

ASCCA has created a Business Directory

Inside this Issue

ASCCA Notice Board	2
Conference update	2
Telegraphy- From Smoke Signals & Drums to ...	3 4
Famous Carrier Pigeon	4
A Trainer's Perspective	4
Has low vision affected your life?	5
New Awards to recognise volunteers	6

ASCCA Competitions



Now is the time to be working on your entries for the 2011 ASCCA Competitions.

To get an entry form go to www.ascca.org.au and click on 2011 Competition guidelines.

Competitions are only open to members of ASCCA Clubs, including the Cyber Club.

Entries close at 4.00 pm on 16 September 2011.

ASCCA's new business directory is *live* and waiting for listings. We would like to invite *your* business to be included as an inaugural listing.

As you may be aware, there are significant advantages to being listed in a quality human-edited directory including improved search engine rankings and increased traffic to your website. By listing in the directory, you will be creating a one-way link to the ASCCA website which has an impressive Google Page Rank rating of 6 and attracts hundreds of visitors per day.

If you have any questions regarding this invitation or would like to learn more about the options available, please visit our [Common Questions](#) page in our [Business Directory](#) or simply [Add Your Listing](#) now and receive an immediate email to confirm your listing request.

Go to <http://www.ascca.org.au/directory> to find out more.

High Speed Broadband

Launching the National Digital Economy at the CeBIT conference on 31 May, Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy said the vision of the strategy would contribute to Australia's productivity, maintain our global competitiveness and bring about tangible social wellbeing improvements – including better access to health and education services – no matter where people live in Australia

"Building the NBN is a key step towards that vision, which has as one of its goals Australia being among the top five OECD countries by 2020 when it comes to the percentage of households connected to broadband at home."

"In a sign of such support I am very pleased to announce a team of Australians have agreed to partner with us as national champions of high-speed broadband."

Go to <http://www.nbn.gov.au/mediacentre/broadband-champions/> for a full list of the Broadband champions who are a group of prominent Australians, each respected experts in their field, who are passionate about helping households and businesses to better understand how they can benefit from high-speed broadband. They represent key areas which the NBN will impact such as health, education, business and innovation. President of ASCCA, Nan Bosler is one of the champions.

ASCCA NOTICE BOARD 2011

Wednesday, 16 & Thursday, 17 November 2011 - 13th Annual Computer Conference for Seniors to be held in Sydney at [Rydges World Square Hotel](#), 389 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Wednesday 16 November ASCCA Annual General Meeting & Competition Winners Announcement & Presentations - to be held at Rydges World Square Hotel at conclusion of Day 1 of the Conference - with arrangements for attendance by those not at the Conference.

13th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors

Wednesday, 16 & Thursday, 17 November 2011

Rydges World Square
389 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW

Registration form available at www.ascca.org.au

Registration Costs will be:

	One day	Two days
Member of an ASCCA Club	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
Holder of a Seniors Card	\$ 110.00	\$ 150.00
Others	\$ 175.00	\$ 300.00
(Prices include GST)		

Recommended Accommodation:

Rydges World Square Hotel - Room per night is \$229.00

Room accommodates two people

If you are a Member of Rydges Seniors Club breakfast is free

(Membership of the Seniors Club is free)

To book at Rydges World Square and receive the conference discount price -

Phone: 1800 838 830 and quote *Computer Association*

Capitol Square Hotel - Room per night is \$149.00

Room accommodates two people

Buffet Breakfast is \$12.00 per person.

To book at Capitol Square Hotel and receive the conference discount price -

Phone: 02 9211 8633 and quote *Computer Association*

[Early booking of accommodation is recommended to avoid disappointment]



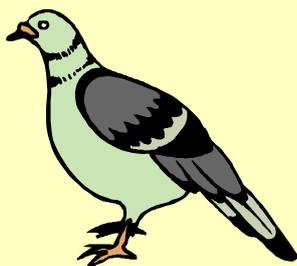
The Senior has again offered to help provide financial assistance for travel and accommodation to help delegates from interstate and rural/regional New South Wales to attend the conference. A newsbreak with the full details will be sent to all eligible ASCCA clubs. It will again be competitive but you will need to wait until the newsbreak arrives before you can seek that funding opportunity.

The topics, speakers and information stands selected for the conference will include:

Cloud Computing; big button phones; Talking Books; Peter Blasina; Paul Wallbank; NBN; What you can do with an IPAD; www.ancestry.com.

If there is a topic you would like to see covered please let us know and we will see if we can fit it into the program. Send your suggestions to ascca@ascca.org.au.

Telegraphy - from smoke signals and drums to ...



A telegraph is defined as an apparatus, system or process for transmitting messages or signals over a long distance.

In the history of communications, as with many other inventions, war was probably the greatest catalyst for the most important advances, with the need to outsmart the enemy with coded messages over long distances often resulting in milestone improvements.

Of course the physical carriage of messages was used from the time the development of language and writing allowed humans to communicate with each other, but these long journeys held many dangers, particularly if the message was to be carried across hostile territory in times of war. Alexander the Great had a network of spies and messengers that kept him informed during his epic voyages and battles. Runners and relays using riders on a series of fresh horses were adopted by ancient rulers and feudal lords to transmit decrees and news of battles as well as to gather intelligence information.

