

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

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ASCCA's own "distinguished expert" visits Korea

ASCCA's President Nan Bosler has recently returned from Seoul in Korea, where she was invited by Microsoft to make a presentation, which she called, *"Using IT enhances the lives of Older Australian People"*. In Nan's own words she says of the experience;

ASCCA's partnership with Microsoft has been rich and varied. Shaking hands with Bill Gates and realising that ASCCA had become a foundation partner in the Microsoft Unlimited Potential program was amazing but being offered the opportunity to go to Seoul in Korea to present at the Information Society and the Elderly Global Perspectives Conference was quite incredible!



The pre-conference organisation was excellent; I arrived at Incheon International Airport and sailed through customs to see a large sign bearing my name as I entered the arrivals area. I was whisked off to Yonsei University where I was to stay. A graduate had been allocated to each overseas delegate and there was Daniel anxious to see if there was anything that I needed.

A pre-conference informal reception was held on 26 February. It was held at a 5 star hotel in the city and if that was an informal reception I am in awe of what a formal reception would have been like. After the dinner we sat down with journalists from 3 newspapers. It would be interesting to understand what they wrote about us!

The welcome to the conference was given by Han Joong Kim, Ph.D., President, Yonsei University who said:

"I am pleased and honoured to welcome all of you to the international conference on Information Society and the elderly: Global perspectives. I would like to extend special thanks to the distinguished experts from around the world for taking their time and effort to share their experience and expertises. I'd also like to express my sincere gratitude to Microsoft whose kind and thoughtful support makes this partnership between the enterprise and the University possible..."

He went on to refer to the value of discussing the problems of *"helping the vulnerable senior population who are often isolated or excluded from the information society"*. He noted that the "digital divide" was an urgent issue with Korea's fastest growing aging population and expressed a hope that the exchange of ideas through different countries at the conference would be valuable in bridging "the divide".

During the next two days as the conference progressed, Nan and the other delegates found it very satisfying to realise that many other countries were also working towards helping seniors to use communication technology. She found it interesting to learn that they were all doing the same thing, although approaching it in different ways.

Although Nan did express some difficulty thinking of herself and all our ASCCA members as "elderly" she did admit to being, "Well satisfied that ASCCA is among the leaders in the world in the way in which we work with seniors".

On the afternoon of the second day of the conference the international delegates were taken on a field trip to visit KADO (Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion) where they saw some wonderful adaptive technology and also visited a Welfare Centre. The centre was very much like

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Proposed dates for ASCCA 2008 events

- April 6-13 50 Years of NSW Seniors Week
<http://www.nswseniorsweek.com.au/>
- April 8 Public Trustee TechnoSeniors Computer Expo, Morisset
April 8 Public Trustee TechnoSeniors Computer Expo, Mt. Pritchard
April 10 People & Places - Family History Festival, Narrabeen
For all the details on these very interesting ASCCA contributions to Seniors Week see
<http://www.ascca.org.au/SeniorsWeek08/SeniorsWeek2008.html>
- May 12-18 National Volunteer Week - Theme "Volunteers Change Our World"
http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s01_home/home.asp
- June Members Meeting; level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney
- Aug. 27 & 28 10th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors
- November 20 ASCCA AGM; level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney



ASCCA Members Meeting 18th March 2008

This informal and friendly meeting provided an opportunity for members from many ASCCA Clubs to exchange ideas and offer and receive helpful suggestions during the Clubs Speak Forum.

To begin, Brian Graham spoke about Vista and its strengths and challenges, and was able to answer questions and offer advice. John Rutter from Eastern Suburbs, and Colin Ward from Forest provided snapshots of the way their clubs operate and solve the kinds of problems we all face; and Lynton Bradford of Anglican Retirement Villages and Epping offered some suggestions and answered queries on backing up.

Diane Brentnall from ASCCA spoke briefly about the Telstra Connected Seniors program and there were brief reports about the interesting involvement ASCCA has had with the recent Cyber Savvy Conference in Sydney, the National e-Security Awareness Week Steering Committee and the visit to FaHCSIA in Canberra with WorkVentures to discuss the proposed Seniors Internet Fund.

The 2008 ASCCA Competitions were announced at the meeting, and details and entry forms for all these competitions are now available at <http://www.ascca.org.au/events.html#Competitions>
The Digital Photography, Newsletter and Websites are being run along the same lines as last year, however there are some changes to the Creative Writing Competition. This year you will be able to enter three poems and three stories if you wish and the word count has been increased to 1,000 words for each of the three categories. As already happens in the Digital Photography Competition, there will be a Writing Grand Champion award and each entry will gain points for your club, so happy writing on any or all of the topics, "Reaching the Summit", "Colour", and "Introduction", in the Poetry and Story Categories; and happy snapping of "Landscape", "People" or "General" in the Enhanced and Non-enhanced categories.

