

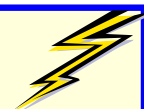
Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

ABN 47 097 847 642

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MORE ADVENTURES OF OUR INTREPID TRAVELLING APIA ADULT LEARNING AUSTRALIA AMBASSADOR



Our ASCCA President Nan Bosler had no idea of the adventures which would come her way when she became the Apia Adult Learning Australia Ambassador! Nan admits to feeling a bit nervous about travelling overseas; but after the experiences gained during her two recent trips she feels she now has the confidence to go anywhere! These experiences included being in a plane that was hit by lightning, been stranded – sometimes without support – in several countries, and discovering what airports look like in the early hours of the morning, and many other “adventures”.



In June Nan travelled to Montevideo, Uruguay to attend an international three-day seminar, *Women in motion for the right to education*. The seminar was organised by The International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) and run by its Gender and Education Office (GEO). This meeting was an opportunity for women from around the world who work in Youth and Adult Education to get together, embark on an analysis and define strategies for the participation of GEO at the Sixth UNESCO International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI) in Brazil in May 2009.

The general objective of this seminar was to “analyze the world political context and its impact on gender equality and lifelong learning policies, so as to ensure the exercise of full citizenship”.

Around 40 women from 19 different countries participated in the seminar: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Moldova, Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Tanzania, UK, Uruguay and Zambia.

Nan writes; “We came from different countries, we spoke different languages but smiles, passion and commitment bonded us together as one. We are often concerned by the difficulties we face in Australia but those difficulties lost a lot of their importance as I listened to the incredible challenges faced in many countries. Probably the least of these challenges was expressed by an African colleague who could see the wonderful advantages provided by learning to use a computer; then she casually mentioned that her area had better try and get electricity before they thought about computers!”

After a series of travel “adventures”, the details of which nobody has yet been able to ascertain from Nan, she arrived home on 3rd July. Early the next day she left for New Zealand to attend the Annual Conference of ACE (Adult and Community Education) Aotearoa in Auckland. This conference celebrated the diversity of learning styles and types within adult and community education, and recognised 2008 as the UN international year of languages.

Nan joined Peter, CEO of Adult Learning Australia and Percy Knight, CEO Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation Ltd: Wiradjuri Condobolin Culture & Heritage Company as part of delegation of three Australians at the conference. Percy is a member of the Wiradjuri people and has a long and distinguished career in various areas pertaining to Indigenous socio-economic and community issues focusing mainly on the ACT and areas in NSW. Nan noted; “It was a great eye opener to see the way Indigenous issues and culture were woven into the program. We have much to learn in Australia. But then again we have much to share too!”



ASCCA Notice Board
Bookings Ring 02 9286 3871
Email office@ascca.org.au

27th August & 28th August
10th ASCCA Conference
Powerhouse Museum
Sydney
\$80 for 2 Days
\$50 for 1 Day

Book for Conference
Enter Competitions
Buy Raffle Tickets

Thursday 20th November
ASCCA AGM
Level 1, 280 Pitt Street,
Sydney

SNIPS FROM THE HISTORY OF COMPUTING



Around 200 AD in China and Japan people were using a kind of sand tray to help with arithmetic calculations and from this developed the abacus which, as recently as 30 years ago, could still be seen in use by shopkeepers in Asia.

In 1833 a Charles Babbage designed an Analytical Engine which followed instructions from punched cards. Instruction routines for this engine, which are generally considered the first computer programs, were devised by Babbage and an able female collaborator, Augusta Ada King,

Countess of Lovelace. Ada, the first legitimate daughter of Lord Byron, was a competent mathematician, but sadly was bled to death at the age of 36 by physicians attempting to cure her of cancer!

The famous Hollerith punched cards were used by an electromechanical machine devised by Herman Hollerith to count the US census in 1890. This process, which had previously taken seven years, took six weeks to complete. Six years later Hollerith founded the Tabulating Machine Company, later to become part of Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company which in 1924 became International Business Machines (IBM).

How wrong can you be? Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM said in 1943 "I think there is a world market for about five computers". And the president of DEC (Digital Equipment Corporation) similarly missed the mark as recently as 1977 when he said "There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home". (I am reminded that the organisers of a CSIRO Christmas Party turned down the offer of a young staff member to sing at the event on the grounds that she was not good enough. Her name was Joan Sutherland although it is just possible the organisers were right at the time!)

In World War II, Konrad Zuse built a computer to help design aeroplanes and missiles for the German armed forces and in 1943 Alan Turing and MHA Neuman designed and built a computer at Bletchley called Colossus to help break German message codes. At the University of Pennsylvania, with heavy financial support from the US government, ENIAC was developed by 1946, initially to do ballistic calculations. It weighed 80 tons, had 17,000 vacuum tubes, 70,000 resistors, 5 million soldered joints and consumed 160 kilowatts of power. Many historians consider this the first 'true computer'.