There is mention in the Old Testament of the Bible in the Book of Esther, about a writ which was to be dispatched and issued to 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia – quite an undertaking. As you have listened to the Bible's New Testament Christmas story have you ever wondered how the decree issued by the Emperor Augusta for a registration of citizens of the Roman World was actually delivered? How would we react to being summoned to Canberra from wherever in Australia we live to be assessed for our taxes?

Probably we must consider the first real advance in communication to be the ability to send a message without the delay of a messenger

having to physically cover the territory over which the message was to be carried. The ancient Persians are believed to have been the first to train birds to carry messages and it is claimed Julius Caesar used carrier pigeons in his conquest of Gaul in the last century B.C. Today as we sit glued to our live satellite TV coverage of the modern Olympic Games and other sporting events far across the world, it is amusing to think that the names of the victorious athletes at the ancient Olympic Games were despatched to their home towns or cities by carrier pigeon.

Man's early acoustic methods of relaying a message via drums, reed pipes or ram's horns were in many ways limited by comparison with smoke signals or bonfires that relied on the recipient's visual senses. One of the main reasons for using "jungle drums" was probably because in areas of dense vegetation sight was severely restricted. The sound of drums is likely to carry for only about eight kilometres even under ideal conditions, although bigger drums tend to carry the sound over longer distances depending on the density of the vegetation. Neighbouring villages in the jungles of Africa and other places where these acoustic methods of communication were used could relay the message on to the next village as long as they understood the "language" or code. Many of the slave traders who took African slaves back to their own countries found it necessary to ban the use of drums because the slaves could communicate in secret code unknown to their masters.

Smoke signals, fires and beacons were the earliest visual telegraph methods and although now electrified, radio operated or

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3 - Telegraphy - from smoke signals and drums to ...

computerised; lighthouses and navigation beacons are still doing the same basic job of indicating danger or the route to be followed today. Systems where fires were lit to attract attention at well-known or conspicuous locations have existed for many centuries all over the world. On our travel adventures many of us will have seen the hill forts in Scandinavia which were part of a network of beacons to warn of those infamous marauding pillagers, or the Welsh Brecon Beacons that warned the Welsh landowners of the approach of the English invaders. People of our mature generation will certainly have learned at school of the series of fire beacons lit from Mount St. Michel in Cornwall to London to warn Sir Walter Raleigh and the English Navy of the approach of the Spanish Armada during the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1.

The ancient Greeks who were certainly successful warriors were recorded as using nine beacon fires set alight on natural hills to communicate over a distance of around 800 kilometres about 450 years before the birth of Christ. In ancient China signals of impending attack were sent along the Great Wall to alert soldiers further along the wall. Smoke was used by day and fire by night to signal from tower to tower and it is recorded that messages could be sent along the Great Wall for a distance of 750 kilometres in just a few hours via the signal towers which were built at distances varying from a few hundred metres to a few kilometres apart.

As with the continued use of beacons there were also circumstances after the invention of the electric telegraph where a person was still needed to physically deliver an important message. During the First World War our Australian Army used dispatch riders on motor cycle to carry messages between the lines in the Middle East. According to the memoirs of one of these riders this was necessary because the

nomadic Bedouin people would immediately claim any telegraph poles as firewood thus cutting the communication lines.

When we seniors were kids going to the Saturday afternoon movies we all saw those Hollywood movies of the mid-20th Century where the American Indians sent secret smoke signals to organise their attacks on the unsuspecting Cowboys and early settlers in America. Smoke signals were widely used by many civilizations. However, like all visual signals they had the disadvantage of relying on the vagaries of the weather and a suitable terrain.

A rather quaint tradition involving the use of either black or white smoke signals continues to the present time in Rome at the Sistine Chapel to announce the progress of the election of a new Pope by the College of Cardinals. In the last election of Pope Benedict XVI early in the 21st Century the bells of St. Peters were also rung for the first time to carry the news which was then captured by the very latest satellite technology and immediately disseminated to the entire world. The use of Church Bells was also another long practiced acoustic method of summoning citizens to tell of joyful or important news, or to warn of impending danger.

The invention of the telescope early in the 17th Century (a fascinating story for another day) greatly enhanced the range for visual telegraph systems; just as church bells, drums and other instruments had increased the signal distance previously achieved using the human voice - even including the penetrating sound of yodelling practised in many mountainous parts.

Later we will follow the developments in the communication story from Claude Chappe's invention of a workable mechanical semaphore telegraph to the unfolding of discoveries and ideas that led to an efficient electric telegraph system.

Probably the most famous of all the carrier pigeons was one named *Cher Ami*.

Cher Ami was on the front lines for several months during 1918. He flew 12 important missions to deliver messages. Perhaps the most important was the message he carried on October 4, 1918. On October 3, 1918 Major Whittlesey and more than 500 men were trapped in a small depression on the side of a hill. By the second day only a little more than 200 men were still alive or unwounded. Because their location was not known they were being bombed by their own side. The pigeon was sent with an urgent message to stop the bombing and in spite of being badly injured by enemy fire the pigeon battled on and delivered the life saving message. Cher Ami was awarded the French *Croix de guerre* with a palm leaf.



