

The Best Ever!

This year the ASCCA Conference was fully booked and we did not need former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch to declare it "The Best Ever!" There were many first time attendees who discovered it was a most enjoyable time of learning, sharing and friendship. It was also great to have members from every state in Australia to join in the fun.

We were privileged to have the co-operation of many top-shelf presenters who are most sought after in the corporate world. One of the really delightful aspects of these professional presenters who generously donated their time was that while addressing us with respect as technical equals - a number of them also appreciated the rare incidence of a room full of grandparents and proudly shared photos and anecdotes of their own children. It was also obvious that our ASCCA Clubs throughout Australia harbour members with significant expertise on an amazing variety of computer related topics and programs.

In her welcome Nan Bosler, our ASCCA President spoke of the gratitude we owe to our Conference Sponsors whose support helped us to keep the cost of registration extremely low particularly in consideration of the high standard of the event. The Australian Department of Health and Ageing and the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care gave valuable financial support, as did NEC Australia, The Senior Publications, DonorTec and Oticon Australia.

The Conference began with an impressive demonstration of an alternative to our PCs by Graham McFarland, NSW Area Manager, Next Byte Apple Premium Reseller. The intuitive features set a number of people thinking it is perhaps time their club looked seriously at Apple-Mac training.

Next we had the opportunity to hear Sarah Vaughan, Windows Client Business Group Lead from Microsoft Australia speak on the much anticipated Windows 7 Operating System. Sarah chose to showcase the improved graphics features and the convenience of "jump lists" to recently used files and applications and the improved desktop pinning features. Those of us who have been discouraged with Vista were heartened by the prospect of Windows 7's imminent release.



After morning tea and our first real chance to visit the Trade Displays we gathered back in the Coles Theatre to hear a speaker we could all easily relate to. Val French AM has been described as, "A woman of terrifying energy" but we as an audience of seniors were enthralled to know we had such an advocate working with passion and compassion for the rites and needs of older persons. We could imagine with glee the trepidation many government and community officials would experience when confronted by the common sense and powerful convictions of this tiny dynamo. Val has worked with distinction as a teacher, journalist and university lecturer and in her "retirement" she set up "Older People Speak Out" (OPSO) to give us a voice, and also to draw media attention to the positive contributions to society of mature people. We just loved her!



A Panel Presentation on Emerging Technologies followed and this was moderated by David Bennett of Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches who is also an ASCCA Director. We also loved Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Director of the Australian Domain Name Administrator (auDA) and the Internet Society of Australia (ISOC -AU) for her humorous approach in explaining the progress and importance of the introduction of the Internet Engineering Task Force's Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) to provide more domain addresses with better security, mobility, and ease of configuration.

ASCCA Notice Board - Dates to Remember in 2009

19 November 2009– ASCCA Annual General Meeting and Announcement of 2009
ASCCA Competition Prize Winners - **DON'T FORGET TO ENTER NOW!** See page 5

My Date With ASCCA - A Newcomers Perspective

There is a Chinese saying that, "As long as you live, you learn; the moment you stop learning is the moment you stop living." I would encourage all Seniors to believe in this philosophy and learn and live. Isn't life wonderful?

I did not know what to expect from the ASCCA Conference. Having just joined the Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors Club I knew all its members were being encouraged to attend. So I did and I do not regret it in the least.

Before attending the Conference my perception was that it would be filled with people from the older generation and the topics discussed would not be interesting. This turned out to be wrong. If I had not joined my Parramatta Club and followed the recommendation to attend I would not have been made aware of the latest trends and innovations in the world of computers and technology and I would not have met and talked to people of the same age group and interests.

The two days of the ASCCA conference have given me an added impetus in life especially in the world of computers and technology. I hope to gain more interests and knowledge in this area and be competent enough to be computer savvy. If I can do this at this age, being a senior, would not life be wonderful!

The topics on the first day were exciting especially Val French who stressed that seniors should make every attempt to join computer clubs in their area so as not to be isolated from society. For me, Val French's address was powerful as seniors should not be left behind in a fast moving world of technology and innovation.

Graham McFarland's topic about Apple Computers and programs and Sarah Vaughan's presentation on Windows 7 were of special interests to me in the sense that I have heard so much written about these two items but have not got up close with them. By attending the conference I managed to get an in depth knowledge about product development and special features - so much so that I am tempted to purchase them whenever I can afford them.

