

## Interactive Communications Guide

ASCCA commissioned Maureen LeBlanc, Managing Director, MLB Consulting to undertake an "Interactive Communications Project" to provide members with a user-friendly information guide to inform them about new technology applications for their own personal, or club, use.

The project objectives were to conduct research about new technologies such as Webcams, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), and Teleconferencing and Videoconferencing applications. This includes the investigation of user-experiences, plus the technical, regulatory, and consumer protection issues surrounding these applications.

The challenge has been to then translate that information into an easy to read and understandable information manual that will empower ASCCA members to make more informed choices and decisions about their communication services.

In other words, the document attempts to look at all the pros and cons, the full spectrum of "the good, the bad, and the ugly" about these new forms of communication. The issues are many and complex, and the one guarantee we can be absolutely certain about is that these technologies and their usage *WILL* change over time, because that is the very nature of communication technologies.

ASCCA therefore hopes that this guide will assist you to be a more informed consumer, better able to evaluate what is most appropriate for your individual and/or your club wants and needs, and aware of the many fascinating possibilities for our interactive communications future.

There is a link to a PowerPoint presentation showing the contents of this just launched *Interactive Communications Guide* on the home page of [www.seniorcomputing.org](http://www.seniorcomputing.org) The last slide tells the viewer how to purchase a copy of the guide for \$30. The Guide is available free to clubs and their members from the Members Only page of our website where the full guide can be viewed or printed.

### *Let's Go Digital!*

The ASCCA 2005 residential workshop, Let's Go Digital! will be held at the Everglades Country Club, Woy Woy on 8th & 9th August. Learn how to convert LPs and video tapes to CD and DVD then add a dash of digital photography. Use Windows Media Player (Windows XP) and freeware and shareware applications to create digital music and videos for personal use. Enjoy presentations and hands on experience.

The Hon Grant McBride, Minister for Gaming and Racing and Minister for Central Coast will open the Workshop. The Everglades Country Club can be reached by train, ferry or car; the venue is wheelchair accessible and a hearing loop will be available. Further details and a registration form can be located on our website [www.seniorcomputing.org](http://www.seniorcomputing.org) There are discounts for club members and their partners.

ASCCA is grateful for financial support from the Commonwealth Department of Education Science and Technology.

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### Useful Website

Technical Aid to the Disabled has organised a deal with ISPOne to provide cheap (\$5.50 per month) dial up internet services to people with disabilities and older people who hold a Disability Support or Aged Pension or a Veteran's Affairs Entitlement card.

Check out the details at [www.tadaustconnect.org.au](http://www.tadaustconnect.org.au)

### 7th Australian Computer Seminar for Seniors

This year's conference will be held at the Bankstown Sports Club on 13 & 14 September, 9am - 3pm daily. A range of excellent speakers have confirmed that they will be at Bankstown to speak on topics from Webcams, VoIP, family history, digital photography, Pod casting to computer house-keeping and more.

The discounted cost for Club Members will be \$35 for one day and \$55 for 2 days. Cost includes morning tea and lunch vouchers for the Greenfield Station bistro.

Registration forms and brochures will be available shortly.

For further details contact Margaret, Jim or Peter on 02 9286 3871 or email [office@seniorcomputing.org](mailto:office@seniorcomputing.org)

### To make a shortcut key to insert a symbol

To make a shortcut key to insert a symbol such as "é" use the following:

- In Microsoft Word click Insert/Symbol and a dialogue box will open for Symbols.
- Click on the symbol to which you wish to assign a shortcut key of your own.
- Click the Shortcut Key button near the bottom of the dialogue box and enter the shortcut key strokes (for the example I used Alt+E, that is how it shows although only lower case is used in the keystroke)
- Click the Assign button and then close the dialogue box, your shortcut is ready to use.
- You can remove shortcuts by the same method or assign more than one shortcut for the same symbol.

Of course there may already exist a shortcut for the symbol, this will show when you click on the symbol if it exists. *Thanks Lindsay Threadgate, Computer Pals for Seniors Newcastle Inc.*

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### What are newsgroups?

A newsgroup is a collection of messages posted by individuals to a news server (a computer that can host thousands of newsgroups). You can find newsgroups on practically any subject. Although some newsgroups are moderated, most are not. Moderated newsgroups are "owned" by someone who reviews the postings, can answer questions, delete inappropriate messages, and so forth. Anyone can post messages to a newsgroup. Newsgroups do not require any kind of membership or joining fees.

To use newsgroups in Outlook Express, your Internet service provider (ISP) must offer links to one or more news servers. After you set up an account for each server you want in Outlook Express, you can read and post messages in any of the newsgroups stored on that news server.

When you find a newsgroup you like, you can "subscribe" to it so that it is displayed in your Outlook Express Folders list. Subscribing provides easy access to your favourite newsgroups, eliminating the need to scroll through the long list on the server each time you want to visit a favourite newsgroup.

