Your Personal Invitation to the 13th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors

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Yes - time does Fly!

It's time to book for the **13th Annual ASCCA Conference for Seniors** to be held in Sydney on **Wednesday, 16 & Thursday, 17 November 2011** at **Rydges World Square**

ASCCA is planning another really worthwhile and exciting Computer Conference for Seniors for 2011. Although it is too early to confirm all the exciting speakers we are expecting to come along and enthuse and inform us, here are a few who have already confirmed their attendance.

What a wonderful opportunity for our members! **Simon Gee, Manager of Operations and Business Innovation at Connecting Up Australia** will give a valuable update on their donations programs and related projects. As the person responsible for managing the program and developing new ventures he is the perfect person to assist the nonprofit community through programs such as DonorTec and the recently launched national Nonprofit Directory.

Come along and be inspired! As **General Manager of Miromaa Aboriginal Language & Technology Centre, Daryn McKenny** believes "Language IS Culture" and this will be the title of his talk, which we promise you will be inspiring. He is a passionate Aboriginal person who has been instrumental in developing ways of using technology through the creation of an amazing program, Miromaa to assist in reviving Aboriginal languages and empowering Aboriginal people. His journey has been a long 10 years - but despite the sceptics - he is now having an impact on traditional languages far and wide and has developed the "Our Languages" website.

This may be a growing problem in your club! **Caroline Romeo, Statewide HACC Multicultural Access Program Officer**, has great experience in frontline care, community development and social research. She will talk about, "Improving access for people from Non-English Speaking backgrounds" and explore ways we can help people with disabilities or cultural barriers.

As we age we sometimes need to find new ways to do familiar tasks. **Tim Connell, Managing Director, Quantum: Reading Learning Vision**, knows all about the ways technology can help people with disabilities and special needs. Tim's presentation, "Assistive Technology: Looking Back, Looking Forward" will draw on his 25 years of experience in this field to tell you what is available now and give you insights into what is just over the horizon.

How do associations and clubs make sure they are visible on the web? "Reaching connected communities" will be a presentation offering answers to the way - as our homes and communities become more connected - people are expecting to find all their information online. **Paul Wallbank, writer of eBusiness, seven steps to online success, and ABC broadcaster** has spoken at several of our previous conferences and he always tackles the hard topical issues about the ways the digital economy is changing our community and our society. **Why not book now!**
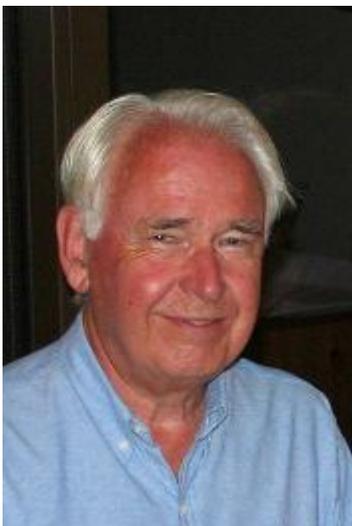
ASCCA NOTICE BOARD 2011

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.

Introducing our new ASCCA Treasurer

Jim Parker is kindly filling the vacancy left by Mark Joffee's retirement.

Jim Parker is a UK Chartered Accountant and member of the Institute of Management Accountants, who retired from full time employment in 1994. He worked for thirty years as a Director of subsidiaries of two UK multinational groups and has since carried out a number of consulting assignments in finance and general management.

Jim has recently held voluntary finance related positions supporting not for profit organisations, one of which was the Australian Network on Disability.

He joined Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches in 2007 in order to be a student in a Picasa course. Jim's volunteering spirit led him to become a trainer at Northern Beaches, where his particular interests in genealogy and digital photography have been of great benefit to many students. In 2009 he accepted the role of Treasurer for Northern Beaches and became a member of the committee of this Club.

Jim enjoys the community spirit within his local Computer Pals Club and was invited to join the ASCCA Board to fill the casual vacancy in the important job of Treasurer. He took up this position in August 2011.

Perhaps some of our ASCCA Members can help

Do you use social media?   Do you have a disability?

If you do, Dr Scott Hollier from Media Access Australia (MAA) would like to hear from you.   MAA has been supported by the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) to provide resources to make social media more accessible.

Scott, who has spoken at several ASCCA events, was the author of ASCCA's Accessibility Features in Windows and Web Browsers CD, which many of you will have found very useful. He is currently looking to hear from people with disabilities to discover how they use some of the most popular social applications, including: Facebook, Skype, LinkedIn, Twitter, BlogSpot, Wordpress and YouTube. His aim is to find out how people with a disability use social media and which tools they use to get around them. It's a great opportunity to share tips and tricks with others and help us improve the experience of social media for all users.

If you'd like to share your experiences or want to find out more email
scott.hollier@mediaaccess.org.au at Media Access Australia, tweet @mediaaccessaus,

Telegraphy – from Claude Chappe's mechanical optical semaphore to ...

A mechanical semaphore optical telegraph tower. Many of the places where these towers stood are still known as Telegraph Hill.

