Forest News

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

COMING EVENTS

- **Apr 1—1.45 pm, Committee meeting**
- **Newsletter folding Apr 8**

Forest Computer Pals for Seniors welcomes the support of:-

OUR SPEAKER FOR THE MARCH 26 MEETING

Will be **Brian Hindes**, of our sister club, Northern Beaches. Brian's topic will be:
"Bringing your pictures to life with Picasa 3"
With an extensive background in dark-room photography, Brian graduated to the light and joys of Photoshop. He is a tutor in Picasa 3 at Northern Beaches club.
Meeting begins at 2 pm. You and your guests are welcome.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 26TH FEBRUARY, 2009.

President Colin Ward opened the meeting, welcoming all.
Secretary's Report: Look out for email detailing Seniors Week, 3 free Courses being run by ASCCA (our mother club) – sponsored by Microsoft, at the ASCCA premises, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney on . The 3 free Seminars: Assistive Technology-improving Accessibility; Travellers' Tales using simple free software, Computers for Caring are one day on 17th, 19th and 20th March respectively. Booking Details 9286 3871 or check the ASCCA website for details and also register. Try Googling ASCCA to see what they are doing. Usually comes up first.
Treasurer's Report: Income $3,428.48, Expenses 4,671.82   So we spent $1,243 extra mainly due to updating the wiring in the club room.   Our asset balance is $22,963.69
Social Director: 40 people present with 6 apologies.
Training Coordinator' Report: Darrell Hatch reported that 16 new members were joining. Old club monitors were available for free but be quick if you want one as they will be discarded very soon.
Telstra Grant of Mobile Phones: Gerry Benjamin is applying and reported that the offer has been reduced to 2 phones and the outcome won't be known until May. About 15 people in the audience said they were interested in learning more about Mobile Phones. And a notice will go up for expressions of interest. **Converting 8 mm to Digital** -.Gerry is also the person to contact if interested
Purchasing Officer: Malcolm – Club Cartridges; Paul (whilst in Sydney); – new Acer Computers or ask trainers for help or give Sandra a ring: 9939 7737.
Presidential Report:
Hall is being painted over Easter which may mean an interruption to monthly meetings so will keep you informed re April meeting.

SENIORS WEEK MARCH 15—22

WESTERN PLAINS AND TARONGA PARK ZOOS: Offering a special deal for Seniors Week: On presentation of your Seniors Card you can visit both or either zoo for just $10 per visit during Seniors Week. Both zoos are open from 9 am to 5 pm. More info on www.taronga.org.au.

On the first floor of 280 Pitt Street, **ASSCA** has organised two events:
On March 17, from 8.30 am to 2 pm come along to "Technology Improving Forum", don't let the title scare you!

On March 19 at the same site, from 10 am to 3 pm, a session called "Computers for Caring Seniors".

Warringah Council also has a full program, with something for every senior! For more details, go to their website Warringah.nsw.gov.au. Our sister club, **Northern Beaches** will run a free introduction to the internet on Thursday March 19, from 10 am to 2 pm, with a light luncheon included. Booking desirable on 9913 1433.

Warringah Council

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 26TH FEBRUARY, 2009.

PDF reader required for Forest News: Best is www.foxitsoftware.com can be downloaded for free. (1/10th size of Adobe Reader)

Must Have for All: Anti Virus (remember you can only use one) set to 'Auto Update" so that when you go online (and do at least once a week) you will be automatically updated. Free programs: Avast and AVG

Spyware – Can use 2 until Anti Virus: All need updating weekly. This gets rid of tracking cookies; Ad-Aware Free (Anniversary Ed.) A Squared 4.0.0.38 ; CCleaner 2.16.830; Spybot (New Version 1.6.2) .

Free-Firewall Programs:- use only 1 – turn off Windows Fire Wall or remove any other first; Zone Alarm (XP/Vista) – Auto check for new version. Comada 1.0.0.6 Full suite (under Full Suites.

All in One: Kaspersky Internet Suite 2009 – rated No1 by PC User and APC Magazines; McAfee ASAP Monitored Suite – Installation is through Hi-Speed or Club – i.e. contact Collin Ward; Trend Micro Suite; Comodo 1.0.0.6 Full Suite.

Colin was asked to supply a CD of all free software: Instead it may go onto My Document Drive where those with USBs can access it easily. These are .exe or .zip files and can then be installed on your home machines. **Check out all of this on our club website: www.forestcompals.org.au** .