Newsgroups can contain thousands of messages, which can be time-consuming to sort through. Outlook Express has a variety of features that make it easier to find the information you want in newsgroups.

*Thanks Dave Isaacs. Alloura Waters Computer Club*

### Family History: Medical Pioneers

Welcome to the Australian Medical Pioneers Index (AMPI), a database of over 3,000 pioneer doctors, from the 1700s through to 1875. The site covers Australian medical history, with a database of medical pioneers and educational background material. You will find doctors who were registered or qualified in Australia, were resident in Australia, or visited here in a professional capacity, before 1875. Ships' surgeons, convict doctors, general practitioners and medical specialists are included.

<http://www.medicalpioneers.com/>

### Medal of the Order of Australia for Karla & John!

John Craig, a member of Computer Pals for Seniors Turrumurra, was awarded the OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. His award was for service to Community Health through the NSW Branch of Alzheimers Australia, and to the community through the Rotary Club of Sydney. Linking Tasmanian Seniors member Dr Karla Fenton is also a recipient of an OAM. The citation for her award was "for service to medicine as a practitioner, educator and counsellor in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse, sexual trauma and mental health".

We extend our congratulations to both Karla and John.

### AB Tutor

AB Tutor is a well-thought-out Control program, with many useful functions for teaching computers in a classroom situation.

Using AB Tutor, a computer tutor can:

- 1) Broadcast his/her screen activities to all the other computers in the room. This is extremely useful in the demonstration phase of teaching.
- 2) Allow the tutor to watch what the students are all doing. This can be done on a grids system, or the student's screens can be cycled through at a predetermined speed. (eg every 6 seconds)
- 3) Allow the tutor to take control of a particular person's screen for supplementary demonstrations.
- 4) Broadcast PowerPoint demonstrations to all screens.
- 5) Allow the tutor to "chat" on screen to a particular student if that student needs assistance.
- 6) Turn off the entire roomful of computers by the click of one button.

As well as the above, there is another interesting scenario:

If an entire retirement village is "wired up" on a LAN (be it wired or wireless) a student can phone the tutor at an agreed hour, and the tutor can "see" what his student is doing wrong. S/he can then take over control of the student's computer, and demonstrate the solution before once again handing control back again.

Another interesting side use of AB Tutor is that parents of teenagers or even younger children can monitor their young people's computer use. They can "see" if their web use is useful to their school studies, or whether they are just playing on-line games.

They can also turn off their children's computer at "lights out" time.

I have used AB Tutor for about 6 months now, and would not be without it. The program costs 100 English pounds, but is downloadable from the following website for a free 3 months trial. [www.ABConsulting.com](http://www.ABConsulting.com)

*Thanks Peter Stanhope, ASCCA Training Officer*

### Student seeks help

I am a Masters in Marketing student at Swinburne University and I'm doing my thesis on baby boomer and seniors usage of the internet. This is one of the first academic research papers on this topic in Australia.

I'd appreciate your help. I am looking for people over the age of 45 to fill in my survey.

The survey is totally anonymous and can be viewed at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=399441062138>

### Pass on this Newsletter

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 forwarding it.

The newsletter can also be read and/or downloaded from our website, [www.seniorcomputing.org](http://www.seniorcomputing.org)

You are welcome to copy items from this newsletter but acknowledgment of ASCCA is required.

# Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

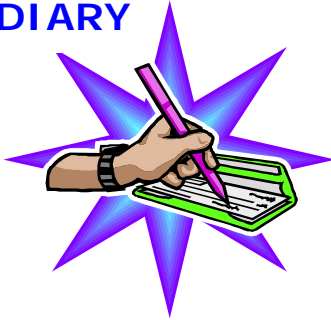
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## DIARY



August  
8 & 9

Residential Workshop, Everglades Country Club,  
Woy Woy. *Let's go Digital!*

Sept  
13 & 14

7th Computer Seminar for Seniors  
Bankstown Sports Club,  
*Interactive Communications*

Nov 10

ASCCA Annual General Meeting  
Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney  
Winners announced for Best Newsletter,  
Best Website and the Digital Photography Awards

Have you visited the ASCCA Website?

[www.seniorcomputing.org](http://www.seniorcomputing.org) Webmaster: Colin Ward

## New Member Clubs

Membership of **ASCCA** is open to all Computer Clubs for Seniors, Organisations with a membership of seniors, and Organisations that recognise the value of computer technology for seniors. At present **ASCCA** has more than 100 member clubs and there are many steering committees working to establish further clubs.

All member clubs are autonomous.

Welcome to our newest clubs:

#108 Brisbane U3A

#109 Bulli Senior Citizens Computer Club

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.seniorcomputing.org](http://www.seniorcomputing.org) or email [office@seniorcomputing.org](mailto: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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