

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

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BROADBAND FOR SENIORS

On Thursday 27th November the PC Users Group (ACT) was the venue chosen for the launch of *Broadband for Seniors* which will establish up to 2,000 free internet kiosks in community centres and clubs used by seniors throughout Australia. Jenny Macklin MP - Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and Annette Ellis MP, Member for Canberra announced that the Australian Government has committed \$15 million over three years, to provide computer hardware and software, broadband service and training.

The kiosks, which will provide computers, internet connections and training, will be available to both pensioners and self-funded retirees. Recent statistics indicate that only one in five Australians over the age of 65 are currently using the Internet and this *National Broadband for Seniors* initiative aims at making it easier for seniors to get online.

The choice of the 900 member strong Canberra PCUG which has been an important part of the Canberra community for 25 years and was the first Internet Service provider in Canberra was an inspired one for the launch. Canberra PCUG is one of the larger non-profit community groups in Canberra, and has a motto, "USERS HELPING USERS" that all ASCCA Club members can relate to. (See more about PC Users Group (ACT) on Page 3 of the Newsletter)

NEC Australia has won the contract to provide the technology, nationwide network and management for the project. They will do this as part of a consortium which includes Adult Learning Australia, the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association and U3A Online.

David Cooke, Group Manager, NEC Australia said: "The background research that we have done suggests that many seniors across Australia who do have access to the internet and online courses have been able to live fuller and more rewarding lives."

Adult Learning Australia president, Mr Greg Peart said: "Broadband access will do much to break down barriers, build human capability, and strengthen our family and community capacity. Continuing to learn through what broadband internet services can provide is now recognised as not only a panacea for loneliness but as one means to sustaining a healthy lifestyle."

Nan Bosler, OAM, our ASCCA President said: "It has been shown that older Australians are disadvantaged if they can't use a computer and the internet. The Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association is thrilled to be a part of the consortium to help to empower seniors through this valuable Government initiative. Establishment of these kiosks will provide the opportunity for many more Australian seniors to learn how to use modern communication skills."

Dr Rick Swindell AM, co-founder of U3A Online said: "It's great that the government has recognised the need to get more seniors online. The Internet provides enormous potential for increased social participation by older people."



The first stage of the project will be to select appropriate sites within communities to locate the kiosks. NEC is calling on local community centres, organisations that are currently running computer services for seniors and anyone else that is interested in hosting kiosks, to register their interest, subject to certain criteria, at the following website:

<http://www.necseniors.net.au> or via phone: 1300 795 897.

Jenny Macklin MP - Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Annette Ellis MP, Member for Canberra with Craig Norton GM Marketing, NECA at the launch.

2008
Christmas Greetings
&
Best Wishes To All
for a Happy & Healthy
2009

Website www.ascca.org.au

- General Information: office@ascca.org.au
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CONGRATULATIONS TO BETTY BROWN OF LONG JETTY CLUB

Betty Brown received a 2008 Recognition Award in honour of the International Day of Older Persons as a representative of the Wyong Shire's Long Jetty District Senior Citizens' Club. She was acknowledged for her contributions to the Club in the position of first Assistant Secretary then Secretary; Editor of the Club's magazine "Happy Talk" and its development into its present format. Betty was also acknowledged as Convenor of the Computer Group with its success and expansion to 10 lessons a week to cater for over 180 people on a weekly basis. In addition, Betty has been, until recently on the Executive of Croquet NSW as Vice-president and also toured the State as State Coaching Director for a number of years, during which time she represented NSW at State titles. She was awarded Level 2 Coaching Status by Croquet Australia during this time and freely gave of her time to improve the standard of croquet in NSW. Betty's presentation was made by Craig Thompson MHR at a function held at Toukley Senior Citizens Club on 10th October, 2008



LONG JETTY DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB (INC.) is a large and very friendly group which has been in operation since 1976, with the Computer Activity Group being formed eight years ago. The impressive expansion over the last two years now sees a special room set up with 23 computers for members, plus a tutor's computer linked to a projector. During the ten lessons offered each week class numbers have remained consistently high, averaging between 14 and 20 for every session. The content of these classes is organised to meet the demands of members and includes beginners, intermediate, and advanced classes as required. Internet and email classes are also popular, and during 2008 tutors who specialise in specific software have organised blocks of from four to eight weeks to learn programs such as PhotoStory 3, Nero and Movie-maker.

Although special classes have been run for Vista and Office 2007 for those members who have bought new computers, the club computers continue to run on Windows XP and Office 2003 because 90% of the members still use these on their home computers. There are also special interest classes for Genealogy and Mobile phone/computer usage and this pattern will continue in 2009 depending on demand.

