

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

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Australia Day Awards & Success Stories from ASCCA Clubs

Peel SeniorNet President of 2007, Merv Brindley, and Vice President Robert Stewart accepted a Seniors' Computer Group Appreciation Award from the Mayor Paddy Creevey, during Australia Day celebrations on the eastern foreshore Mandurah, Western Australia on 26th January. It was a happy gathering where a wonderful breakfast was served and a variety of live entertainment was enjoyed. There was also an annual yacht flotilla, and a Citizenship Ceremony to add to the excitement of the day.



Merv Brindley and Robert Stewart

Peel SeniorNet meets at Mandurah City Senior Citizens Centre on the Peel Inlet, Western Australia. For those who have never been to beautiful Mandurah, it is a city on the coast of Western Australia, about 70 kilometers south of Perth.

Peel SeniorNet which was formed early in 1999, is one of ASCCA's newest member clubs. In the beginning, a "Buddy System" was organized to enable volunteer members to assist other members with less computer experience, by visiting their homes to offer help with basic computer skills. Then "Mailing List" was introduced as a lively interactive means of exchanging news, views, opinions and information between members with e-mail addresses.



Part of the Mandurah crowd on the eastern foreshore, 26th Jan.

By June 2002 a Computer Room was established at the Mandurah City Senior Citizens Centre and computer lessons and workshops for 16 people at a time were organized. When a member of the club became coordinator of the Senior Citizens Centre, she was able to encourage them to apply for a WA Department of Education and Training Grant to run 'First/Second Click Programs' to provide opportunities for local people as beginners to learn how to use computers and help with computer usage throughout the Peel Region.



As part of the Hunters Hill Senior Support Group which was formed about 20 years ago, the **Moochooboola Computer Club for Seniors** can be proud of their involvement in the Active Mind Active Body Expo which was held at Gladesville RSL Club on Tuesday 9th October, 2007.

At the 2008 Australia Day ceremonies the Hunters Hill Senior Support Group received the award for the Best Community Event of the Year for the 9th Annual Expo. The Moochooboola members in Sydney, NSW know, as we all do, how much using a computer helps seniors to keep their minds active.



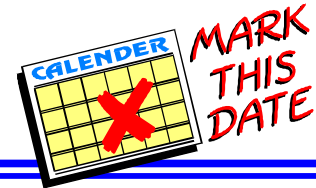
There were also celebrations at the **Hills of Gold Seniors Computer Club** at Nundle, when their Founder, President, and Tutor, David Leonard received the NSW Local Citizen of the Year award for 2008. He received this award in recognition of his work in founding and steering many local community groups.

The Nundle Bowling Club, Golf Club and Bushwalking Committee; the Nundle/Hanging Rock Mature Men's Group, Australia Day Committee and RSL Sub-Branch; the Nundle District Lions Club, the local SES and Peer Support Team, all have their stories to tell in praise of David's generous involvement.

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Proposed dates for ASCCA 2008 events

- March 10 "Cyber Savvy: Confidence in the Internet" (see details below) *
- March 18 Members Meeting; level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney
- 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
- 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 ASCCA AGM; level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney



ACMA Research

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) research, undertaken last year, has found 81 percent of people are generally satisfied with their telecommunications services.

Women, the elderly and the poor were most likely to be satisfied with their phone and internet services, while professionals, men and those with household incomes more than \$100,000 were more likely to be unhappy about them.

The research found consumers are placing more importance on having the internet, with 70 percent saying they believe broadband access is a critical service for the future.

As reported in The Age - February 28, 2008

* Internet Society of Australia, Australian Computer Society & ASCCA Free Conference

The Internet Society of Australia, with the Australian Computer Society and the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association, will be holding a free conference on Monday, 10 March from 1.00 - 5.00 PM, at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. This conference, "Cyber Savvy: Confidence in the Internet" is aimed at building user self confidence in using the Internet. There will be speakers on cyber safety and what's out there; what the regulators are doing and what you can do. There will be time scheduled for discussion. For further information and registration, contact Holly Raiche at ed@isoc-au.org.au

Microsoft Citizenship Day

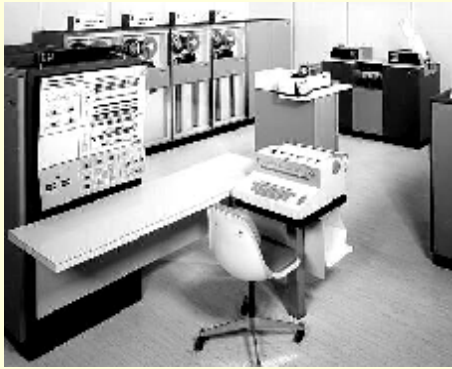
On 14th February, 2008 our ASCCA President Nan Bosler and Margaret Tucker from ASCCA visited Microsoft at Ryde, NSW, to share in their annual Citizenship Day and BBQ Lunch. The Hon. Linda Burney MP, who is the NSW Minister for Volunteering, Fair Trading and Youth, was a special guest speaker, and there were other invited guests.



