

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

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NetAlert – Protecting Australian Families Online

You have probably seen advertising over the past few weeks for the NetAlert-Protecting Australian Families Online initiative. It is a campaign to raise awareness about the risks to young people on the internet, and provide families with free information, advice and software to help manage these risks. ASCCA was invited to share in the launch of this government initiative.



The internet opens up a world of opportunity for children and young people, but it can also bring serious risks closer to home than ever before.

Now parents, grandparents and carers can access free practical internet safety advice through the Australian Government's *NetAlert – Protecting Australian Families Online* initiative.

Families can also get a free internet content filter to help manage their children's online experience.

For advice and information on internet safety and to download or order a free internet content filter, go to www.australia.gov.au/netalert or call 1800 880 176.

Brisbane Seniors OnLine hosted the Queensland launch, and the President Brian Korner wrote this short description of the event.

A flurry (if that's the correct collective noun) of VIPs descended upon us on Friday 7 September for a morning tea to celebrate and publicise the launch of the Federal Government's \$189 million NetAlert – Protecting Australian Families Online program.



Basically, the program is designed to promote an awareness of internet safety and to make available at no cost various filtering software which can be installed on computers to limit young people's access to undesirable material on the internet.

Filters can be configured to limit the type of content viewed or downloaded, the time of day or duration of online access and the volume of data downloaded.



The Brisbane function, which BSOL hosted, was directed towards grandparents who often look after their grandchildren, and who therefore need to be aware of the hazards and ensure that their own computers are suitably secured.

The presentation was chaired by Senator Ron Boswell, and speakers included Senator the Hon Helen Coonan, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts; Nan Bosler, ASCCA President; and Kieren Perkins, Olympic gold medallist.

For more information visit the [DCITA website](http://www.dcita.gov.au) (www.dcita.gov.au)

ASCCA Annual General Meeting

To be held on 15th November 2007. Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

RSVP by 5 November 2007, giving name of Club and delegates attending, to 02 9286 3871 or ascca@ascca.org.au ASCCA is the National Peak Body for Seniors and Technology, and even individual voices can make a difference as we all seek to empower seniors to benefit from and enjoy modern technology. Remember all members of financial member clubs can attend and vote.

Annual reports, Election of Board Members, Announcements of Best ASCCA Newsletter, Best ASCCA Website, Outstanding Club and Member, Digital Photographers for 2007, and winners of the inaugural Creative Writing Competition, Guest Speakers and a light lunch.

“CrossLooping” over the Internet.

Have you come across an amazing little program called CrossLoop? A friend came across it and suggested to me that it might be interesting and useful. Wow! It certainly is very interesting! Just enter CrossLoop in Google and browse the www.crossloop.com website.

This small program enables 2 computers to connect and watch each other's screen display and control their own, or the other's computer, anywhere there is broadband access. This is great to diagnose problems. How often have you wished when a friend asks for help, you could just see their screen and see what they are doing? Don't you wish you could just reach out and click their mouse on the correct button?

Well now you can, simply and easily.

There are a number of other programs which enable remote control, such as Microsoft's Remote Access; but have you ever tried to set them up and use them?

CrossLoop is easy to download at just 2.4 Mb, and easy to install and simple to use.

You need to have the program installed on both computers and you need to have a phone adjacent to each computer so you can talk things through. Via the phone you can swap with your computer friend, the random access code which CrossLoop generates fresh for each session. This code secures your communication, and to get started each person just clicks on the CrossLoop icon on their desktop. From a small window which appears one elects to be the “Host” and the other the “Join”. The “Host” window displays the 12 digit code which must be phoned to the “Join”. Then both are connected, but need to click “Allow” before full access is available.

Either party can control the action or view the other's screen, and you can swap control at any time. CrossLoop also allows files to be transferred to and from either computer, and you can even play games together. Just to test it out, I went down to the Computer Club at ARV and connected to our home computer with my wife Gwen. There is a slight delay in response, especially when a full screen changes, and obviously a little patience is needed. Gwen and I played a jigsaw at the same time; and in a way it was slightly disconcerting as we watched each others mouse moving, and the jigsaw pieces moving about!

I suggest opening the 12 page Help File and printing it out. It is a step by step explanation with screen grabs. You should also Browse the “About” tab, “Worldwide Coverage” and “Global Response Map”. Very interesting stuff!