The group does its own maintenance and upgrades, and builds its own computers under the guidance of Bill Lawson who is the IT Manager. Bill Lawson has a wide range of knowledge and a real interest in the computer group.

The computer group Convenor is the liaison between the computer group and the Committee of Management and is responsible for the everyday running of the computer room. However, all decisions regarding the introduction/purchase of new software and hardware or changes to classes, are decided at tutor meetings. Feedback from these meetings is then presented to the Committee of Management.

With no booking policy for classes and the ability for students to join and leave - or change classes throughout the year there are some challenges for the tutors who are all volunteers. Without exception these wonderful tutors have developed close bonds with their classes. There is a real social atmosphere despite the fact that computer work takes precedence. Some of the members have been coming to classes for years – the combination of mastering a new and very mysterious technology in a friendly and social atmosphere is a winner as far as Long Jetty Senior Cits. is concerned.

AND THE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WINNERS ARE ...

Here are the winners of the 2008 Digital Photography Competition. We apologise that these results could not be announced at our recent Annual General Meeting because our judge Peter Blasina was unable to fit the judging of the many excellent entries into his extremely busy schedule to meet the deadline. We are grateful for Peter's continued support of ASCCA and offer congratulations to everyone who entered, and our special congratulations to those who have won awards. Our judge said, "There was an extremely high standard of photography this year from all the Clubs."



551 photographs were submitted for judging by 129 individual photographers, from 15 clubs.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB OF THE YEAR

- First** - Hurstville Seniors Computer Club
- Second** - Endeavour Seniors Computer Club Inc.
- Third** - Westlakes Seniors Computer Club

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

- First** - Valerie Osborne, Endeavour Seniors Computer Club Inc
- Runner Up** - Robin Ireland, Hurstville Seniors Computer Club

INDIVIDUAL DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Landscape (enhanced)

- First** - Valerie Osborne, Endeavour Seniors Computer Club Inc.
- Highly Commended** - John Lucke, Sydney PC Users Group Inc.
- Robin Ireland, Jean McCormick, Hurstville Seniors CC - Jean Combe, Horsham U3A - Bede Churchwood, Endeavour Seniors CC- Irene Dunn, Patricia Beal, Epping Seniors CC

People (enhanced)

- First** - Robin Ireland, Hurstville Seniors CC
- Highly Commended** - Alan Hadley, Louise Wood, Eleanor Scale, Westlakes Seniors CC - Robin Ireland, Evelyn Rodgers, Hurstville Seniors CC - Fay Purkis, Endeavour Seniors CC

General (enhanced)

- First** - Evelyn Rodgers, Hurstville Seniors Computer Club
- Highly Commended** - Geoff Turton, Robin Ireland, Hurstville Seniors CC - Tom Lehane, Penrith Seniors CC - Carolyn Barnett, Fran Durow, Horsham U3A - Margaret Pritchard, Valerie Osborne, Endeavour Seniors CC - Patricia Beal, Valerie Worswick, Epping Seniors CC

Landscape (not enhanced)

- First** - John Lombard, Westlakes Seniors Computer Club+
- Highly Commended** - Noela Shinnars-Barnard, Westlakes Seniors CC - Hazel Labka, Parramatta Seniors CC - Helen Williams, Carrington Seniors CC - Denis Grosser, Fran Durow, Horsham U3A - Margaret Pritchard, Endeavour Seniors CC - Laurie Friend, Epping Seniors CC

People (not enhanced)

- First** - Valerie Osborne, Endeavour Seniors Computer Club Inc.
- Highly Commended** - Robin Ireland, Maxine Grey, Hurstville Seniors CC - Irene Dunn, Epping Seniors CC

General (not enhanced)

- First** - Patricia McLean, Endeavour Seniors Computer Club Inc.
- Highly Commended** - Ron Seidl, Epping Seniors CC - Valerie Osborne, Endeavour Seniors CC - Jim Amos, Horsham U3A - Ken McRae, Hurstville Seniors CC - Eleanor Scale, Westlakes Seniors CC - Dick De Bevere, Sydney PC Users Group



Enhanced Landscape "Mallorcan Landscape"



Enhanced People "Photographic Conference"



Enhanced General "Curves"



Landscape "Binnalong Bay Tasmania"



People "Roof Cleaning"



General "Bath Time"

Winners of the ASCCA Raffle

- First prize:** Jean Lear, Sunshine Coast Computer Club Qld.
- Second prize:** Beryl Thompson, Broadwater Computer Group, NSW
- Third prize:** Greg Gorman, Moocooboola Computer Club NSW

MORE 2008 ASCCA COMPETITION WINNERS

BEST CLUB NEWSLETTER

First - Computer Pals for Seniors – The Hills Inc.

