

# Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

ABN 47 097 847 642

NEWSLETTER September 2008

Vol 10 No 8 ISSN 1446-862X

## OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE - WHAT A PARTY IT WAS!



The Conference began with our ASCCA President Nan Bosler paying respect to the spirits of the Gadigal people, the traditional owners of the land on which the conference was held at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. Nan spoke of ASCCA's rich history created by volunteers and the wonderful support of ASCCA's staff. She also reminded us of the work of staff and volunteers, and financial support from the Department of Health and Ageing; the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and The Senior Publications - all of which made the Tenth Conference possible.

Nan then went on to present a brief overview of ASCCA's 10 years of commitment to Seniors as it works to provide a channel for communication between like-minded people; people who want to share in the potential of the computer age to serve their individual and community goals. There are now more than 120 clubs which are located in every state of Australia, with a membership of around 41,000. It is estimated 122,000 seniors have learned to use a computer through the clubs.

Our first keynote speaker Mike Robey, the Executive Director of Telstra's Safe and Respected Segment really struck a chord with many listeners who were pleased to hear that the importance of the senior market has been recognised by Telstra. Through the Telstra Connected Seniors™ Program we have the opportunity to understand and embrace technology which could be a little daunting without that initial training. It was encouraging to learn that Telstra also understands that we seniors recognise good value and service and are not overcome by the technology for its own sake, but really appreciate the benefits it brings to our lives.

We were transported from morning tea to lunch by Peter Blasina's fascinating talk on the stunning growth of the Internet. He also made us feel good about ourselves by telling us that the billions of neurons of the human brain can still outstrip the internet at the present stage; although the volume of information is accelerating at spectacular speed. Sometimes, as seniors, we are frightened of change - so we loved Peter's encouraging quote; "Without change there would be no butterflies."



*Mike Robey & Peter Blasina were both very popular presenters*

After a delicious lunch while catching up with friends, many found time for a quick visit to the spotlight on clubs displays provided by Computer Pals for Seniors - The Hills and Computer Pals for Seniors - Northern Beaches. These two are among the clubs that have celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries. Some also made time for "playing in the sandpit" provided by Westlakes Club, before the first round of concurrent sessions.

Alex Varley from Media Access Australia took his listeners through the options available to the 3.5 million deaf and hearing impaired people in Australia and offered advice on how to access captions

## ASCCA Notice Board

Bookings Ring 02 9286 3871

Email [office@ascca.org.au](mailto:office@ascca.org.au)

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
**ASCCA AGM**  
Level 1, 280 Pitt Street,  
Sydney

## Website [www.ascca.org.au](http://www.ascca.org.au)

- General Information: [office@ascca.org.au](mailto:office@ascca.org.au)
- Member Support: [cdo@ascca.org.au](mailto:cdo@ascca.org.au)
- New Club Support: [cdo@ascca.org.au](mailto:cdo@ascca.org.au)
- Training: [training@ascca.org.au](mailto:training@ascca.org.au)
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- President: [ascca@ascca.org.au](mailto:ascca@ascca.org.au)

on Free-to-Air TV, where they are available for all news and prime time programs and 60% of overall programs. We also learned there are 10 existing cinema locations with captions available, and about 60% of new release DVDs have captions, along with most TV series released on DVD. Alex advised us of a website for lots more information: [www.mediaaccess.org.au](http://www.mediaaccess.org.au)

Those who chose to listen to Brian Graham from Sou'West Consulting Services were introduced to the fun of making a DVD using Microsoft Vista DVD Maker. Brian showed how to select the photos, add music and transition effects and burn the DVD ready for watching on your TV set through the DVD player.

While our grandchildren take the existence of computers for granted, we seniors are fascinated by the amazing developments in the history of computers and computing; so the presentation by Matthew Connell from The Powerhouse Museum on the history and impact of computers, was very well received by those who chose to hear Matthew speak. There was an air of nostalgia in the room.



The second round of concurrent sessions offered the opportunity to learn the skill of SMS "Texting" on our mobile phones with ASCCA's Sirkka Duncan. Although probably still unable to compete with anyone under the age of 25, many came away from that session with increased confidence and more knowledge to build on.

For those seeking more history, James Donohoe offered some thought provoking ideas about "petticoat power" in Australia's early days, when he spoke about "The Women Behind The Rum Rebellion". Probably the men at that session learned more than the women who attended!

The other concurrent session was a well paced, carefully explained demonstration tour of the Picasa program which is available as a free download from Google. Brian Hindes from the Northern Beaches Club thrilled his audience by stepping them through "live" enhancements of photos with a variety of common problems - revealing very impressive "before and after" results.

Our first successful day ended with everyone meeting back in the Coles Theatre for the final presentation "Painting with Words" with Joan Craymer from Computer Pals Epping. Joan shared her enthusiasm for life story writing as a way to connect families through sharing feelings and events. Then the lucky door prizes for day one were drawn and the day was over.



*Henry Joubert; Lynton Bradford; Betty Benjamin; Nan Bosler; Annette Stuckey*

Day two began with Peter Cullen from Microsoft presenting a much appreciated non-technical snapshot of the many ways the company works to keep us safe and protect our privacy in the modern computer world. He was supported by several of Microsoft's technical experts to answer our awkward technical questions.