It is part of Microsoft's Corporate Citizenship policy to support projects and organizations that are making a difference in society, and ASCCA and our Clubs throughout Australia have been grateful beneficiaries of many of these corporate citizenship initiatives. Through the Unlimited Potential Program; generous donations of software, and employee volunteer hours we have had contact with many enthusiastic and passionate Microsoft employees. Paul Clark, the Community Affairs Manager for Microsoft Australia, reported an enormous increase in staff registrations for volunteering this year.

Margaret Tucker from ASCCA, talking with the NSW Minister for Volunteering, Ms Linda Burney MP and John Galligan, Director of Corporate Affairs & Citizenship, Microsoft Australia & New Zealand.

Computer gives all the answers circa 1971



IBM 360 Model 40 Computer
Photo IBM Archives: Vintage Views

A newspaper article written in October 1971 trumpets the wonders of the NRMA's new computer under the headline "Computer gives all the answers". This revolution in the way the NRMA could offer a "greatly improved and faster service in answering membership enquiries" was the culmination of two years of work by the Data Processing Department, and resulted from a trip to USA in 1969, where the Department Manager "studied computer methods".

This IBM System 360 Model 40 computer was described as "highly sophisticated", and all the components, including a bank of disk storage drives, filled a very large computer room. Together these disk storage drives provided a 460 million character (460 megabyte) capacity! The newspaper article noted that as a result 60 girls could be "placed on other duties", and branch enquiries about membership would be reduced from about 25 minutes to less than 2 minutes.

The name 360 was chosen for this "cutting edge" computer to emphasise the versatility of a machine which "covered a 360° radius of business applications".

To put all this in perspective – the total storage capacity of this computer system was less than half the capacity of a standard one gigabyte portable flash drive (memory stick), which could probably be found on the keychain, in the pocket, or hanging round the neck of most of our seniors' computer club members today.



If anyone had dared to suggest that in less than 40 years almost every ordinary Australian would own a personal computer with enormous storage capacity and lightning speed, and the majority would carry from one to four, and sometimes even eight gigabytes of information around in their pocket as a matter of course; someone would surely have suggested it was time to "call for the men in white coats".

Gone are the days when a group of seniors who met to discuss their "sticks", may have been comparing the virtues and benefits of their respective walking sticks. If you look around the training rooms of any of our ASCCA Clubs you might well see a group of seniors - memory stick at the ready, waiting to print out a lesson, demonstrate a new computer program, or show photos of their grandchildren or their latest holiday. This must surely be the modern version of the grandparent's "brag book".

How amazing it is that we have the opportunity to embrace this technology that did not even exist when we were young; and how lucky we are that we have patient and understanding tutors who can empathise with our fears and memory lapses, so we can learn at our own pace.

Hills of Gold Seniors Computer Club - Continued from Page 1

Sue Denison who is the wife of the Hills of Gold Treasurer and Tutor Bill Denison, also received an Australia Day Award of an OAM for "Services To Nursing as a Nurse Practitioner and the Nundle Community". Sue made a valuable contribution to the Computer Club when she was instrumental in gaining a donation of computers for the group.

Nundle is a small village with a population of 300. It is an isolated area 64 kilometers south east from the nearest large town which is Tamworth. Although the Hills Of Gold Seniors Computer Club caters for the residents of Nundle, Woolomin, and Hanging Rock, the membership is small, although growing all the time. The Secretary, Patricia Leonard conducts many classes over the telephone with people who are unable to attend the courses in person, and are having difficulties and need immediate assistance.

No wonder we continue to be amazed by the energy and enthusiasm within our ASCCA Clubs and the generous voluntary contributions of our members to Australian Society. Congratulations to you all!

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

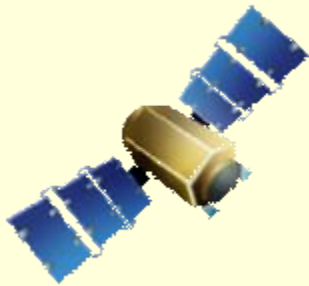
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More on Communications



Are you still wondering where to begin with the *"thoughtful and careful research which can help you make informed decisions"*? (See *"Confused about Communications"* in the February ASCCA Newsletter) Think carefully about your needs, then start your research <http://whirlpool.net.au/>

This site has a huge amount of information on providers and equipment, with advice which is independent of any provider. It is devoted to the Internet (it has nothing to do with Whirlpool washing machines). It is suggested you select > Broadband Choice > Plan Search. Then explore. You can find providers in your area, select the options you need and check the plans available to you. If you don't know exactly what you want, tick a

few boxes and see the results. Then try some other choices. The prompts will probably open your eyes to all the relevant choices available to you. You may find terms and comments you do not understand, if so go to "FAQs Links & Resources". There you will find an amazing range of information on everything connected with the Internet. The history, explanations of technical terms, provider information, precautions and more.

Now to look at mobile phones, perhaps start with:-

http://www.myshopping.com.au/PT--31_Mobile_Phones Here again you are offered a large range of choices to consider and a vast range of equipment and brands. The Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association website is a great source of information - you can find this site at:- <http://www.amta.org.au/default.asp?id=367>

Most of all do your homework, compare plans, carefully consider what you really need, don't be rushed into a purchase. You can be sure, prices in this industry will go down, not up over the long term, so you don't need to make a quick decision

Thanks to Lynton Bradford

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:- 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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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