Editor, Jo Wickens

Second - "Monitor" Westlake's Seniors Computer Club

Editor, Harry Goyan

Third - "Manly Mouse" Computer Pals for Seniors - Manly Inc.

Editor, Gwyneth Crawford



BEST CLUB WEBSITE

First - Mangrove Mountain Computer Club www.mmcc.ctcmm.net/ Webmaster, Nick Mason

Second - Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches <http://www.compalsnb.org.au>
Webmaster, Peter Whalan

The Best Club Newsletter and Best Club Website competitions were judged by Hank Jongen, the General Manager of Centrelink who presented the Certificates. In the picture above, Hank is presenting a Certificate to Jo Wickens, the Editor of Computer Pals for Seniors—The Hills Inc. for her newsletter which won the award for best newsletter for the second consecutive year.

Hank and his team also stood by their previous judgement in voting the Mangrove Mountain Computer Club Website the best for the second year in a row.

CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS

The 2008 Grand Champion Writer - Arthur (Tom) Ware, Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors, NSW. Tom entered three stories and three poems of an excellent standard. Tom and several other winners read their stories at the ASCCA Annual General Meeting.

Reaching the Summit

First - Arthur (Tom) Ware, Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors "A Korean Christmas"

Special Mention - Lynton Bradford, ARV Residents Computer Club, Castle Hill, NSW "Climb Every Mountain"

Colour

First - Rollo Doust, Carrington Computer Club for Seniors, Camden, NSW "Black"

Special Mention - Lois Burns, Hurstville Seniors Computer Club Inc., NSW "Colour"

Special Mention - Peg Mortimer, Berri Senior Citizens Club Inc., Berri, S.A. "The Red Suit"

Special Mention Poetry - Judith Joyce, Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors, NSW "Black, White & Grey"

Special Mention Poetry - Lexie Warder, Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches Inc., NSW "Colours in the Life of a Farmer's Wife"

Introduction

First - Kathleen Roberts, ARV Residents Computer Club, Castle Hill, NSW "The Sins of the Innocents"

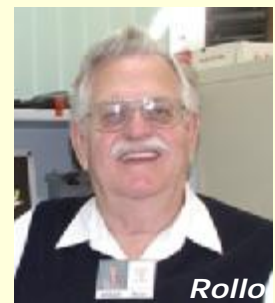
Special Mention - Barry Stephenson, Endeavour Seniors Computer Club Inc., Caringbah, NSW "Dear Will, Bethany and Gail"

Special Mention - Mary Cline, Computer Pals for Seniors The Hills Inc., Castle Hill, NSW "Hidden Identity"

Special Mention - Ingrid Van der Horst, Computer Pals for Seniors Eastern Suburbs, Sydney, NSW "Memories"



Tom



Rollo



Kathleen



The judge of the Creative Writing Competition was once again Kaye Fallick who is the publisher of *Your Life Magazine* and director of www.aboutseniors.com.au. About Seniors is a new ASCCA Sponsor. Kay was disappointed her publishing deadlines prevented her from travelling to Sydney to present the awards personally this year. You will be able to read them on the About Seniors website.

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ASCCA Board For 2008/2009

Nan Bosler, President
Colin Ward, Vice President
Mark Joffe, Treasurer
Betty Benjamin, Director
David Bennett, Director
Joan Craymer, Director
Bodo Schwarz, Director
Annette Stuckey, Director
Mark Joffe appointed Company Secretary



The Seventh ASCCA Annual General Meeting was held in Sydney on Thursday 20th November 2008

LET'S CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY 2008 ON FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER



International Volunteer Day (IVD) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. It is now celebrated world wide and aims to celebrate and highlight the invaluable work done by volunteers in communities all over the world.

Volunteering Australia supports IVD and their website will bring you advance news of National Volunteer Week 2009 which will be celebrated from 11th—17th May 2009 http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s01_home/home.asp. You can have your say about the rising costs of volunteering by joining in a live eForum. Do you think the rising costs of petrol and day-to-day living has had a negative impact on an individual's ability to volunteer?

In the 2008 National Survey of Volunteering Issues, 28% of volunteers reported that out-of-pocket expenses do have a negative impact, however, 60% of these volunteers said it does not reduce their ability or desire to volunteer. The eForum is a chance for you to tell your story – what are the other issues surrounding the costs of volunteering that are just emerging, and how are you dealing with them? [Have your say on the costs of volunteering](#)

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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