

Fine food, new and old friends, excellent speakers, useful tips and information and two days of fun!

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Don't miss out on the 14th ASCCA Computer Conference for Seniors

Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 November 2012
at Rydges World Square, 389 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW.

The ASCCA Annual General Meeting & Competition Presentations will be held at the conclusion of the first day of the Conference. <http://www.ascca.org.au/> Visit our Website to book your spot and keep watching for all the latest news about what is planned.



Keith Harvey
Muswellbrook
Seniors Computer
Club and Woodrising
Neighbourhood
Centre Broadband
For Seniors Tutor

The reasons our Conferences are so enjoyable are varied; however it is the relevance and variety of the content, the suitability of the venue, the careful planning and the success in keeping the cost affordable for our members, that seem to be the top reasons people keep returning year after year.

We know that Australia's "Tyranny of Distance" is a problem for some people - but Sydney is a lovely place to visit in November. We would love to have the opportunity of presenting in person, some of those ASCCA Competition Awards that will be won by members from all over Australia. If you have never come to a conference

before, make this the year to come along and enjoy two days of excellent learning and sharing of ideas with like-minded people from all over our wonderful country.

Keith Harvey, who always makes the long trek to Sydney from Muswellbrook for the conference will be showing us some exciting ideas he is using, as he presents **Blackboard Collaborate: Taming the 'Tyranny of Distance'** as a live demonstration to show how relevant, quality, real time training and participation can easily be delivered, regardless of our club members physical location or travel handicaps.

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ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

1 October - 7 October 2012 - Seniors Week Tasmania

7 October - 14 October 2012 - Victorian Seniors Festival 30th Anniversary

11 November - 18 November 2012 - Seniors Week Western Australia

Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 November 2012 - 14th ASCCA Australian Computer Conference for Seniors at Rydges World Square, 389 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW. **Time to Book Now!**

The ASCCA Annual General Meeting will be held at the conclusion of the first day of the Conference on Tuesday 13 November 2012. Competition Presentations will be made at the AGM.

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Dr. George Margelis,
Care Innovations



Julie Bucknell
Katanning CRC, W.A.



Ken Curwen,
SeniorNet,
Ipswich, Qld.

Don't miss out on the 14th ASCCA Computer Conference for Seniors

Another speaker not afraid of Australia's vast distances is **Ken Curwen**, from Ipswich in Queensland who, since his retirement 10 years ago from lecturing at University, has been involved in teaching digital photography and the Adobe Photoshop Elements editor at SeniorNet, Ipswich where he is the Club President. He has kindly agreed to share some of his experience and techniques during a session called, **Teaching Digital Photography**.

Julie Bucknell from Katanning Community Resource Centre (CRS) in Western Australia is travelling even further for the conference and will speak on, **How to get the best results when working with people – OR – 'The Lone Ranger didn't have friends for a reason'**. Julie will talk about the importance and rights of every single person who joins a club. **Jenny Willcox** from Walpole CRS in Western Australia will join a panel with **Jim Cook**, President, Carrington Computer Club for Seniors, Camden NSW and **Eric Whitehouse**, ASCCA Director and Committee Member from Computer Pals for Seniors – The Hills, NSW. The panel will reflect on **Innovative Ways Forward!** for our Clubs and discuss some interesting ideas.

Dr. George Margelis has two medical degrees and 30 years of

clinical experience in healthcare as well as extensive experience with Intel in the development, design and implementation of information technology solutions to improve the quality, access and cost effectiveness of healthcare. He is currently the General Manager in Australia for Care Innovations; an Intel GE joint venture with the goal to provide higher quality care for individuals in their own homes. George is one of those exciting speakers who empathises with both his audience and his topic – "light-bulb" moments abound as his listeners recognize he is no mere theorist. He will genuinely engage with us as he explores his topic, **The Future of Ageing: Does Technology really make it better?**

Imagine **Travelling the World without Leaving Home**. **Janet Zanetis**, who is CISCO's National Education Advocate will show us how seniors in the U.S. are using video technologies to interact with museums, cultural centres and art galleries from their retirement communities.

