

A positive way to celebrate National Family History Week 29 July - 8 August

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On the night of 9 August when you fill out your 2011 Census Form you could ensure your ancestors have access to important family history information about you after the passage of 99 years.

By the time many people arrive at Question 60 on their forms it might seem easier not to think about this optional question: *Does each person in this household agree to his/her name and address and other information on this form being kept by the National Archives of Australia and then made publicly available after 99 years?*

Perhaps we should be encouraged to know that about 50% of the people who filled out the 2001 and 2006 Census thought this was important enough to tick the box to agree to preserve the records. However, this also means that 50% of those records will not be available for future generations of their family.

If you are unsure about the importance of this question you might like to look at the website for National Family History Week. This initiative of Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations reflects the great interest in Genealogy in Australia. www.familyhistoryweek.org.au

The Society of Australian Genealogists www.sag.org.au/ are also encouraging Australians to give a positive answer Question 60. This is what they have to say: *We genealogists appreciate the value of a well-filled out census*

form and the availability of digitised images of historical census records online through various websites. In Australia, we also lament the loss of census data, which has been systematically destroyed since the 19th century. A campaign by the family history community saw the 2001 census give Australians the choice of having their form retained for 100 years before being made publicly available.

So when you take your five yearly census on 9 August 2011 think of your descendants and others who may one day be interested in your 2011 return and make sure you say YES to question 60 - and tell all your family, friends and work colleagues to do the same.

Some clever people photocopy their form too, so that others don't have to wait 100 years to see it! More info on the census can be found at www.abs.gov.au/Census.

Australia's first National Census was held in 1911 and although some questions have consistently been included, the content changes each time to reflect the Australian Society of the day. To some extent the questions also reflect the goals and data needs of the political party in power at the time of the census.

Most of us who have searched for our family in the very informative United Kingdom Census Records remember that great feeling of excitement when an entire family, or "tree branch" has been discovered in an online search!

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 - 3.00 pm –5.30 pm at Rydges World Square Hotel, 389 Pitt Street, Sydney. In response to suggestions and requests from many interstate and country NSW members who would like the opportunity to attend the AGM and Competition Presentations we have extended the first day of our Annual ASCCA Conference until 5.30 pm so they can be included.

Those ASCCA Members only wishing to attend the AGM and hear the announcements of the results for the five ASCCA Annual Competitions are invited to join Conference participants for afternoon tea at 3.00pm. There will be no cost for those arriving after 3.00 pm to attend the AGM, however, as usual, registration will be required to allow for catering and seating. Watch out for Registration Forms which will be arriving at your Club in due course.

Two Western Australian Clubs sharing their stories



Tutor Lillian Bridewell with Norma Vaughan at the computer and Mary Crane, Robert Stewart and Olga Hedemann looking on.



Noeline Goodsell happy to hear 'the magic' of her voice narrating her storybook.

Congratulations to [Peel Seniorsnet Inc.](#) who, in partnership with [Ac-cent Mandurah](#), have secured funding from the Department of Training & Workforce Development to provide free computer classes for seniors. Peel Senior Net Association Inc. (PSN) was formed in 1999 as a computer club for people aged 55 and over and is entirely run by volunteers with an interest in computing. These enthusiastic volunteers have assisted in "bridging the digital divide" for hundreds of seniors in the Peel region over the past twelve years.

Ac-cent Mandurah is an activity centre in Mandurah for people aged over 55. The centre has a dedicated computer room and also has a Broadband for Senior's kiosk.

Recognising that in a huge state like Western Australia, many seniors are often isolated from their families and friends, they will use this funding to provide First and Second Click classes under the guidance of two wonderful tutors, Mrs Lillian Bridewell and Mr Steve Nelson. Like most of our ASCCA Clubs, PSN educates and supports its members on an ongoing basis through monthly meetings, training sessions, competitions and also via its website www.peelseniors.net

Thanks to Jenny Willcox from [Walpole Community Resource Centre](#) in Western Australia, for an update on some of the fascinating projects now being undertaken by their Seniors Computing Group. Several members of the group are now happily involved in writing their own life stories after mastering new software programs or tackling a computer for the first time.

New member to the group, Helen Pierce, had already hand-written the first part of her life story which has been word processed by her daughter-in-law. Now that Helen has become aware of the advantages of using a computer with a good word processing program, this former wartime Air Force typist is now happily recording the rest of her story herself. Barbara Ebbett has "trained her laptop" to recognize her voice and produce editable text on screen so she can record all 91 years of her life story. Noeline Goodsell has produced an electronic version of a children's book and has recorded her own voice as the narration. As each page turns at pre-set timing, she tells the story of a little mouse.

