



Forest News

ISSN 1448-2347 (Print Version) 1448-2355 (Online Version)

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Coming Up

- The March speaker will be Bill McCully (see this page)

Meetings

- Committee meeting March 7, 2007 at 1.45 pm
- Trainers meeting March 7, 2007 at 4 pm

Forest Computer Pals for Seniors welcomes the support of :-



Warringah Council

SENIORS WEEK 2007

Our contribution to Seniors Week this year will be an Open Day on Friday March 16, from 9 am to 3 pm. All Seniors are welcome to see Computer demonstrations, obtain advice on computer problems, try the Internet, find out how Computer Pals operates, make computer generated cards and generally learn how to enjoy computing, all free! Now is the chance to invite your friends to see just how we do operate.

Club members are needed to help man the membership and information desks, to demonstrate Word processing, Spread-sheets, card making, digital photography both elementary and advanced, and Internet and websurfing. Volunteers should contact Archie Macnaughton as soon as possible please. The more who offer, the shorter the work-shift for each of us!

Trainers and members should note that normal training classes will not be held on the Open Day.

All enquiries about the Open Day should be made to the club office (9975 7762)

OUR MARCH SPEAKER

Our Guest Speaker at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday 22nd March, starting at 2 pm, will be Bill McCully from Easy Computing for Seniors Pty. Ltd.

Bill will demonstrate the new "Take the Teacher Home" course, which is an easy way to learn basic computer skills, by seeing step-by-step CD lessons on your own computer. If you've ever struggled to follow instructions in computer books, you know exactly how confusing they can be! But seeing each step demonstrated on your own screen is a quite different experience. This six-lesson set of CDs shows exactly how your screen should look as you follow clear and friendly instructions. At any stage you can simply restart the CD and replay anything you're not sure of over again. Then just practise each step before you go to the next stage.

This new, easy way to learn computer basics has the full support of the *Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association, ASCCA*. The cost of "Take the Teacher Home" is very modest.

Bill McCully is a long term instructor at ASCCA clubs and has a lot of practical experience in teaching seniors computer skills. There will be time for questions on the day.

Bill can be contacted on Phone: (02) 4352 1095.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The committee and club members welcome the following new members of the club and hopes they have a lot of fun getting to know computers and other members: Ruby Bate, Brian Burras, Dorothy Chan, Jill Chapman, Alan Concannon, Michael Elliott, Moira Gray, Ron Gray, Elizabeth Groves, Fred Hines, Betty Jenkins, Raymond Kan, Sue Knowles, Joyce Mansur, Shirley Mathews, Alan Moore, Mary Nash, Pam Wulf and Sandra Wulfswinkel

IS YOUR PRINTER AN INK-SINK?

A back issue of Computer Choice magazine described inks for computer printers as "Liquid Gold" and that was very apt. Replacing ink cartridges is generally more costly than buying additional paper, especially if one is heavily into making coloured cards.

When you next consider buying a new printer (and some are so cheap these days it seems cheaper to buy a new one than to merely replace the ink cartridges in your existing printer!), as well as checking print speed etc, be sure to check how much replacement cartridges cost and how long they are predicted to last. Also check that the printer has full size cartridges in it. There are often substantial differences in the cost of ink per page.

Another aspect to consider is whether cheaper substitute cartridges (not made by the original manufacturer) are available and reliable. Some people report excellent results, including by refilling cartridges themselves. If you try that task, don't do it on the best dining-room tablecloth, as ink stains are usually terribly permanent! Remember that some manufacturers' warranties are voided if you don't use their inks.

In the interim, check out the quality of the draft printing setting on your computer. For most usage draft is perfectly acceptable, prints faster and uses up to a third less ink than the standard setting. To conserve colour cartridges, which don't last as long as black cartridges, use the "greyscale" or "mono" settings whenever possible. Internet screen-prints are just as readable in black and white as are colour versions. Don't buy replacement cartridges too soon before you need them either, as they may dry out in storage. Be aware that many printers show the "Empty Cartridge" warning well before the need to replace the cartridge. You can produce many a printed page after this warning and before the print quality becomes unacceptable.

If you have found a way to reduce your ink costs send us your ideas so they can be shared with other members.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT YOUR DIGITAL PICTURES ON TO A CD ACCOMPANIED BY SOME MUSIC OF YOUR OWN CHOICE OR YOUR VOICE?