The always popular "Gadget Guy" **Peter Blasina** will bring us up to date with the latest in technology with an entertaining presentation and there will be many other interesting speakers and topics for those who come to ASCCA's 14th Conference. Check details on: <http://www.ascca.org.au/>

Notice Of ASCCA Annual General Meeting

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of voting Members of the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association, ASCCA, will be held at Rydges World Square, 389 Pitt Street, Sydney on Tuesday 13th November 2012 at 3.30pm

Annual reports
Election of Board Members

Announcement of
ASCCA 2012 Competition Winners

RSVP by 1st November 2012, giving name of Club and delegates attending, to 02 9286 3871 or ascca@ascca.org.au

Only financial member clubs can vote



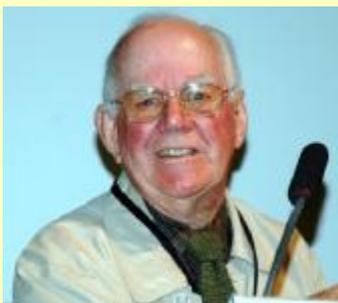
Afternoon tea will be served at 3.00pm
and the AGM will commence at 3.30pm

It is estimated that the meeting will close by 5.30pm

There is no cost to attend the AGM and the announcement of winners of the various ASCCA 2012 Competitions but an RSVP must be sent so that we know the numbers attending.

All delegates attending the 14th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors are welcome to attend but must also RSVP for the AGM please.

Vale Peter King - ASCCA Director, Friend and Colleague



Peter King's sincere manner and happy personality will be remembered by many of us who attended the ASCCA Conferences where he was our Master of Ceremonies until September 2008.

Peter King, who was an ASCCA Director from 2001—2006 died on 13th September 2012 and his funeral was held on Monday 17th September. All his friends from ASCCA and from the Newcastle and Maitland Computer Clubs are saddened by his death and express their sympathy to Peter's wife Marie and to his son and daughter and their respective families.

Peter was the founding President of Computer Pals for Seniors Newcastle, and in his Annual Report of the first year 2000-2001 he wrote, *"On the day some of us put our hands up volunteering to take on certain jobs for a new computer club, I don't think we realised the amount of work that was going to be needed to get the ship sailing with all sails unfurled."*

Yet Peter was never afraid of hard work and when he was invited to become a member of the ASCCA

board on 10 September 2001 he accepted the challenge and served for five terms. He did not stand for re-election at the November 2006 AGM.

However, he continued in the role of Master of Ceremonies for the Annual ASCCA conference; a role that he had certainly made his own, until our 10th Annual conference which was held in 2008.

In 2008 Peter also retired from his role as ASCCA Liaison Officer for the Hunter Region, a role which he had fulfilled since 2001.

Peter is also remembered with gratitude by the Maitland Club as the person who was responsible for taking Computer Pals for Seniors to Maitland after a Public Meeting in March 2006 resulted in this new club being incorporated and becoming a member of the ASCCA Family in June 2006.

Sounds, Brains & Computers

In Star Wars and other science fiction films, computers respond to human questions and command without any confusion or misinterpretations, however in real life that level of response is not yet to be achieved. There are computer programs such as "Dragon Naturally Speaking" and "Zoom Text" which do a remarkable job of responding to simple commands on the computer, converting words to text or reading text; but sufficient accuracy is still a challenge to be met. Sometimes quite humorous results occur!

The way in which mammal brains interpret sounds and communicate with others is still being explored. How do we quickly recognize the voice of a friend or relation on the phone after two or three words? How can a penguin in the Antarctic locate its chick among thousands of others all squeaking together?



Great advances have been made in computer voice recognition, even across many languages and differing dialects, but we are not yet able to fully control a computer with voice alone.

The Siri program on the Apple iPhone does a remarkable job in responses to questions and instructions. Likewise a

Galaxy phone responds to your voice saying "hey galaxy" and answers, "what would you like to do." A response can be ... "send a message to Jack—I will be there in an hour." It finds Jack's mobile phone number, displays his name and that text message, then asks, "send, edit or cancel". A reply of "send" and its gone.

It will also respond to "navigate to twelve smith street, homebush", then display the navigator, plot a course and lead you by voice control to that address. Quite remarkable isn't it?

Well, mostly! Quite often the results are nothing like the intention. Repeating the request may be just as erratic. Apple's Siri mostly gives remarkable human answers to queries and responses to instructions, but often a response can be quite hilarious—just check Siri responses on Google.

Communication is a two way operation. Speech varies widely from one person to another, human brains (and bird brains), have the remarkable ability to make correct interpretations from a seemingly confusing babble of sounds. Computers still have a long way to go, but brilliant people are working on it.

Thanks to Lynton Bradford from the ARV Residents' Computer Club, Castle Hill for this story which appeared in the "Bits & Bytes" Newsletter.