Why not send us news of your club and its members?

Sharing your experiences - the joy of technology!

On our recent overseas holiday my husband and I visited Falkirk in Scotland just to see the technological wonder of the Falkirk Wheel that was built as a special Millennium Project. Designed to showcase modern British Engineering and to replace a number of defunct locks, the wheel joins two canals that run at very different levels. The networks of old industrial canals are now being used by narrow boat enthusiasts and holiday makers from all over the world.



Apart from being part of a working canal system, the Falkirk Wheel allows visitors to take a "ride" on a special boat which is lifted up in a rotating "tub" into the high level waterway which feeds the higher level canal. This is a most unusual experience, although there is very little sensation of the rotating movement, just the excitement of breathtaking views across the beautiful countryside.



For us, the return trip was even more interesting when we were joined in the tub by a narrow boat which very carefully came alongside our boat.

It was obvious the family renting the canal boat were excited by their experience. The teenage children were running back and forth along the roof of the boat—



and their mother was holding up a laptop computer and waving it around in all directions to show their lofty journey via webcam to her Mum and Dad back home. I called out and asked her if I could take a picture and she happily agreed. As she held up the computer, she called out; "This is my Mum and Dad" and we could see them quite clearly on the computer screen.

Next her husband held the computer up over the side of the canal so the parents could have a really good look at the view.

We handed one of our "Business Cards" through our boat window to the Mum and told her to email if she wants us to send her the photo. She said, "Thanks Mum and Dad would love to see it".



As the family left the wheel for the low level canal they went straight into a conventional lock which took them down another level. Our entire boat of tourists hurriedly



alighted and rushed off down the canal to wave them off as they rather self-consciously disappeared down the canal.

It was indeed a joy to watch the excitement as the travelling family included Mum and Dad back home, in their appreciation of the engineering wonder of the Falkirk Wheel, via a very different kind of clever technology.

During our trip we used a simple Google Blog to keep a daily diary and share our travel stories and photos with our family and special friends each day. I had never thought about doing this until I was 'persuaded' to learn about blogging in order to teach a class at our Epping Computer Club. Having received some advice and instructions from Margaret Tucker of Computer Pals Parramatta and set up a demonstration blog, it seemed like a good idea to put it into use. One feature I like is that Google allows you to choose to keep your blog private so that it can only be found by those to whom you give the address. One of the challenges I discovered was keeping up with the changing language on the Google Pages as we went from country to country through Europe.

Thanks to Nan Bosler for taking on the extra workload and preparing the last two ASCCA Newsletters while Alan and I had a lovely long holiday. Joan C.

Website www.ascca.org.au

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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.

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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.

OPSO - Time to Speak Out about your favourite media stories

Older People Speak Out (OPSO) is a voluntary organisation of semi-retired and retired members who actively consult older people about the issues of concern to them, and then try to remedy those concerns.

One continuing issue of concern is the attitude of some in the media to older people and the issues they face. OPSO has therefore organized annual Media Awards for some years to reward the media when they "get it right".

Media stories on seniors, whether print, electronic or photographic, whether political, business, social or intergenerational are important. They not only help to inform the public, they also help to break down the negative stereotypes about older people.

Equally important, such stories and photos are changing the way we seniors regard ourselves and are bringing to many a new self-image. Significantly, they emphasise the realization that there never really is a need to "retire".

This year you could win a \$1000.00 prize for entering the People's Choice Media Awards. Entry Forms can be downloaded from the OPSO website www.opso.com.au. OPSO can also be contacted by telephone on 07 30027612 if anyone would like to have an entry form mailed to them. In 2011, the OPSO Media Awards are in two sections:

1. The People's Choice Media Awards in which anyone in Australia is invited to identify any media item, good or bad which features Seniors. The nominator then write in fewer than 50 words why this item has been chosen for an award. The winning nominator in each of four categories and the author of the media item will be flown to Brisbane for an overnight stay in a 4 star hotel, attend the Media Awards ceremony and receive a prize. Additionally, the best of the nominations will win a special prize of \$1,000. Entries close on 12th September 2011.
2. The National Media Awards open to journalists and other media personnel for excellence in the coverage of positive ageing in the over 50s. Entries in 15 individual categories also close on 12th September 2011. The winners of each category will be awarded an OPSO trophy.