A Trainer's Perspective



"The ASCCA training programs have been overwhelmingly successful in assisting many club trainers to update their skills and knowledge to pass on to their own clubs."



ASCCA's training facility is located on level B, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Courses are open to all Matured Aged people.

Two hour sessions for four weeks will cost:
ASCCA Club Members \$56, Non Members \$120
(Cost includes GST)

To view the full program go to www.ascca.org.au and click on *Current Training*.

Quantum Senior Grant
To go into the draw to win a prize from the award collection, please complete an application form and tell us in 50 words or less how Low Vision most affects you in your daily life and how the adaptive equipment on offer may help you get back to doing what you miss most.

My name is Teresa Wilson and I'm a volunteer trainer at ASCCA. While you have heard about the great training facility that ASCCA has in the Sydney CBD, *which is an absolute joy to work in*, and the diverse range of courses it offers, the following is my perspective on being one of its trainers.

Hitting the floor running with the Mature Aged Training Program in early 2010, I've been involved with developing and delivering various training programs and workshops. Along the way I have had the pleasure of working with and meeting many wonderful people.

As many of you are aware, developing training programs is not only extremely interesting but also a bit of a challenge. The interest comes from delving deep into a topic which requires plenty of research and practice. The challenge comes from sifting through all that information to sort out the "need to know" from the "nice to know" resulting in a practical program that participants will enjoy and understand.

The ASCCA training programs have been overwhelmingly successful in assisting many club trainers to update their skills and knowledge to pass on to their own clubs.

A delightful aspect of training is the interaction with course participants. While this varies from course to course the common thread is a strong desire for knowledge and a great sense of camaraderie.

It is rewarding to be part of a dedicated and enthusiastic team of people who are constantly looking at new technologies and thinking of ways to deliver interesting programs for ASCCA trainers and members.

From this trainer's perspective - it is truly a pleasure to be involved with ASCCA.

Thank you Teresa, what a pleasure to know that you enjoy being an ASCCA volunteer trainer. Most of the network of ASCCA clubs would not exist without their wonderful volunteer trainers.

How has Low Vision most affected your daily life?

The inability to read affects people from all walks of life. Having a print disability impacts on the daily lives of individuals in unique and fundamental ways.

Accessibility is critical for people with a print disability and to build awareness of the ways in which alternative information needs can be met, Quantum introduces the new Print Disability Scholarship Program and Seniors Grant.



This Program will feature a range of new prizes, including electronic magnifiers, text-to-speech devices and portable DAISY players. Applicants are invited to share their story about how having a print disability has impacted their life.

Applications to the 2011 Print Disability Scholarship Program and Seniors Grant being offered by Quantum close on 25 November 2011.

For more information and an application form go to <http://www.quantumrlv.com.au:80/2011-Scholarship-Program-and-Seniors-Grant>

Quantum
Reading · Learning · Vision

Website www.ascca.org.au

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Page 6

ASCCA Newsletter
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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. It is of interest to each member of every club, not just Committee members.

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 those Organisations that recognise the value of computer technology for Seniors. Cost of ASCCA 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@ascca.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. An Application Form is available to download.

DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is provided "As Is" without warranty of any kind. Each reader of the ASCCA newsletter assumes complete risk as to the accuracy and subsequent use of its contents.

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Contributions are welcome.
Remember this is YOUR NEWSLETTER. Please take special note clubs outside Sydney and NSW.
Please forward contributions by email to the editor.

New Awards to recognise Volunteers

Minister for Social Inclusion Tanya Plibersek has announced a new award to recognise individuals who make an outstanding contribution to their communities through volunteering.

Ms Plibersek said the National Volunteer Awards will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10).

"Volunteering connects us, strengthens our sense of belonging and creates positive relationships that build stronger local communities," said Ms Plibersek.

To mark this special year and to recognise volunteers who make an outstanding contribution to their communities, **participating local members of Federal Parliament will take nominations** from constituents, organise local judging panels and present the awards.

The award categories include:

- MP's Volunteer of the Year;
- Junior Volunteer Award (17 and under);
- Young Volunteer Award (18-25);
- Education Award;
- Environment Award;
- Long-term Commitment to Community Service Award;
- Business Volunteer Award;
- Innovation in Volunteering Award (for an organisation or individual);
- New Organisation Award;
- Emergency Management Volunteer Award.

To be eligible for awards, volunteers must be widely recognised as being significant contributors to their communities; their contribution of time and effort set examples to other volunteers; they provide guidance to other volunteers and where appropriate encourage others to join their cause; they undertake their tasks selflessly and without the purpose of material gain.

Nominations opened on 30 June. Award ceremonies are to be held on or around International Volunteer Day on Saturday, 5 December. Ten award winners in each electorate will receive a custom-designed award pack which will include a letter of recognition from the Prime Minister and the Minister for Social Inclusion, a certificate of appreciation for their volunteering efforts and an IYV+10 commemorative stamp and coin set.