One session March 10 repeated March 17

Using our photos consider booking for a new course based on Photo Story 3. Presenters will be Sandra Brophey and John Robinson and the course will be one 2 hour session on Saturday March 10, from 9 am to 11am. The course is limited to four participants so early bookings on the list at the office are essential. The course will be repeated on March 17. The Photo Story 3 program and notes will be provided on a CD at a cost of \$3.

Workshop what you have learnt and gain confidence.

On March 24 – (For those who completed the Course on March 10) Come and gain confidence by working on your own with guidance. You will need to bring your digital camera with some photos recorded and a USB2 connector. This time you can use your own photos.

On March 31 – (For those who completed the Course on March 17) a similar workshop is offered.

¿Tenga ustedes pensamiento sobre Vista? Or in English – Have you guys thought about Vista?

On January 30, David Jones ran a full page ad in the Sydney Morning Herald featuring Microsoft's new VISTA and three or four pieces of junk mail in my letterbox did the same. Should we all rush out and buy it, in one of its four versions, Home Basic, Home Premium, Business or Ultimate, along with the new Live OneCare, or Office 2007 in one of its two versions, Home and Student, Professional, or one of several upgrades. Wow! – what an onslaught! Or should we think through a few things first?

To begin with, how well does your present Operating system perform? Are you able to obtain technical help and hardware items when you need them? Can you do all the things you want to do with your present arrangement? Will your present computer cope with the demands of Vista? You can check this important aspect by visiting a MS website (www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/buyorupgrade/upgradeadvisor.aspx?wt) and downloading the "Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor" program, which can then analyse your system and report whether you can proceed with an upgrade to Vista, or whatever you need to change beforehand.

To find out more about the benefits and demerits of Vista, visit the Wikipedia article available on the website en.wikipedia.org/wiki/windows_vista.

Sometimes, as when a new model car arrives, it is prudent to wait until the first service pack arrives before buying a brand new program. This is the club's recommendation to its members.

If you do decide to buy Vista soon, remember that some stores will allow Computer Pals members to buy at the academic price on presentation of one's current membership receipt. Our old friends CAM1 are offering a couple of special deals on new computer packages that include a Vista upgrade coupon. Call them on 1300789785, ask for Daen (pronounced Dane) and tell them you're from Forest Computer Pals

ASCCA 2007 RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOP

The workshop will be held at the Birnet Executive Lodge, Newcastle on May 7 and 8. Entitled "Wired or Unwired", with the subtitle "What people are doing with their connected computers", it will consider the very latest communication technologies. There will be a limit of just 50 participants. Visit the ASCCA website (www.seniorcomputing.org) for more information.

SPECIAL COURSES

The club has some 25 trainers regularly attending and providing tuition for members. Most training is on a one-on-one basis, but Group training classes are also held. It is essential to prebook for group courses on the course lists. Group courses currently available include those indicated below.

MICROSOFT WORD PROCESSING

Derek Rowland: Runs group training sessions in MS Word. The course covers how to enter, select and edit text, work with fonts, format, folders, files, templates, arrange margins, alignments, print settings, headers and footers, indents and tabulations, and insert columns and tables. WordArt, graphics, spreadsheets 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 office or ring Derek on 9451 3969

INTERNET COURSE

John Ray: Conducts Internet group sessions. They run over three weeks on Tuesdays from 1 to 2 pm for a maximum of 12 persons. The dates for the next sessions are February 13, 20 and 27. Please add your name to the list on the notice board, or call John on 9451 9396

COURSES BY SANDRA BROPHEY

Sandra regrets that at present, due to illness in her family, she cannot continue the popular Saturday morning sessions on Skype and digital photography. However, she is still available by appointment at other times for training in those skills. Please phone her on 99397737 for an appointment.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

John Robinson, who is a Thursday afternoon trainer, is an expert in digital photography. If you were given a digital camera for Christmas, book in for some good advice from him. (See also page 2 about Photo Shop 3)

COMPUTER MAINTENANCE

On Wednesday afternoons, you may bring your troublesome control tower or laptop to the office, when **Colin Ward** may be able to suggest a solution to your problem, or make an adjustment. Appointments are necessary for this often lengthy procedure.

ASCCA NEWS

The Ninth Australian Computer Conference for Seniors will be held 8-9 August at Level 1, 280 Pitt St, Sydney. It's a way off, but pop it in your diary now! You can check for early bookings or other details on the ASCCA website – www.seniorcomputing.org.au. While you're on the website, have a look at the next ASCCA general meeting on April 17. These are always very informative meetings and all Forest club members are automatically ASCCA members, so gather up a few friends and give it a try!

