

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

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As they say in Show Biz "Always leave them asking for more."



The highlights of the recent ASCCA Residential Workshop were - the enthusiastic participation in the presentations, which were of an excellent standard; and the outstanding venue with helpful and friendly staff. The participating group, which was perhaps disappointingly small, enjoyed exclusive use of the Bimet Executive Lodge, and, what has been reported as; "The best workshop so far!"

Nan Bosler welcomed the participants and introduced the two day event. Her welcome was followed by an excellent presentation on PhotoStory by Annette Stuckey from Westlakes Club. Annette really appreciated the wonderful interaction within the group and said that she learned a number of things from the audience.

Emma Mc Kenny from Yarnteen gave an enlightening insight into creating a DVD using Microsoft's Movie Maker and PhotoStory 3. The finished DVD that was created by Yarnteen is so good that it has already been used commercially to raise funds for other projects. Sandra Brophey from Forrest Club shared the secrets for gaining the best use from MP3 files and iPods, and demonstrated a variety of "gadgets and gizmos" that made the process seem easy and also great fun.

ASCCA's Technical Officer, Tony Lenn demonstrated how to use and create Blog sites and RSS feeds. The workshop participants were left with a feeling of confidence about experimenting with questions and answers on sites of interest to them.

Quite apart from the learning experience, participants appreciated the social aspects - like relaxing by the pool with morning tea; and a complimentary wine tasting and presentation by Wine Selectors Ltd. before dinner in the restaurant on Monday night. The meal was followed by an enjoyable trivia quiz with prizes for the winners and consolation prizes for the team with the lowest scores. Then Gerry Benjamin from Forrest Club amused everyone by reading a selection of funny emails that he had received and saved to share.



At the end of the Workshop the satisfied participants asked; "When will the next workshop be held?"

When will your Club move to the Microsoft Vista Operating System? Advice from ASCCA's Training Officer - Peter Stanhope

Here is a summary of Peter's conclusions after investigating the best way for clubs to move into use of the Vista operating system for Training.

- ◇ Clubs need to start with the appropriate hardware - a significant problem for some clubs!
- ◇ The best version of Vista for clubs is **Vista Home Premium**.
- ◇ Hard drives need to be formatted into two partitions, with the Vista partition slightly larger than the XP partition.
- ◇ Install XP on the C: partition and then install Vista on the D: partition.
- ◇ Installation needs to be done through XP, not by booting from the DVD disc.
- ◇ The dual installation places a boot menu at the front end, enabling clubs to boot into either XP or Vista.
- ◇ This way, software (particularly drivers) which won't run in Vista will still run in XP.
- ◇ Remember, there is no compelling reason why Vista needs to be installed this year. Although Windows XP will transition from Mainstream Support to Extended Support in April 2009, this Extended Support will continue until 2014.

There are more ASCCA events to come during 2007.

- June 13** If you have already marked this date in your diary - please note this
Members Meeting has been cancelled
- Aug. 27 - 28** 9th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors - to be held at the Powerhouse
Museum in Sydney - exciting details available soon!
- Sept. 29** 2nd Queensland Forum to be held at Ferney Grove High School Auditorium
- November 15** ASCCA AGM; level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney
Results of Best Club Newsletter, Club Website and Digital Photography Competitions
and also the results of our exciting New Creative Writing Competition will be
announced. Details and entry forms for all competitions are on our Website.

Tips for planning a perfect trip and finding heavenly accommodation

Begin by opening a dedicated folder on your computer in "My Documents" to keep everything in one place. Before you leave home scan your Passport, Driver's Licence, Duty Free receipts, Airline tickets, traveller's cheque receipts and a letter from your Doctor regarding names and dosage of any medications you take - including non prescription.

While searching for information on the Internet it is useful to **open a separate document for each country or area that you plan to visit**; so that you can save and coordinate information more easily afterwards. eg. Cotswolds, Kent, Ireland. Soon you should have a good idea of the number of days/nights you will need, or be able to spend at each location. This information can contain all the websites of interest, or pictures and details, like opening times (eg. you don't want to arrive at a place you have always yearned to visit to find it is never opened that day of the week, or it closed half an hour before your arrival). Later on you can copy and paste relevant information from these folders onto your Itinerary.

Before starting on the Itinerary you will need to have a grasp of the various currencies you will encounter. Try <http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic> This is a Currency Converter that easily converts to any currency you are likely to use on your trip. If you set up a spreadsheet with formulas to calculate each currency in different increments, it is easy to check the latest exchange rates before your departure. The printed spreadsheet kept in your wallet provides instant price comparisons wherever you are.

Open a document called "Itinerary" and type in each day you will be travelling, formatting those days when you will be **travelling by air in red** so that they stand out. Leave several blank lines between each date so you can select, copy and paste the information collected in your country or area documents into this space for each day. As you progress, enter the details of the places you will stay in another colour (**say electric blue**), and keep notes about when you send emails to enquire or accept bookings, and if you have paid a deposit or left a credit card number etc. You could **record this information in green**. It is a good idea to prepare a full itinerary containing all the information of interest you have gathered to take on the trip; and an abbreviated one to leave behind so that family and friends can follow the journey with interest and can always contact you in an emergency.