Proposed legislation changes for Incorporated Associations

The Office of Fair Trading has proposed some changes to the legislation governing incorporated associations. This is of interest to many of our ASCCA Clubs which are among over 35,000 incorporated associations in NSW. You are invited to comment on the proposed reforms although time is short, with submissions closing on 11th April 2008. To download a summary of the changes go to: <http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/corporate/associationssummaryofchanges2008.pdf> and to comment on these changes go to: <http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/corporate/legislation/commentproposedlegislation.html> and select this link: [Associations Incorporation Bill 2008 Exposure Draft - submissions close 11 April 2008](#)

It is suggested the proposed changes to the laws regulating incorporated associations will make them easier to run and provide increased protection for their members, and modernise the processes involved in running an association and improve the flexibility for meetings and office holders. However it is up to each incorporated body to decide if they wish to make a submission.

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Visit to KADO

Left to right - Kazuma Yokota, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications, Japan; Noriko Kondo, Waseda University Giti, Japan; Nan Bosler, ASCCA, Australia; Birgit Jaeger, Roskilde University Denmark; Riann O. Gooettl, Microsoft Singapore; Adi Fahrudin, Bandung School of Social Welfare, Indonesia; Azy Barak, University of Haifa, Israel

a community centre with a wide range of activities for older people. It also contained health services and an employment agency. From various speakers and from the visit to the welfare centre Nan realised that Australia's older people are for the most part fairly well off by comparison.



Nan Bosler & Mayor Cho

On the last day of her visit Nan had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor of Incheon. Mayor Cho is the chief mayor of Incheon City, the Korean Association of Lifelong Learning City. Nan had met him and Kim Min Jeong in Cairns last November at the Adult Learning Australia Conference and had planned to pay her respects. However, Min Jeong came to the University to collect her for morning tea with the Mayor at the Council; followed by lunch and a "hands on" visit to the Ceramic Centre and a pottery studio; sightseeing, and a timely delivery to the right queue at the airport for the trip home.

One exciting outcome of the conference has been the formation of a network of representatives from nine different countries. Hopefully this will lead to the exchange of ideas of mutual value. This network has already given ASCCA the opportunity to participate in a video conference with Japan at the end of April.

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked NO REPEATS."

Not ready to update to Microsoft Office 2007 - No problem!

Westlakes Computer Club has passed on the answer to a problem that some of you are already encountering; and it is a problem which will increase as more and more computer users update to Microsoft Office 2007. The 2007 programs are not compatible with Office 2000, XP and 2003. If someone sends you an attachment in Word, Excel and PowerPoint 2007 you are unlikely to be able to read them. If you are not updating to Office 2007- and why should you if you are happy with an earlier version - it is suggested you download the *Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack* by clicking this link [Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2007 File Formats](#).

By installing the Compatibility Pack in addition to Microsoft Office 2000, Office XP, or Office 2003, you will be able to open, edit, and save files using the file formats new to Word, Excel and PowerPoint 2007. At 27.5 MB it is a large download if you are still connected to dialup internet, so choose your time carefully. However with broadband you can begin using this convenient compatibility pack in a couple of minutes. It works like "magic".

There is an option in the Office 2007 programs to save documents as earlier versions of Office for sending attachments to people who you know to have an earlier version, however perhaps you should keep a note of this link for the time when you receive an email saying, "I could not open the attachment that you sent". It will help your emailer if you can respond by supplying the link.

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Report on Energy Efficiency Rating Labelling Workshop

Recently the Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts held a Workshop to explore the need for an energy efficiency rating labelling system with particular reference to Information Communication Technology and TV. Graphs were shown to indicate that computers and monitors are rapidly becoming the major source of power consumption in the developed world, largely because of the sheer numbers now in use.

ASCCA was invited to send a representative to this workshop which was attended, for us, by Alan Craymer of the Epping Club. ACA (Choice Magazine), The Australian Computer Society, the Consumer Electrical Supply Association, and representatives of all the big computer and TV manufacturers were also represented. It is envisaged by the government and ACA people that this system, if adopted, would be along the lines of the present system for labelling refrigerators and washing machines.

However, the industry representatives and our ASCCA representative expressed concerns regarding the practicalities and consequent costs of implementation of a "physical" labelling system. It was claimed that 50% of personal computers are now purchased on line, and these computers are generally individually configured with the various, separately available and packaged components, having their own features and power consumption possibilities. It will be a challenge to solve many of the problems involved in informing consumers of the exact power consumption of the equipment they wish to purchase.

The discussion also centred on the question of mandatory or voluntary (industry regulated) labelling if it is adopted. The government's energy rating website may be of interest to any of our members who wish to know more about efficiency ratings. www.energyrating.gov.au You can also read the *Final Report by Winton Sustainable Research Strategies, on "Community Attitudes to the Possibility of Energy Efficiency Labelling of Television Sets and Home Computers"* dated 23 April 2007 at <http://energyrating.gov.au/library/pubs/200705-labelling-tv-computer.pdf>

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.

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 membership is \$100 per year. Corporate Membership is 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@seniorcomputing.org to find out how to start a club or read some of the advantages of joining ASCCA if you are an existing club. You can download an Application Form.

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