Most of all, I was impressed by Peter Blasina (The Gadget Guy) whose presentation and video clip "Sixth Sense Technology" of the future in technology at a TED conference was totally out of this world and into the space age era. What a fascinating discovery by a young student whose research has borne fruit. (To find out more about TED and click link to watch this video clip see item below.)

It was also a day to remember as I have reached a milestone in life on the 18th August 2009. I wish to thank the organizing committee of ASCCA for setting up the wonderful conference. Rest assured, I will be there next year.

Thanks to Guan Lim (Gus) for his story which could just as well have been called "Isn't Life Wonderful!" It is people like Gus who respond to the enthusiasm of our local clubs and tutors who make what we volunteers do seem so worthwhile.



TED stands for Technology, Entertainment & Design and it is an academic organisation which states on its website "We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world. So we're building here a clearinghouse that offers free knowledge and inspiration from the world's most inspired thinkers, and also a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other." TED is owned by the private non-profit Sapling Foundation and is well known for its annual, invitation-only conference devoted to "ideas worth spreading". TED is famous for its lectures, known as TED Talks which are now available online on the TED Website, YouTube and iTunes. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUdDhWfpqyg>

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Although Cheryl assured us we "Don't really need to know", she told us enough for us to understand what is happening and why, and then entertained us with some future possibilities like toasters or kettles that send usage reports that allow older or less mobile citizens to stay in their own homes in self care, whilst still having the knowledge that if they are unwell someone will be notified. IPv6 is already used in Japan to connect thousands of earthquake sensors through a computer system that sends automatic alerts to television programmes and turns traffic lights red.



The second Emerging Technologies speaker was Jacki Hickman, Manager, Consumer Liaison Section, Technical Implementation Branch, Digital Switchover Taskforce - from within the Department of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy. Jacki's sympathetic explanations and answers to our questions allayed our concerns about the time when our analog free-to-air TV signals will be switched off. It was most helpful to learn when and how this process will affect us between 2010 and 2013.

Lunch passed in a flash with so much beautiful food to enjoy, so many friends old and new to greet, and so many Trade Displays to visit we were soon settling in to the first of our concurrent sessions.

Annette Stuckey who is Westlakes Seniors Computer Club Secretary and also an ASCCA Director provided a step-by-step demonstration of how to download and use attractive email stationery and how to make unique watermark stationery with Microsoft Word; while in another room Alan Hadley, also from Westlakes Seniors Computer Club, had his audience picking up useful tips on photo enhancement. Hopefully Alan's instructions on how to perform computer cosmetic surgery with Photoshop Elements will be used with some restraint so those who follow his instructions won't end up looking younger than their children and grandchildren! As the third choice for this session, Paul Wallbank from PC Rescue was an impressive speaker who gave a well paced and varied presentation with some timely warnings and comments. He suggested it might be prudent to wait for Service Release 1 to fix any bugs before upgrading to Windows 7. He believes that some "financial experts" are now out of their depth due to not keeping up with online skills and some "old media" are in trouble due to advertising losses to online sources. Paul also addressed the issue of social media and told us that the greatest growth in Facebook is in the over 55s age group. He suggested that Facebook could well be used as a club website.



Time for the second group of concurrent sessions, and John Robinson, ANZ Country Manager, NComputing Inc. fascinated the technically minded people in his audience with the possibilities of Shared Computing. He demonstrated how the "X550 Desktop Virtualisation Kit" sold by NComputing enables the running of six monitors from one PC to save the purchase of five desktops and reduce power consumption. With Virtualisation Software on one desktop computer this setup allows each of the monitors to mimic a full computer, giving each user apparently independent use of the programs on the desktop. One of our conference attendees was excited to win one of these units as a lucky door prize generously donated and presented by John.

For those of us eager to know more about Social Networking, Sirkka Duncan OAM, ASCCA's Development (Training) Officer demonstrated how we could Twitter, join Facebook and share videos via UTube and many other sites. Some of her audience even went away wondering if their grandchildren or great grandchildren will be surprised to receive a Facebook "friend request" from them in the near future. Most were glad to "be in the know" about Twittering, but felt life with a computer offered other much more exciting possibilities for them.

