, folders, files, templates, arrange margins, alignments, print settings, headers and footers, indents and tabulations, insert columns and tables. WordArt, graphics, spreadsheet and drawing features will also be introduced. A working knowledge and understanding of MS Word will provide members with a good insight into most word processing programs. Notes will be provided at each of the 6 weekly sessions. Please add your name and telephone number to the list displayed in the club room or ring Derek on 9451 3969.

INTERNET

John Ray's Internet group sessions are held over three weeks on Tuesdays from 1 to 2 pm for a maximum of 12 persons. The dates for the next Internet group session are 14th, 21st and 28th February 2006.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Welcome to New Members

The President, Colin Ward and the Committee would like to welcome Georgine Jakobi, Faye Lansley, Cecilia Mock, Stella Ing-Chung, Alec Worgan, Jean Brindley, Shirley Greening and Clifford Keegan who joined the Club in Dec/Jan.

Recording Your Attendance and Departure

Most of us remember to sign in upon arrival at the clubroom but sometimes some of us depart without recording our time out and our signature. It is important to record this in the attendance book. If in doubt about this, please ask the receptionist or a trainer for advice.

Subscription Reminder

If you receive your newsletter by mail, your membership subscription to Forest Computer Pals for Seniors ends at the end of the month shown on the top right corner of the address label on the envelope in which this newsletter was enclosed. If it shows December 05 your subscription is now overdue and payment by the end of February is required to avoid the termination of your membership as dictated by Club Rules. If you receive your newsletter by email, reminders will be

emailed about a month before your subscription expires. If attending the clubroom please place your payment of \$25 for a quarter's or \$70 for a year's membership in an envelope showing your name and membership number in the cashbox provided. Alternatively, post it to: The Treasurer, Forest Computer Pals for Seniors, PO Box 116, Forestville 2087 or make an EFT payment direct to Forest Computer Pals for Seniors Bank Account. Please send an email to Jack Wilson at: jwilson@exemail.com.au requesting detailed instructions on how to pay your fees via on line banking.

Members Training Calendar

Members may book ahead for tuition only one hour per week. However, if a member wishes to have extra tuition that member may, on the day they wish to attend, phone the club & if there is space available then and only then they may book extra time. Would members who have booked time & cannot make the appointment please phone as soon as possible to allow others to occupy the slot. (Special courses do not count as they are not listed in the booking sheets).

GENERAL INFORMATION		Training Information					
Club Location Memorial Hall, 3 Starkey Street, Forestville 2087. PO Box 116 Forestville 2087 Phone: (02) 9975 7762 Fax: (02) 9453 4077 ABOUT THE CLUB Through mutual help we assist members to develop or improve their computer skills, including accessing the Internet. We do this in a relaxed atmosphere where we also enjoy fellowship and exchange of ideas. We operate on a minimum budget and are very dependent on prompt payment of members' subscriptions to maintain this objective. Entry Fee & Subscription The entry fee is \$25. Subscriptions can be paid quarterly (\$25 per quarter) or annually (\$70 per annum) and are payable as they become due on the first day of each quarter. All members, including trainers, pay full membership. The club was honoured to receive the Premier's Award in 1995 and the Frank McAskil Trophy in 1996. A recognition certificate award was received from Cota (NSW) in 2002 for good practice. The club is a founding member of the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA). Forest News obtained first place in ASCCA's 2004 newsletter online competition. The work of the club is voluntary and depends on its members for its resources in management and training. Enquiries from prospective members are welcome. Please call the club office (9975 7762) or the Membership Coordinator (Reg Flew 9971 0325). Newsletter Contributions Contributions from members are welcome at anytime. Please email them in plain unformatted text to Forest News editor, Rowena Barnes on: rowenabarnes@optusnet.com.au If sending a word document as an attachment avoid any formatting whatsoever (no headers etc.) as the document will have to be reformatted to fit in the newsletter format. If possible, do use Verdana 9 font as this is the current default font for the newsletter and which is recommended for web viewing. Contributions will be included in a forthcoming newsletter depending on available space.		Mon am	Jan Van der Hilst Richard Crighton Sandra Brophey	9452 5475 9972 0429 9939 7737	Mon pm	Malcolm Fell Bob Brisebois	0411 208 567 9451 4660
		Tue am	Don Muir Graham Allan Shirley Palmer	9451 6548 9451 4336 9451 0158	Tue pm	Special courses see page 2 & Notice Board	
		Wed am	Dick Manuell Archie Macnaughton Gay Savage	9451 1578 9938 1971 9452 1937	Wed pm	Ian Parsons Jack Wilson Susan Howell Paul Brenac	9452 4249 9452 1148 9415 1167 9416 4578
		Thu am	Len Johnson Fay Stewart Richard Smith Bruce Adams Anna Karalus	9450 2167 9451 1959 9958 3685 9451 5573	Thu pm	Special courses see page 2 & Notice Board	
		Fri am	John Ray Kate Holland Shanelle Breusch	9451 9396 9810 2451 9452 5680	Fri pm	Derek Rowland Word groups	9451 3969
		Colin Ward	Computer Maintenance and repairs		By Appointment		9451 1000
Frank Burke	Genealogy		By Appointment		9451 2364		
Marie Bailey	Wednesday morning		Social Coordinator & Office Assistant		9451 5307		
Pat James	Monday morning		Office Assistant		9905 1882		
Elaine Mulligan	Friday morning		Office Assistant		9939 2686		
Bruce White	Monday afternoon		Office Assistant		9451 9779		
WEEKLY TRAINING CALENDAR							
Members are asked to print their First and Family Name on the schedule so that, if a trainer needs to contact them for any reason their identity will be clear.							
TRAINERS' MEETINGS							
Club trainers meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the club's room at 4:00 pm (except January). Trainers' co-ordinator: Darrell Hatch.							
MEMBERS' PURCHASING							
Fay Stewart, the club's Purchasing Officer, can often help members to buy computer ware at good prices. If you are seeking a new item, software, hardware, services such as re-filling printer cartridges or other relevant items, call Fay at the club on Thursday mornings (9975 7762). Archie Macnaughton assists Fay and in her absence call Archie on Wednesday mornings on the same number. Also, if you hear of a good deal, please let them know about it.							
Committee for the Year Oct 2005 to Oct 2006							
Colin Ward, President		9451 1000	Paul Brenac, Vice-President		9416 4578		
Archie Macnaughton, Secretary		9938 1971	Jack Wilson, Treasurer		9452 1148		
Gay Savage, Speaker Organiser		9452 1937	Darrell Hatch, Training Coordinator		9982 7139		
Dick Manuell, Also Public Officer		9451 1578	Fay Stewart, Purchasing Officer		9451 1959		
Reg Flew, Membership Coordinator		9971 0325					