HMS Victory at Portsmouth with the flags spelling out the well-known message; "England expects every man will do his duty"

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

It was the French Scientist and Cleric, Claude Chappe who coined the word telegraph by combining the Greek words *tele* meaning distance and *graphien* meaning to write, to define it as "writing at a distance."

History shows governments don't really change much and it seems that war and the needs of the government have long been the only way money was and continues to be found to make it possible for the practical results of the inventor's genius to be enjoyed by society.

A huge leap forward was made in 1794 when Claude Chappe invented his mechanical semaphore optical telegraph system. His semaphore had two-armed towers with telescopes pointing in either direction with a cross on top with extended arms for sending alphabet and numeric signals by having the arms assume different positions. It was used to provide a visual signal line between Paris and Lille near the war front during the French Revolution. Claude's brother Ignace was a Member of the French Legislative Assembly and so it was with the backing of the Assembly the Chappes built a series of these towers on high points between the two cities. This French network ultimately stretched 4,800 kilometres with 556 stations and was used for military and national communications until the 1850s.

Meanwhile the British were, like many European countries, feeling a general unrest as a consequence of events in France during the Revolution. Now also faced with fighting the Napoleonic Wars, they built a semaphore chain in the early 1800s - with men working shutters to communicate messages between towers. In around 15 minutes signals could be relayed between the important naval base at Portsmouth and the capital of London covering a distance of 85 miles. Although the British adopted the semaphore model with shutters, perhaps this French invention for improved communication helped to bring about the downfall of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815!

Although a system of communication between ships, using flags has been in use since ancient times, these early signals were confined to the conveyance of a single message. In 1691 the Royal Navy's *Permanent Fighting Instructions* provided a more elaborate system that used a combination of 11 flags hoisted at nine different points on the flagship to convey 45 fixed messages. Unfortunately, the French Navy failed to adopt an improved numerical flag code first devised by a French Naval Officer in 1738. This system used a dictionary and with three sets of flags numbered from 0 to 9 a ship could make 1,000 different combinations of three flag signals. Richard, Earl Howe, First Lord of the Admiralty in Britain introduced his own numerary signal system throughout the fleet in 1790 and this resulted in the use of just one set of flags and the development of the Admiralty's 1799 *Signal Book for Ships of War*, used by the Royal Navy throughout the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812.

The Battle of Trafalgar – a decisive battle of the Napoleonic Wars - is famous for the flag signal that rallied the men of all the ships of the British Fleet before the battle on 21st October 1805. "England expects every man will do his duty" was the Admiral Lord

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Nelson's signal, followed by his usual battle signal, "Engage the enemy more closely". This victory at sea ruined Napoleon's plans to invade Britain and left her unchallenged at sea for the remainder of the Napoleonic Wars and for more than a century beyond.

Semaphores were adopted and widely used in the maritime world in the early 1800s, with hand-held flags replacing the mechanical arms and shutters used in other semaphores and they are still in use today in some circumstances.

Due to exciting discoveries and experiments by many scientists in many different countries, more reliable and sophisticated methods of communication were not too far away as the 18th century drew to a close. With the comparative peace at the end of the Napoleonic Wars which had involved much of Europe, many inventors and innovators were quietly working on different ideas that would complement each other to bring about great progress in communications.

In 1838 Friedrich Clemens Gerke who was a German writer, journalist, musician and pioneer of telegraphy began working with J. L. Smidt who operated a private optical telegraph line between Hamburg and Cuxhaven. This signalling system between Cuxhaven at the Elbe Estuary and the Port of Hamburg around 120 kilometres upstream requested help from neighbouring fire brigades during the "Great Hamburg Fire" of 1842.

In 1880 the last stationary semaphore link in regular use went out of service in Sweden. After France, Sweden had been the second country in the world to introduce an optical telegraph network.

Next we will look at the exciting events of the first half of the 19th century that led to the gradual demise of semaphore signalling from fixed towers as the theories and ideas of those working towards an electric telegraph system were developed following the invention of a battery by Alessandro Volta in 1799. By the middle of the 19th century Samuel Morse had invented Morse Code and the United States Congress had financed the building of the first telegraph line in America.

Youth & Seniors working together in Ipswich

Ipswich SeniorNet Association is very fortunate to have Brisbane Girls' Grammar School student, Emily Wyeth assisting with their Training program. Emily, aged 15, is completing approximately 15 hours of Community Service as part of her Year 10 school curriculum. She has volunteered to assist training seniors in Workshops as well as helping some of the Committee members with administration duties. Emily is prepared to give up some of her free time in school holidays this year to work with SeniorNet.

Emily said that she enjoys working with seniors and she will be happy to complete more than the required 15 hours. The Ipswich members are also enjoying having a fresh young face in the Training Room and feel most fortunate that this lovely young lady chose SeniorNet to complete her volunteer work.