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The third choice for this session was a presentation from Darren Kane, Telstra's Director of Corporate Security and Investigations. Darren demonstrated Telstra's "clock quadrant" and told of the security issues relevant to the four main age groups, children, teenagers and young adults, professionals and providers, and "forever young and retirees". Scepticism is one of the benefits that come with advanced age and this probably gives us a degree of protection, however we were told that typing in a web address is the safest way to travel on the web.

It was interesting to come together after the concurrent sessions to hear David Cooke, Group Manager, Broadcast and Media, NEC Australia Pty. Ltd. who gave us some up-to-the-minute details about the progress of the Broadband for Seniors Project which involves the setting up of Broadband Kiosks throughout Australia. ASCCA has been very involved in this project particularly in the preparation of the instruction which will be offered. The Conference presented the opportunity to see the setup of a typical kiosk during lunch and tea breaks.

The final presentation for the day was a joyful experience sharing with Barbara Anderson, Co-ordinator, Neutral Bay Seniors Club in her adventures making a short film as part of the 2009 Seniors Week Young at Heart Filmmaking Lab. How we enjoyed the wicked sense of humour that produced the plot which saw a group of not very mobile seniors bring down an opportunistic young thief! After this good dose of laughter we waited with interest for the drawing of the Lucky Door Prizes including the computer which was donated by WorkVentures. Against all the odds it unbelievably went to a member of Computer Pals for Seniors Epping for the third year in a row!

The **Day Two** audience of 200 seniors was transfixed by the presentation of Raul Vera



who is the Engineering Manager for Google Australia. Even those who thought they knew quite a lot about searching with Google were amazed to discover that they had only scratched the surface of the marvellous features available. He showed us that choosing to go to Google.com.au was a good option for many searches and dazzled us with the things we can do with Google Maps and Google Earth and proudly took us on a tour of the Great Barrier Reef which he had personally added to the site. We were stunned when he dragged a street across the map to easily vary the original route offered by his search. We shared an

insight into the new Google Sales site where we might soon be able to view all the houses for sale in a selected area. The audience really didn't want to let him escape as they sensed the real meaning of MORE ... on the Google Homepage.

However, Peter Blasina with his ever enthusiastic way of introducing us to the future in technology while wearing his slightly excentric Hawaiian shirts and multi-coloured shoes soon had the full attention of the audience. Peter could probably describe a snail race and make it entertaining; so when he told us details of some fascinating products in a way we could follow we listened with great interest and absorption.



After morning tea and another tour of the well laid out Trade Displays where we came away with a supply of pens, memory sticks, bags, brochures and even ear plugs, our wonderful MC Sandra Brophey who is an ASCCA Director took on the additional role of Moderator for the Clubs Speak Presentations which went through until lunch. As first speaker, your ASCCA Newsletter editor shared some of the challenges and rewards of writing a regular publication and encouraging people to read it despite the endless distractions faced by your prospective readers each day. As second speaker Diane Brentnall, ASCCA's Development Officer – Clubs & Training struck a familiar note with her presentation on Email Etiquette. It was delivered

with great humour and tact, while showing us easy ways to avoid common pitfalls. The third speaker was Deborah Martin a very experienced computer user and trainer from Parramatta Club. Deborah demonstrated and explained in detail the many advantages and different ways of using Google Shared Documents which had been briefly touched upon by Raul Vera earlier. The potential

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The Best Ever! Day Two

for use by our club trainers and committees was exciting to many of her eager listeners. There were many questions from the audience about Google Shared Documents and Email Etiquette.

For the first group of concurrent sessions after lunch, the offer of an easy way to shop attracted an interested audience to the demonstration by Melissa McKenzie from Coles Online. Melissa is the Online Business to Business Account Manager who presented a most favourable picture of the convenience of shopping online. More time to play with our computers we thought! In the Coles Theatre Paul Ducklin, the Head of Technology, Asia Pacific Sophos gave a slightly scary demonstration of just how easy it is for someone with evil intentions in Russia or Nigeria to convince us information we receive on our computers is from a reputable company. Even those of us who didn't quite understand all the codes and signs of infections he revealed to unmask the hackers, appreciated the live demonstration and breathed a sigh of relief that someone with such enthusiasm and knowledge was on the side of good, not evil. Those who chose to hear Dr. Scott Hollier of Media Access Australia were rewarded with an inspirationally presented tour of the latest aids and developments to help those of us with various disabilities navigate our way around the "roadblocks". Just watching Scott who is blind himself do the demonstration was cause for hope and determination in the face of adversity.