Colin noted that there were 24 people in arrears for 6 months who will be removed from the list of members.

GUEST SPEAKER: Our wonderful local guest speaker Rod Duckworth asked the audience for questions and proceeded to talk about a variety of subjects; Controversially his business customers have not taken to Vista and often 'upgrade' back to XP- hopefully Windows 7 will be better. XP is a far more stable platform, clean and fast whilst Vista can have speed and security issues. The latter for business networks not individual users. He addressed the difficulty of File Sharing (beginnings of networking) where the material needs to be in a 'shared documents' folder. to share across an internal network of computers.

He tried to make us more aware of the complexity of language used for make web sites (although new software no longer requires this understanding.) He showed us the complexity of a simple sentence by looking at Properties when 'hello how are you' was typed into Notepad which used only 17 bytes compared with 24,000 bytes in Word due to the markers and codes used in the latter program that we were totally unaware of. Thank goodness we no longer need to know web page language. I was fascinated to see him drop a file into the web browser simply by drag and dropping onto browser on the task bar!

He warned that those using Bit Torrent to download free Music and Movies were in danger of being caught and should use free software- 'Peer Guardian' which needs to updates daily and blocks Sony and others interested in catching you from tracing your location.

Next meeting Thursday March 26.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

To clarify any misunderstandings about subscriptions, annual subscriptions are due at the end of the financial year, that is June 30.

Members who have not yet come into line with this arrangement are gradually being included.

If you think your annual subscription is due at the end of March, please pay $20 to the treasurer as this will enable you to then pay a full year at the end of June, like everyone else.

Please also note that quarterly subscriptions were discontinued last year.

SKYPE TALK

Our secretary, **Sandra Brophey**, will give a talk about SKYPE to the Mosman Computer Pals Club on Friday, March 13 in the Hartnell room of the Hartnell Civic Centre, at 3 pm. The Centre is in the Council complex at Mosman Square off Military Road, near Spit Road.

Booking is recommended by ringing the Mosman Seniors' Centre, 9978 4128.

If you would like to support your fellow-member and meet other Computer Pals people do go along.

HAVE YOU READ A FIDO YET?

Scams, new ATM charges, making sure you get your entitlement from the government's tax bonus are some of the topics worth learning about in the current issue of Fido.

What is FIDO? It's the newsletter of ASIC; a trusted site available free. It' issued monthly on the net and can be reached at website: www.fido.gov.au/latestfidonews

If you find it useful, you can register to receive it for free each month.

TRAINERS AND COURSES

There are about 23 trainers assisting club members at present and their help is greatly appreciated. Trainers agree that teaching fellow members how to use computers is very rewarding, not only because they are helping others but particularly because they learn so much more about computing. *Perhaps you would like to become a trainer? The club runs a special course to "train the trainer". Please contact any trainer or Darrell Hatch, our Training Coordinator, for more details.*

MICROSOFT WORD PROCESSING

Derek Rowland: Runs group training sessions in MS Word. He covers the full range of Word's capabilities. WordArt, graphics, spreadsheets and drawing features . Notes are provided at each of the 6 weekly sessions. Please add your name to the list in the office. A minimum of 6 participants needed.

INTERNET COURSE

John Ray: Conducts Internet group training sessions in three sessions, which run from 1 – 2 pm on Tuesday afternoons. Next course starts on May 5. Please add your name to the list in the office.

BASIC COURSE

Darrell Hatch: Darrell runs a basic course for newcomers on selected Saturdays, starting at 9.30 am. It's easy to follow and a good starting point. The next will be held on . Please put your name on the list at the club office to register for attendance.

MS EXCEL SPREADSHEETS

Malcolm Fell offers training in MS Excel on an appointment basis. Call him on 94516050 or email him on mmfell@optusnet.com.au

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.

GROUP TUITION FOR BEGINNERS

Gay's course suspended until further notice.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

John Robinson will run a PICASA 3 course, starting on March 17 and completing on the following Tuesday, March 24. Course starts at 2 pm and runs to 3.30 pm each day. Course limited to 5 members—please enrol on The form on the notice board.

GENEALOGY

Anna Karalus will help you get your family tree in shape. Please call her on 9451 5573 to arrange an appointment.