Thanks to Jenny Greaves from Ipswich

September 8th is International Literacy Day
The theme for 2011 is "Literacy and Peace"

On International Literacy Day each year, **UNESCO** reminds the international community of the status of literacy and adult learning globally. Despite many and varied efforts, literacy remains an elusive target: some 796 million adults lack minimum literacy skills which means that about one in six adults is still not literate; 67.4 million children are out-of-school and many more attend irregularly or drop out. http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-building-blocks/literacy/advocacy/international-literacy-day/

Opportunities for Conference Accommodation Discounts & Travel Subsidies

ASCCA has been successful in negotiating some sponsorship for the conference to help keep the costs for club members to a minimum. The cost for registration for financial members of ASCCA Clubs will be $120 (including GST) for the two days.

We realise that travel and accommodation costs can make it very difficult for interstate and country clubs to attend an event in Sydney. So we have also negotiated special discounted prices on suitable accommodation at the conference venue, **Rydges World Square Hotel** and at **Capitol Square Hotel**. The details about how to book are on the ASCCA Website.

Australian **Senior** PUBLICATIONS

Because of generous funding provided by *The Senior* we have been able to allocate a budget of $3000 to help meet some travel and accommodation costs for Interstate and Country NSW clubs and are inviting any club interested in sending a representative, or delegation of members to the conference to apply for financial assistance.

Maximum funding of $500 can be requested by any interstate or country NSW club. One offer of sponsorship is allocated to each state. It can be for one person from your club, or distributed evenly among members of your club who are planing to attend as a group. It is to help with travel and accommodation costs up to the maximum of $500.

The successful applicants will be advised as soon as possible after the closing date for submissions. Unfortunately it will be impossible for us to offer financial support to all clubs! As with all grant applications this process will be competitive and the decisions made by ASCCA will be final.

This is the seventh year we have been able to do this and preference will be given to clubs who have not previously received financial support through ASCCA to attend the conference.

We heard this on "The Grapevine"

Pat Noyce preparing "The Grapevine"

Visiting the area? Tuesday afternoons 1pm - 4pm for: Cards; 8 Ball; Board games; Computing; Indoor Bowls; Socialising and other activities. Come and join us. Travelling the country? – drop in and say Hello!

Berri Senior Citizens Club Inc. in beautiful rural South Australia is some 250 klms from Adelaide and 150 klms from Mildura. You can find them on Crawford Terrace if you are in S.A. We have all been invited to "Drop in and say Hello", but not all at once!

Pat Noyce has been the editor of the Berri (Riverland of South Australia) Senior Citizens Newsletter "The Grapevine" for some time now. It was very convenient to use the Internet and Email to send her the information to compile the newsletter because, as a part time carer, Pat wasn't able to attend Seniors club afternoons regularly. However she did manage to teach beginners computing on Thursday mornings until she became a full time carer for her husband Vic and was no longer able to commit time on a regular basis.

Pat continued to help individual residents of the Retirement Village where they lived until earlier this year when she and Vic made the big decision to move to Kingscote (Kangaroo Island) to be closer to their only daughter who lives and works there.

Pat was missing her involvement with the club and she and the members continued to enjoy communication and friendship. So, surely, it just meant that if the Internet and Email had worked to edit the Grapevine before, it would only mean that they would have to "step up" the information going back and forth to Pat and she might be persuaded to take on the task once more.

You might think 'going to live overseas' would have been a good enough excuse to retire permanently, but the committee was too clever to let such a wonderfully skilled 'Volunteer Extraordinaire' 'escape' and she has been recaptured as editor. Well done Pat!

Thanks to Kathy Caddick for passing on this lovely story.

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.

Australian Bankers' Association Warning

The Australian Bankers' Association (ABA) is warning of lottery scams which are defrauding some Australians. Steven Münchenberg, Chief Executive Officer of the ABA, said: *"This is insidious - the mail materials look convincing and unfortunately some have been taken in to believe it is a genuine lottery. E-mail is also used and sometimes criminals use the actual names of genuine lotteries located overseas."*

"Cheques are being sent overseas as a fee to release winnings but, of course, the prize or money never eventuates. You lose all the money paid to these scammers because unfortunately banks cannot get back this money if the cheque clears and the criminals have taken the funds."

"This scam is not new and banks also warn us that while mail and e-mail is generally used, criminals could also use the phone in an effort to steal money."

ABA Advice to customers

If you are told that you've won a lottery or a competition and you can't remember or you aren't sure if you have even entered, then destroy the letter, delete the e-mail (preferably without opening it) or hang up the phone.

Always be suspicious if you are asked to send payments, especially if the address is located overseas.

Never provide any personal information or banking details to anyone that you are unsure of.

Never click on a link in a spam e-mail (even to unsubscribe) and never call a telephone number included in a scam e-mail or letter.

Time to send in your entries for the 2011 ASCCA Annual Competitions

All entries must be received prior to 4.00 pm on Friday 16th September, 2011. Late entries cannot be accepted. Winning entries will be announced at the ASCCA Annual General Meeting to be held at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 16th November, 2011. **Don't miss out on all the fun!**