Lynton Bradford



Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the 9th Annual ASCCA Conference will remember hearing Lynton Bradford, President of the Anglican Retirement Village Computer Club at Castle Hill, talk briefly about his interest in finding and testing free computer programs. Here is yet another program that Lynton is quite excited about. He is interested in its potential as a tool for providing help to remote club members and friends.

If you have not yet visited the Conference Website to explore all the presentations that have been posted there, now is the time to do so.

<http://www.ascca.org.au/conference2007/Presentations.html>

Rogue Anti-Spyware Warning



ASCCA's Training Officer, Peter Stanhope has brought attention to some disturbing information presented by Scott Dunn in "Windows Secrets" online newsletter. Scott is the Associate Editor of Windows Secrets Newsletter, and he is also a contributing editor of PC World Magazine. As if there was not already enough to worry about with spyware and virus attacks on our computers; we now, according to Windows Secrets, have another problem in the form of "rogue anti-spyware".

This software, according to a website known as "Spyware Warrior" and cited by Windows Secrets, installs the very problems they claim to fix; or in scanning your PC for problems generates false positive discoveries of spyware to trick the unsuspecting user into purchasing their product online to "solve" the problems and "remove" the "found" spyware.

Unfortunately most of these programs are advertised on Google, Windows Live and Yahoo as "Sponsored Sites". Peter's main reason for bringing this to our attention is the cunning way some of these rogue programs endeavour to look or sound like legitimate well proved programs by closely simulating their names.

These programs which are not what they pretend to be and are available on the Internet include: **AdwareDeluxe** (Note the similarity to the legitimate program Ad-Aware)

AdwarePatrol

ETD Scanner

PAL Spyware Remover & SpySpotter (Both of these are accused by Spyware Warrior, of "aggressive and deceptive advertising")

AlertSpy

Allume Internet Cleanup

SpyBouncer

SpyOnThis

This information is passed on in good faith. It is important to keep informed and aware of potential security issues!

Get Up & Go Most Adventurous Australian Senior Award for 2007

Those members who entered this competition will be interested to learn that a very worthy winner was selected for the award.

After a nationwide search for the most adventurous Australian senior, Barbara Harrison from Templestowe, Victoria is the recipient of the 2007 Annual Get Up & Go Magazine Award. Get Up & Go is the official Seniors Card travel and lifestyle magazine. www.getupandgo.com.au

Barbara who is 74 years young, was chosen from hundreds of entrants for her many adventures including volunteering for Earthwatch, a not-for-profit environmental organisation where she works as a field assistant helping scientists conduct research and contribute to conservation. Her last expedition was to Africa, where she helped to save cheetahs from extinction.



Over the past 13 years Barbara has joined 14 research teams in 12 countries including Alaska, Easter Island, Russia, Hungary, Mexico and Mongolia. She has just returned from Sweden, and is already planning trips to the Pacific and around Australia with a friend next year.

Barbara wins a \$3035 trip for two to Wellington, New Zealand.

Award runners-up include: a 60-year-old who, despite having both hips replaced recently, is a keen long distance and high altitude trekker and has climbed mountains in Nepal, and a 66-year-old who spends his time skiing the mountains of the world including the French Alps and Switzerland and competing in orienteering and regaining competitions.

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Is Your Email Address Book Backed Up?

Can you imagine your frustration – your PC has “crashed” and you are feeling pleased with yourself for keeping regular backups of all your important files – **but wait** – what about your Email Address Book? Apart from avoiding the tedium of retyping all those addresses when your computer crashes or you buy a new one; an exported Address Book saved onto your Flash Drive is perfect to take with you on holiday.

To export and save your Email Address Book à Insert your Flash Drive à Open Outlook Express à Click on Address Book on the Toolbar à When your address book opens to reveal your list of addresses à Click on File à Select Export à Address Book (WAB) à Click and the Save In window appears à Click on the Browse arrow and select your Flash Drive à In the File Name window give an appropriate name eg. Mary email backup Oct 07 à Click Save.

Remember to keep this backup up to date to avoid disappointment and frustration.

Owed to a spell chequer

I have a spelling chequer,
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue,
Miss takes I can knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it to say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh

I've run this pome threw it,
I'm shore yaw pleased two no,
Its letter perfect in its weigh,
My chequer tolled me sew!

~ Sores Unknown TM

One of the many things no one tells you about ageing is that it is such a nice change from being young.

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