If you are working with Word 2003 it is quite easy to copy and paste the information from the websites. After you have pasted - a little symbol for Paste Options appears at the end of the formatted section of text. Right click on this symbol and choose the "Keep Text Only" option from the drop down menu. If using Word 2000 or earlier open a NotePad document and select Format and check that Page Wrap is ticked. Highlight the information needed from the website and copy and paste to NotePad. This largely unappreciated little program found under "Accessories" on your computer will ensure that when you copy and paste from there, onto a WORD document there is no complicated formatting from the website. This is particularly useful when opening times etc. are presented in box or table form.

To insert pictures of the properties where you will stay, or places of interest you would like to visit, simply right click on the selected picture from the website, then copy, paste and format the picture for it to become part of your enticing Itinerary. **Those left at home will be green with envy and after you come back home, you will be able to re-live your trip many times over.**

Interesting Travel Websites to Get You Started in Britain and Ireland The planning is almost as much fun as the Trip!

You might like to start with The English Heritage Website to decide if you wish to purchase a Heritage Pass. It is a bit harder than some to navigate, but once you work it out it is an excellent site and the pass great value. <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.2>
Select Properties – Select properties by map – Click Map to activate - Select County etc.

An excellent site for all aspects of your trip is <http://www.britainexpress.com/index.htm>

For Ireland try <http://www.discoverireland.com/au/> From this site you can select different regions, towns, counties or types of holiday eg. Golfing or cycling.

For Northern Ireland <http://www.discovernorthernireland.com/>

These require a little more navigation to get the best from them; however they are both very good.

There are excellent websites for particular areas or cities and towns – be inventive with Google.

Here are a couple in of excellent British sites, but the scope is limitless and Google a great help.

For the Shrewsbury area try <http://www.visitshrewsbury.com/> and also for the most incredible interactive website with many links marvel at and explore <http://www.virtual-shropshire.co.uk/>

Did you know that the Caern Hill flight of locks at Devizes is spectacular and a great place to spend a day? <http://easyweb.easynet.co.uk/jim.shead/Kennet-and-Avon-Canal.html#K&A>

Try the article “All Change for the K & A”

Cotswold's Tourist and Travel Information Guide <http://www.cotswolds.info/>

Great site with many links to explore - including eg. below of the heritage link

<http://www.cotswolds.info/cotswolds-heritage.shtml>

The most amazing site if you are planning a visit to the Cotswold area, even has a wonderful image galley that is so good you feel you could almost leave your camera at home!

<http://www.completely-cotswold.com/index.htm#Anchor>

<http://www.walesholidays.co.uk/snowdon.html>

<http://www.visit-exmoor.info/>

“Visit Kent” will give you <http://www.kentattractions.co.uk/>

And from there you can choose the tab “Attractions & Map” and perhaps search “Castles”. You can even download a PDF brochure for particular properties. See also <http://www.visitkent.co.uk/>

Dr. Johnson said, “When a man is tired of London he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford.” <http://www.visitlondon.com/>

In Google, try typing “tourism kerry”; <http://www.kerry-tourism.com/index.html>

Or “tourism wexford”; <http://www.southeastireland.com/>

This is another of those wonderful interactive sites with a map to choose an area and tabs with choices like “Plan your trip”, “places to Go” - then you will have links to history, and places of interest. These sites are just examples of the endless choices available. Be creative and explore each site.

Another fantastic map driven interactive site for Ireland is

http://www.heritageisland.com/visitor_attractions.asp

Best Accommodation Site

<http://www.stilwell.co.uk/frontpage.asp?O=bb>

This interactive accommodation website is probably the very best for Britain and Ireland.

Ireland

Not a flashy Accommodation website but quite adequate and very useful

<http://www.travel-library.com/b&b/europe/ireland/>

An excellent Irish accommodation site <http://www.ireland-bnb.com/> choose county or town from the map. You can look for various types of accommodation and explore other links like “Visitor Attractions”.



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What a great idea!

On a suggestion from the Department of Veterans' Affairs that they should use existing local facilities; a group of Vietnam Vets who had expressed an interest in learning how to use a computer approached Campbelltown Seniors Cyper Seekers.

In all 30 Vets have signed up for classes and so far 21 are attending beginners lessons; with five of the group involved as tutors. Once the beginners have reached a degree of proficiency, they, and the rest of the group with computer experience, will join the existing classes. Sam Smith who is the Vice President and Newsletter editor for the Cyber Seekers, is himself a Veteran and a member of the local Veterans' Club, and has acted as liaison between the two groups. Sam reports that the Vets are enjoying their courses.

What a great idea; and one that is sure to enrich the lives of members of both the Cyber Seekers and Veterans' Clubs!

Congratulation to Nan Bosler and to all our members who responded to the ASCCA Survey

ASCCA recently received an award from the Consumers' Telecommunications Network (CTN) which represents the interests of residential consumers in Australian telecommunications.

The award was in recognition of ASCCA's research into Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and older Consumers. The Report "Seniors' Telecommunications Issues: their Interests and Concerns" was prepared by ASCCA from your responses to the survey.

In CTN's words; "Consumer driven research projects are extremely important tools to identify trends and issues which might otherwise be overlooked by industry market research or customer satisfaction surveys."

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 forward it to them.

The newsletter can also be read and/or downloaded from our website: -

<http://www.seniorcomputing.org/> 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 <http://www.seniorcomputing.org/> 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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