

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

ABN 47 097 847 642

NEWSLETTER November 2008

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INTERNATIONAL OLDER PERSONS DAY AWARD

Bill McCully is a member of the Gosford City Council Senior Citizen Centre Club and is very experienced in teaching computing to beginners. It was through this experience that he became aware of the pitfalls that confront those who are not familiar with their computer. This led to his involvement in the preparation and production of "Take the Teacher Home" CDs to compliment and consolidate the club lessons through home practice. Bill received a 2008 Recognition Award in honour of the International Day of Older Persons on 10th October. This well deserved award was given to him by Ms. Belinda Neal MP, the Member for Robertson, and was in recognition of "the gift of his time and the enriching contribution Bill makes to the local community." Congratulations to Bill who is a loyal supporter of ASCCA.



ANOTHER TENTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On 7th October more than 100 members and visitors gathered at the A.R.V. Residents' Computer Club at Castle Hill to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Club. Ken Barber, the Chief Executive Officer of the Anglican Retirement Villages has always been most supportive of the Club which was established in 1998 at his instigation.

His enthusiasm and encouragement, as he worked closely with Allen Parker, (the inaugural and Immediate Past President), helped build the club into the happy and successful one it is today. So it was indeed fitting for Ken to be the speaker at the Anniversary of a Club which has grown to fulfill his dream of providing the knowledge and equipment to encourage the residents to use computers and maintain communications, while keeping active minds and exploring new and varied personal interests. It is good to know that these computing interests are contributing to a growing spirit of co-operation and help evolving between the residents of the various Anglican Retirement Villages throughout Sydney.

Since its formation in 1998, ARV management has supported the computer club in many ways including the purchase of equipment and particularly in the provision of premises and facilities. Those Computer Clubs which are constantly struggling to find suitable venues and pay ever increasing rents will be more than a little envious of this situation. Of course, it is in the interests of the Anglican Retirement Villages who promote the ideals of a healthy, useful and enjoyable lifestyle, to offer encouragement and support to the Computer Club volunteers who work towards those aims. However this kind of help and logic is not always encountered - with many clubs seeming to be thwarted by local councils and government bodies.



ARV Residents Computer Club Party

As part of the celebrations there was a special birthday afternoon tea and a happy afternoon of catching up with friends; but surely the icing on the "birthday" cake was the presentation of a generous grant from the Foundation for Aged Care, which is the fund raising arm of the Anglican Retirement Villages. The Foundation provides great support to ARV residents in helping with the funding of equipment and activities at all the Villages.

The current President Lynton Bradford says that the grant will be put to good use in maintaining and updating essential computer equipment over the next few years.

Congratulations to the ARV Residents Computer Club at Castle Hill on reaching this milestone; and thank you for sharing your story with the members of other ASCCA Clubs.

ASCCA Notice Board

Bookings Ring 02 9286 3871

Email office@ascca.org.au

Every member of every ASCCA Club throughout Australia is invited to attend the

ASCCA Annual General Meeting

to be held on

Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW

Thursday 20th November 2008

Winners of the 2008 ASCCA Competitions will be announced

Website www.ascca.org.au

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NEW REGIONAL CLUB AT EUROBODALLA, NSW



Dianne

Those of you who attended the 10th ASCCA Conference at the Powerhouse Museum, will remember the enthusiastic way Dianne Grigson, President of the newly formed EuroSCUG (Eurobodalla Seniors Computer Users Group), joined in as one of the six volunteer members of the "Future Developments" Panel with which we ended the Conference. Dianne outlined some of the unique challenges of establishing a club in a scattered regional area. With a philosophy of offering Shire wide support this club depends on even more passionate members than a Group usually requires.

Their now more than 100 members, who come from a variety of backgrounds with a diversity of skills, range in age from 60 to 80 plus and are drawn from a geographical area of over 100 kilometres along a narrow coastal strip on the South Coast of NSW. With a population over 35, 000 - the Eurobodalla contains three major towns - Batemans Bay in the north, Moruya in the centre, and Narooma in the south. The name Eurobodalla comes from an Australian Aboriginal word meaning the 'Land of Many Waters' and it identifies this narrow coastal strip running between the Shoalhaven and Bega Valley. In the mountainous areas to the west, the Eurobodalla is bordered by the Great Dividing Range with wilderness areas, national parks, and state forests all easily accessible to the idyllic area.



The organisation and co-ordination of EuroSCUG's five Local Area Groups and two Special Interest Groups which all meet monthly must present many challenges for a Club which was only established in January 2008. These local meetings are held at Batemans Bay, Mossy Point / Broulee, Moruya, Tuross and Narooma, and the Special Interest Groups concentrate on Vista and Apple Macs.

There is also one centralised all member meeting each month at the Moruya Golf Club. At this main meeting there is a guest speaker and morning tea; then instruction in computing issues according to demand. ASCCA has been told that visitors from other clubs are most welcome at their meetings.



October Meeting of EuroSCUG

There has been great excitement in EuroSCUG this month as dreams are starting to become a reality. They have been fortunate enough to receive funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, (FRRR) for a Caring for Aging in Rural Australia grant (CARA) which will help to set up the portable computer lab with internet access which Dianne identified as one of her Club's dreams for "Future Developments". This will allow the local

groups hands-on experience as they learn, and with this mobile lab with internet access we wish them great success and hope that their dreams do indeed come true.