A 'bug' is the term used for a fault in a program and 'debugging' has become a standard term for correcting software errors. However it originated in 1945 when an insect was found in a computer relay. In the tropics debugging is a necessary two-stage practice with computers and while working in Indonesia in 1991 I remember hearing that the local technician's first approach to any failed PC was to take off the case and gently hose the contents! I ended up taping fly wire over all the vents on my IBM look-alike to keep out the cockroaches.



Much of this information is abstracted from a feature in 'Computer Choice', November 1999. This is a very useful bimonthly magazine providing completely independent comparisons of hardware and software, in the same way that 'Choice' does for household products, plus lots of helpful articles on usage and problem solving. John Wheeler

Thanks to John Wheeler from the Anglican Retirement Villages' Computer Club for sharing this interesting history of the development of computers.

Come to the Party - 10th Annual Conference

Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th August 2008



Members from many of the 114 ASCCA Clubs throughout Australia will descend upon the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney on these two days to celebrate the opportunity to learn, and share ideas for the tenth successive year. We will take a little time for reflection and history, although as always we will look towards future developments and learn new skills.

There will be many interesting speakers; some old favourites like Peter Blasina, and others like Peter Cullen, US-based Chief Privacy Strategist and Senior Director, Trustworthy Computing, Microsoft, who will share their expertise with us for the first time. There will be technical help for those of us who don't see or hear as well as we used to; there will be tips and encouragement for those projects that may have temporarily stalled, and there will be a spirit of friendship and fun, and there will be good food as well.



What more could you ask for

Register before 17th August to be sure of a place at the

conference.

Does the media take enough notice of older people? Do journalists and photographers give us a fair go?

Older People Speak Out www.opso.com.au invites everyone to have their say by selecting any newspaper or magazine article or photograph, television/ radio interview or news/current affairs item or advertisement published or broadcast between 31st August 2007 and 15th September 2008 and writing in 50 words or less why it portrays positive ageing. "The belief of television producers that wrinkles destroy ratings, the insistence in advertising that wrinkles and saggy skin are a fate worse than death all affect community attitudes".

Hopefully, the People's Choice Awards, will help to change this. Copies of the Entry Form can be downloaded from

<http://www.opso.com.au/download/2008%20People%27s%20Choice%20Entry%20Form.pdf>

FREE 'TRAIN THE TRAINER' MOBILE PHONE WORKSHOPS FOR ASCCA CLUBS



A Telstra Connected Seniors Grant received by ASSCA allows us to offer free 'Train the Trainer' workshops designed to familiarize seniors with the complex changes in 21st century mobile phone technology.

The aim of these workshops is to train club trainers in recent developments in mobiles to pass on these changes to their fellow members.

Members would be able to gain those skills necessary for effective and confident use of modern mobiles, which today are much more than a mere telephone!

These training sessions will be run in each state in the coming months. If your club has a trainer or two, who would be interested in attending a 'Train the Trainer' workshop, please contact Sirkka Duncan at ASCCA office for further information, By phone 02 9286 3871 or email training@ascca.org.au



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PEOPLE & PLACES—TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY



This handy book was launched at the *People and Places Family History Festival*, Seniors Week, April 2008. The Festival was hosted by Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches Inc. The book available from ASCCA was written to encourage you to research and record your family history, and includes many research tips and useful links. Also available on CD.

MEMORIES WISHES & GRATITUDE

This new book is now available from ASCCA. It is also available on CD. It contains a selection of delightful poems and short stories written by members of ASCCA for the 2007 Creative Writing Competition. After reading these stories you will be inspired to start writing your entries for the 2008 writing competition.



Books \$20.00 + \$5.00 Postage - CDs \$10.00 Including Postage

Please note updated contact information for ASCCA

Website www.ascca.org.au

- General Information: office@ascca.org.au
- Member Support: cdo@ascca.org.au
- New Club Support: cdo@ascca.org.au
- Training: training@ascca.org.au
- Webmaster: webmaster@ascca.org.au
- Technical Officer: office@ascca.org.au
- President: ascca@ascca.org.au

How to view more on your computer screen

To change the viewing size of your document or the pages in your browser, press and hold the Ctrl key and rotate the wheel on your mouse (if you have this type of mouse). Rolling it towards you reduces the page size (without reducing the actual font size). Rolling it away from you enlarges the view. In 'Word' this enables you to view multiple pages on the screen all at once. *Thanks to Moccoco News (Hunters Hill NSW) May 2008 for this reminder.*

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@sascca.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. You can download an Application Form.

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Newsletter Editor: Joan Craymer, Email: thewhistlers@optusnet.com.au Contributions are welcome.

Remember this is YOUR NEWSLETTER. Please take special note clubs outside Sydney and NSW.

Please forward contributions by email to Joan Craymer, thewhistlers@optusnet.com.au