*Paul Ducklin
Sophos*

The second round of concurrent sessions offered skilled and informative presentations from two of our Seniors Computer Club Presidents, and a tour by Patrick Cavanagh of Canon Australia of the products Canon has available to help us enjoy our computers. Neville Hall from Tamworth Club undertook a session to help clubs decide which features and programs provide an Optimum PC Training Machine. Neville guided his audience through the process of providing a good learning environment which could accommodate both desktop and laptop computers with suitable hardware and software to support multiple operating systems. Lynton Bradford from the Anglican Retirement Village Computer Club at Castle Hill provided a sympathetic tour of the many features of notebook computers. In the past many seniors have been brushed aside with claims that notebooks are "just another computer", however Lynton showed that by understanding the differences, and indeed the many advantageous features a notebook can indeed offer "So Much More Than A Desktop."

The final presentation was another example of the interesting, talented and generous volunteers who contribute to the success of our ASCCA Clubs. Our "Looking Back – Going Forward" panel of Helen Jewell who is an IT Specialist and Presenter for Linking Tasmanian Seniors, Allan Mikkelsen who is Secretary and System Administrator of Internet Service, Canberra PC Users Group, and Roz Miller, Newsletter Editor and Tutor Computer Pals for Seniors Concord took us on a nostalgic and informative journey. Through their presentations we learned about their challenges and successes, the importance of succession planning and adapting our services to keep abreast of technology changes, and also something of the art of dealing with local councils and other authorities.

*Nan Bosler drawing
Lucky Door Prizes*



Perhaps the only downside of attending the 2009 ASCCA Conference was the realisation that the more you learn the less you know; until a sense of panic ensues in case you do not live long enough to use the extra knowledge you have - and learn the rest you need to know, to do all those exciting things that you now want to do before you die!

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ENTER THE 2009 ASCCA COMPETITIONS



Even if you have never thought to enter the annual ASCCA Digital Photography or Creative Writing Competitions before, why not give it a go this year? Not only do we have an exciting new Photo Story Video Competition but for the first time there will be prizes awarded to our winners. Every member of every Seniors Computer Club which is a financial member of ASCCA throughout Australia is eligible to enter, and it is hoped that all clubs will consider entering the Newsletter and Website Competitions as well. For all the conditions and entry forms go to the ASCCA Website www.ascca.org.au

Website www.ascca.org.au

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Peel SeniorNet Turns Ten

On Tuesday 11th August 2009, Peel SeniorNet which meets at the Mandurah Senior Citizens Centre, renamed Ac-cent Mandurah in November 2008, celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a lunch at the Atrium in Mandurah with many of the original members present. The photo below shows the first secretary Jan McGlenn (standing) who was one of the main instigators in forming Peel SeniorNet.

Although the original idea was to obtain information and training in basic computer operation and to be able to use the Internet, the organisation has also developed a happy social presence in the Mandurah Community. Each month a morning tea, lunch, or visit to a local venue is arranged and enjoyed by members. A recently received invitation for members to join a group of Year 11 Student Volunteers from the Mandurah Senior College for instruction on the use of mobile phones, digital cameras and computers has also shown a pleasing intergenerational communication and involvement in the Mandurah Community.



It is perhaps surprising to learn that the establishment of Peel SeniorNet resulted from a visit to Mandurah by Dr. Hilda des Arts in 1998. Hilda who is affectionately known as "Cyber Granny" throughout Australia had been responsible for the establishment of the first SeniorNet Association in Ipswich, Queensland in 1995. This was an initiative of the Ipswich City Council, Queensland, and was co-sponsored by the Department of Social Security.

As a result of the enthusiasm generated by Hilda's visit to Mandurah the West Australian Government chose the Peel Region as a pilot project for the whole of Western Australia and Peel SeniorNet came into being.

Thanks to Christine Jackson, the President of Peel SeniorNet which has its home on the beautiful Peel Inlet in Western Australia, for this update on the Club which joined ASCCA in late 2007. We wish you continued success for the future.

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 \$110 per year, including GST. Corporate Membership 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