If you would like to follow the progress of this eager group visit www.euroscug.org and read their online newsletters. If these lovely invitations continue, soon our ASCCA Clubs members may be able to travel all around our beautiful county visiting other clubs and meeting other seniors with similar interests. Why not write and tell us about your Club's challenges, successes and milestones?

A "HIDDEN TREASURE" IN MICROSOFT OFFICE PROGRAMS

We all like to discover a new "free" program, but did you know there is a useful and easy to manage program for enhancing and changing your digital photos and images "hidden" in your Microsoft Office Program. If you select All Programs > Microsoft Office > Microsoft Office Tools > Microsoft Office Picture Manager - you will be surprised at the uses you can find for quick adjustments to images as you work.

You do need to be aware that you can make all the changes you wish, but it is a good practice to preserve the integrity of your original image. So always save your changed image by a different name, and remember to click "Don't Save" on the pop up menu which appears when you close Picture Manager.

To open an image file from the Microsoft Picture Manager Program select View and you have a drop down menu with a number of choices > Thumbnails, Filmstrip, Single Picture (These first three options are obvious)

The next option is Task Pane If this is ticked it will display the Getting Started menu which has all the options available in other places, so it is not really that important unless you use it to select the Edit Pictures option, which can also be selected from the icons at the top of the screen.

Shortcuts is the next option in the View drop down menu and when ticked this displays a useful panel for navigating through to the folders where your pictures are stored.

Sort by is the next option which gives you the choice of sorting by File name, Date, File Type or File size.

Show File Names comes next, and this can be useful to keep track of similar looking images and avoid confusion. It is also useful when saving and naming your changed images.

Show Pictures Only is next and this is a good one to keep ticked all the time as it allows you to make life simple by not displaying all other kinds of files to be sifted through. There is also a Refresh option.

This is a program you need to explore for yourself as it produces some surprisingly good results with just a few clicks. It is always worthwhile trying the Auto Correct option first because it is very easy to click on the Undo arrow and try something different and there are plenty of options available in the Edit Pictures menus. Try them all and decide for yourself as each image has different needs.

The Red Eye Correction is incredibly easy and simple, but seems to work best when the subject is looking at the camera rather than looking at an angle. Sometimes with other more sophisticated programs you have to do extra touching up with the cloning tool after red eye reduction, but this program keeps the white dot of light in the eye white and does not darken the colour of the iris surrounding the pupil.

The biggest deficit is the absence of a cloning tool, and special filters like sharpening etc., but other features like those that crop, rotate/straighten, resize and compress images are very simple and quick to use with excellent results.

If you wish to work between Microsoft Office Picture Manager and other imaging programs you can use the "Filmstrip" option in Windows Picture and Fax Viewer (you can find this with the Views icon at the top of the screen in the Windows Picture and Fax View task bar). To view your images you can move from one picture to another with ease. When you find one that needs a "tweak" > right click > select Open with from the drop down menu > another menu will appear and this will offer you a choice of programs including Paint, Microsoft Picture Manager and other Imaging Programs that may be available on your computer > select Microsoft Office Picture Manager (or a different program for a specific task that is not available in Picture Manager), and begin working on your image.

Although still not perfect, this late afternoon picture taken in Carlingford, Ireland has been easily transformed into an acceptable image with Microsoft Office Picture Manager. The simple computer corrections of the digital camera image will help the traveller to recall a pleasant stroll in a medieval village across the other side of the world.



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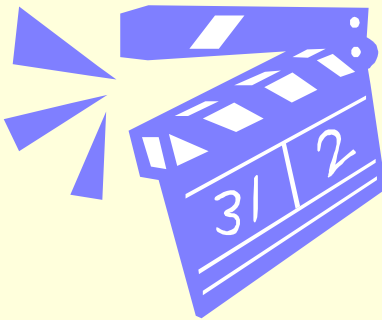
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ARE YOU YOUNG AT HEART?

It is not too early to start thinking about Seniors Week 2009 which will run from Sunday 15th March to Sunday 22nd March; and we have just received news of an exciting opportunity.

As part of the 51st NSW Seniors Week celebrations, the 4th Sydney Senior Film Festival 2009 will run a *Young At Heart Filmmaking LAB* which will take place over five days (16th - 20th March). This workshop is presenting you with the opportunity to learn how to write, shoot and edit a short film. All films completed during the week are automatically entered alongside the finalists of the *Young At Heart Short Film Awards* and will be screened on March 22nd 2009.



Everyone from 55 or over can enter. No experience required. The Lab is free of charge for all participants and all resources (mentorship, equipments, facilities, space) are provided.

Each participant will learn how to write for the screen, use a camera, act or direct and edit footage as part of a relaxed and fun week of filmmaking.

If you want to take this unique opportunity you are advised to **BOOK EARLY** because places are limited to 20 participants. For an Application Form visit <http://www.youngatheart.net.au/>

The following quote is from Henry Szeps OAM who is a well known Australian actor and Seniors Week Ambassador;

"You can only ever be old if you say so. You can be old at 22 if you are bored, blasé and have seen it all; and young at 80, if you can still admire a leaf or be moved by a sunset. The Young at Heart Festival is well named. It is a unique event which invites Australians of all ages to share their love of film, tell their stories, meet the artists and unleash their own creative powers."

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