MALCOLM FELL

Unfortunately, Malcolm Fell has needed surgery on his larynx and is not able to speak very well at present. It is suggested that for the time being we communicate with him by email.
We also wish him well and hope he soon returns to good health and voice.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Recording Your Attendance and Departure times

Most of us remember to **sign in** upon arrival at the club office 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

Previously, if you receive your newsletter by mail, your membership renewal to Forest Computer Pals for Seniors was due at the end of the month shown on the top right corner of the address label on the envelope containing the newsletter. If you received your newsletter by email, reminders would be emailed just before your subscription expired. Now everyone pays **$70** for a year's membership by the end of June. When paying, please put your cheque or cash in an envelope with your name and number on it and hand it to a trainer or office assistant to put it in the diary and cashbox. Alternatively, post it (cheques only) to:
The Treasurer, Forest Computer Pals for Seniors, PO Box 116, Forestville 2087, or make an EFT payment directly

to Forest Computer Pals for Seniors Bank Account. For further information the Treasurer's email address is:-
treasurer@forestcompals.org.au

Members Training/Appointment Calendar

Members are asked to print their **First** and **Family Names** on the appointment 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. (This requirement does not apply to Special Group courses as they are not listed on the booking sheets).

Would members who have booked time and cannot keep the appointment please phone as early as possible to allow others to utilise the place.

ABOUT THE CLUB

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.

The club is a founding member of the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA). The work of the club is voluntary and depends on its members for its resources in management and training.

APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP

Enquiries from prospective members are welcome. Please call the club office (9975 7762) or the Membership Co-ordinator (Reg Flew, 9971 0325) for more information.

The entry fee is $25. Subscription fees are paid annually ($70), and are due at the end of June. All members, including trainers and committee persons, pay full membership.

LIFE BEFORE COMPUTERS!

Remember?

Memory was something you lost in old age.

An **Application** was for a job

A **Program** was a TV show

A **Cursor** often profaned

A **Keyboard** was a piano

A **Web** was where spiders lived

A **Virus** was the flu'

A **Hard Drive** was a long car trip

A **Mouse Pad** was where the wee mouse lived

And, *for the men only*:

If you had a **3½" Floppy**, you just

hoped nobody ever found out!!

TRAINER INFORMATION

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	9451 6050 9451 4660 9451 9779 9905 5193
Tue am	Don Muir Graham Allan Shirley Palmer	9451 6548 9451 4336 9451 0158	Tue pm	Special courses — see Notice Board	
Wed am	Dick Manuell Archie Macnaughton Gay Savage	9451 1578 9938 1971 9452 1937	Wed pm	Ian Parsons Ken Moorley Susan Howell Jack Wilson	9452 4249 9451 0494 9415 1167 9452 1148
Thu am	Len Johnson Richard Smith Anna Karalus	9450 2167 9451 5573	Thu pm	John Robinson	9451 5977
Fri am	John Ray Kate Holland Shanelle Breusch Pam Perrin (10 am)	9451 9396 9810 2451 9452 5680 9449 2734	Fri pm	Derek Rowland MS Word groups	9451 3969

OTHER TRAINING INFORMATION

Colin Ward	Computer maintenance and repairs	By Appointment	9451 1000
Marie Bailey	Wednesday am	Social Coordinator & Office Assistant	9451 5307
Pat James	Monday am	Office Assistant	9905 1882
Elaine Mulligan	Friday am	Office Assistant	9939 2686
Sandra Brophey	Skype & dig. photos	By Appointment	9939 7737
Lexie Keston	Tuesday am	Office Assistant	9417 3354
Anna Karalus	Genealogy	By Appointment	9451 5573

Committee for the year October 2008 to October 2009

Colin Ward President	9451 1000	Reg Flew Vice-President	9971 0325
Sandra Brophey Secretary	9939 7737	Bob Brisebois Treasurer	9451 4660
John Ray	9451 9396	Darrell Hatch Training Coordinator	9982 7139
Ken Moorley	9451 0494	Bruce White	9451 9779
Anna Karalus	9451 5573	Gerry Benjamin	9453 3255

THANK YOU TO GERRY!

Gerry Benjamin has joined the club committee and we collectively thank him for that. He brings a lot of experience to the task and we wish him well.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND RECEIVING IT BY EMAIL

Contributions from members are welcome at any time. Please email them in plain unformatted text to Forest News editor, Dick Manuell: rman77@bigpond.net.au, or leave a document in the pigeonhole box.
If you have an email address and would like to get the Newsletter by that means, please send an email to Dick requesting Newsletter by email. This will save the club on postage and paper and you'll get the N/L faster.