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Recording Your Attendance and Departure times

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 please.

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 the newsletter was enclosed. If it shows Mar 07 your subscription will be due at the end of March and payment by the end of April is required to avoid termination of your membership, as required by Club Rules. If you receive your newsletter by email, reminders will be emailed just before your subscription expires. If attending the club office please place your payment of \$25 for a quarter's or \$70 for a year's membership in an envelope with your name and number on it and hand it to a trainer or office assistant to put it in the cashbox. Alternatively, post it to: The Treasurer, Forest Computer Pals for Seniors, PO Box 116, Forestville 2087, or make an EFT payment di-

rectly to Forest Computer Pals for Seniors Bank Account. Please send an email to Jack Wilson at:-

jwilson99@optusnet.com.au

requesting detailed instructions on how to pay your fees via on line banking.

Members Training Calendar

Members are asked to print their **First and Family Names** on the schedule so that, if a trainer needs to contact them for any reason their identity will be clear.

Members may book ahead for tuition for 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 and if there is space available then, and only then, they may book extra time.

Would members who have booked time and cannot keep the appointment please phone as early as possible to allow others to utilise the slot. (This requirement does not apply to Special group courses as they are not listed on the booking sheets).

ABOUT THE CLUB		Trainer Information				
<p>Through mutual help we assist members to develop or improve their computer skills, including using the Internet. We do this in a relaxed environment 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.</p> <p>The club was honoured to receive the Premier's Award in 1995 and the Frank McAskill Trophy in 1996. A recognition certificate award was received from Cota (NSW) in 2002 for good practice.</p> <p>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.</p>	Mon am	Jan van der Hilst Richard Crighton Bruce Adams	9452 5475 9972 0429 9958 3685	Mon pm	Malcolm Fell Bob Brisebois Bruce White Joan Kohler	0411208567 9451 4660 94519779 99055193
	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 Mcnaughton Gay Savage	9451 1578 9938 1971 9452 1937	Wed pm	Ian Parsons Ken Moorley Susan Howell	9452 4249 9451 0494 9415 1167
	Thu am	Len Johnson Fay Stewart Richard Smith Anna Karalus	9450 2167 9451 1959 9451 5573	Thu pm	Joy Quinn John Robinson	9971 0204 9451 5977
	Fri am	John Ray Kate Holland Shanelle Breusch	9451 9396 9810 2451 9452 5680	Fri pm	Derek Rowland Word groups	9451 3969
<p>APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Enquiries from prospective members are welcome. Please call the club office (9975 7762) or the Membership Co-ordinator (Reg Flew, 9971 0325).</p> <p>The entry application 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.</p>	Other Training Information					
	Colin Ward	Computer Maintenance and repairs		By Appointment	9451 1000	
	Paul Brenac	Digital Photos and Publisher		pm Wednesdays By appointment	9416 4578	
	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	
Sandra Brophey	Skype & dig. photos		By Appointment	99397737		
<p style="text-align: center;">TRAINERS' MEETINGS</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMBERS' PURCHASING</p> <p>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.</p>	Committee for the Year Oct 2006 to Oct 2007					
	Colin Ward, President		9451 1000	Paul Brenac, Vice-President	9416 4578	
	Archie Mcnaughton, Secretary		9938 1971	Jack Wilson, Treasurer	9452 1148	
	Gay Savage, Speaker Organiser		9452 1937	Darrell Hatch, Training Coordinator	9982 7139	
	Reg Flew,		9971 0325	Fay Stewart,	9451 1959	
	John Ray		9451 9396	vacant		
	Newsletter Contributions					
	Contributions from members are welcome at anytime. Please email them in plain unformatted text to Forest News editor, Dick Manuell:					
	rman77@bigpond.net.au					
	If sending a word document as an attachment avoid any formatting (no headers etc.) as the document will need to be reformatted to fit the newsletter layout. If possible, do use Verdana 9 font as this is the current default font for the newsletter, which is recommended for web viewing. Contributions will be included in a forthcoming newsletter depending on available space.					
Income & Expenditure Report						
31/01/2007						
INCOME	\$14,493					
Sub'ns	12,955					
Grants/don's	455					
Interest	806					
Other	277					
	14,493					
EXPENSES	\$10,548					
Computers	3,492					
Postage	680					
Printing	913					
Rent	3,089					
Tel/Internet	893					
Vol'rs dinner	1032					
Other	499					
SURPLUS YTD	\$3,945					
TOTAL ASSETS	\$25,738					