The "Clubs Speak" segment which followed morning tea could have presented challenges for the Moderator, Lynton Bradford from ARV (Castle Hill), with the illness of John Moxon who was scheduled to talk on working with councils. However the flexibility and generosity of our members saved the day when Henry Joubert from Hurstville, Betty Benjamin from Moocooboola (Hunters Hill), and Annette Stucky from

Westlakes (Cooranbong) shared their experiences with councils. In addition, Ken Moorley from Forest (Frenchs Forest) asked, "Is the Vista compelling", and Nan Bosler from Northern Beaches (Narrabeen), revealed some of the "secrets" to finding funding. The question time from the audience, to all the speakers, showed the great interest this segment of the conference generated.

Over lunch there were trade displays with interesting information and give-aways. Then the first of the concurrent sessions provided the choice of joining David Bennett from Northern Beaches for a quick journey to the United Kingdom to seek out our ancestors; learning to customise our PC using Webshots with Brian Graham; or learning to enjoy working with Office 2007 under the guidance of Rita Alexandrou from Microsoft. Brian was welcomed enthusiastically for his generous offer to step in and present the Webshots segment in place of Diane Brentnall who was too ill to attend. Rita was a young and technically excellent presenter, who understood the ways an excellent business program like Microsoft Office 2007 would be interesting and fun for seniors seeking to enjoy computing in new and exciting ways, and her demonstration was well aimed at her target audience.



The second group of concurrent sessions offered the latest tips for "Successful computing with vision loss" with Tim Connell from Quantum Technology. Tim used his 21 years experience as a developer and distributor of assistive technologies to share some solutions to aid those of us with vision loss. Advice and hints on "Networking" with Rod Duckworth from Hi-Speed Networking helped those who are struggling with the intricacies of Networking our computers. The third choice was an invitation to "Explore YouTube" with Deborah Martin from Parramatta Club. Deborah had posted her own video on YouTube the previous night to show her audience how it can be easily done by anyone who wishes to share information on the internet. With Deborah as our guide, we visited some interesting sites that dealt with a variety of educational or entertainment, serious or funny topics; and we learned that YouTube has something to interest everyone.

Has anyone sent you the joke that goes, "The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for - you will eventually stop buying bananas which have any green on them"? Whoever wrote that one obviously didn't know too many of our Seniors' Computer Clubs Members. Over two exciting days we queued up to register and receive our ASCCA bags, queued for early morning teas, morning teas and lunches, and queued for our free flash drives and other goodies - and at the end we filed into the Coles Theatre for our final session "Future Developments". Members from six clubs readily responded to Nan's call for six people to share their thoughts, visions and wishes for the future development of their own clubs and also for ASCCA; and those who responded were not just

those facing a rosy or easy future. These were people who embraced the future with all its challenges; and a fantastic exchange of ideas resulted in the audience interacting with, admiring, advising and encouraging the volunteer panel members and their clubs. What a positive way to finish the Conference, although there was still one final thing to do, and that was the drawing of the lucky door prizes for Day Two.



Our "Future Developments" Panel which was made up of, Left to Right - Peter Grove, Parramatta; Gerry Benjamin, Forest; Peter Body, LHIRS, South Australia; Allan Mikkelsen, PCUG (ACT) ; Ronald Nichols, Sydney City; Dianne Grigson, Eurobodalla.

If you couldn't make the ASCCA 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Sydney this time we look forward to seeing you next year.



"We'll be back next year - it was so much fun!"

**Australian Seniors**  
*Computer Clubs Association* **ASCCA**

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**FREE 'TRAIN THE TRAINER' MOBILE PHONE WORKSHOPS FOR ASCCA CLUBS**

These training sessions will be run in each state in the coming months. If your club has a trainer or two, who would be interested in attending a 'Train the Trainer' workshop, please contact Sirkka Duncan at ASCCA office for further information.

Phone 02 9286 3871 or email [training@ascca.org.au](mailto:training@ascca.org.au)

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO SAY THANK YOU LATELY?**

Our early volunteers brought with them their special computer expertise. They passed their skills on, in the way of tutoring in various aspects of computer related programs. They were our first tutors. From the first classes our second band of volunteers emerged – the class assistants. Now those assistants are tutors.

All volunteers have learnt and then passed on what they learnt. Only too pleased to give back a little of what the club has given them. They ask nothing in return. These are the volunteers we see all the time.

Then, there are also those who work in the background - keeping the room clean - keeping our equipment working – and odd jobs around the place. Some are part of Sub committees. They are quiet achievers.

No one looking for accolades, everyone just eager to help. They, collectively, are the back bone of the club. Without them there would be no club.

However, although they are not looking for thanks, next time you see one of our volunteers, say "Thank you". Then they will know how we really appreciate what they do.

**THANKS TO WESTLAKES CLUB FOR THIS REMINDER TO US ALL OF THE VALUE OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS**

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](http://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](http://www.ascca.org.au) or email [office@sascca.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:thewhistlers@optusnet.com.au)