ASCCA Adult Learners Week Free Seminar 3 September

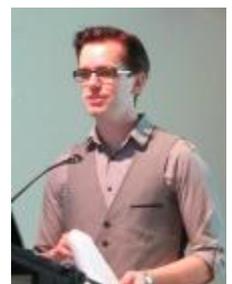


On 3rd September, ASCCA held its Members' Forum and celebrated **Adult Learners Week** by offering a free half day seminar called *iPads & Tablets; Way to go; learn more!*

As seniors, we sometimes feel a little "left behind" as new technologies arrive with a fanfare of immediate acceptance in the general marketplace with an assumption that everyone knows what all the fuss is about. So the opening presentation, "Tablet Computers have arrived" from ASCCA's Mark Young was a great

place to start - as that well-known song reminds us - the beginning is always a very good place to start! The purpose of the seminar was to inform those people thinking about purchasing an iPad, Tablet or any one of those much heralded 'gadgets' and also to help those who wanted to know more about the 'gadget' they already owned.

Simon Cootes, Book Team Leader, **State Library of New South Wales** explored all aspects of the mysteries of eReaders with his audience through his presentation *eReaders and Libraries*. Simon discussed the range of ereaders available, to provide some direction on which one may be best for our individual needs and he gave guidance on how to borrow ebooks from



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'Living and loving life' in Ipswich during Seniors Week 18 - 26 August

SeniorNet was an active participant in Ipswich Seniors Week events during the Queensland Seniors Week Celebrations in August.



The **Variety Day** on Monday 20th August was an opportunity for Ipswich seniors to meet and to browse the wide range of societies and organisations offering activities of interest. SeniorNet was lucky in that the venue was only 100m from their training room, so they were able to do the Ancient Mariner trick and ferry people to a range of presentations typical of the club's teaching.

On the following day, a demonstration and consultation session on digital photography and such software as Microsoft Live Photo Gallery was run at the **Arts Generation** event. This event was held in a beautiful new airy hall (with

splendid built-in AV equipment) and other crafts including felt making, clay, wood turning and carving.



Finally SeniorNet provided support at a **Cyber Surfing Seniors** morning on Thursday 30th August at which various presenters explained aspects of cyber-crime and how to avoid falling for its traps. All attendees were given a plastic card with contact information and a free 8 GB built-in USB flash drive. The task was to explain to attendees how to use the flash drive, and while at it SeniorNet could publicise their club. I was glad to find that all attendees picked up our membership business card from our table. **Thanks to Ken Curwen, SeniorNet President for this update on some of the fun of Queensland's Seniors Week events.**

More Seniors Week News from Queensland - Introducing the Seniors Online Security Package

The Carindale Police Citizens Youth Club, in partnership with the Queensland Police Service, Office of the Information Commissioner and the Australian Government, launched the **Seniors Online Security Project SOS** on Monday 20 August as part of **Queensland Seniors Week**. This project was funded by the Australian federal government through their Proceeds of Crime Act grant scheme.

ASCCA has been invited to assist in sharing the good news about the availability of some excellent training material which was developed with some helpful input from computer clubs in Brisbane.

The training package comprises five topics:

computer security, identity crime, social networking, fraudulent emails, and internet banking. Each topic has an individual workbook as well as a PowerPoint presentation to facilitate group delivery. All training materials are available for free electronic download on both the Carindale PCYC and Queensland Police websites www.carindalepcyc.org.au and www.police.qld.gov.au

The aim of this **SOS Project** is to empower seniors to be able to better educate themselves about internet security. This allows them to use their computers in a safe and confident manner, while reducing the likelihood that they become victims of online fraud.

Feeling Nostalgic - A trip down Memory Lane for those born in the 40s or 50s or before.



See interesting comments posted on some of the pages like Memory Lane, Memory of the Month, Working (talk about your first job) or Cars (talk about your first car).

But make sure you remember to eat and sleep. You have been warned—this could be addictive!
www.borninthefifties.com.au
www.bornintheforties.com.au

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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 ASCCA membership
Up to, and including, 40 members - \$110 Incl. GST
Over 40 and up to 100 members - \$150 Incl. GST
Over 100 members - \$250 Incl. 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 on the website.

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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 the editor.

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.

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libraries. Part of Simon's job at the State Library of NSW is to help manage the State Library's print and ebook acquisitions.

As an experienced ASCCA Trainer in *Apple iPads*, Teresa Wilson already knew many of the concerns and questions relating to iPads - about which her audience would be seeking answers. This understanding of the needs of seniors made Teresa's presentation both helpful and relevant.



There has been much anticipation and a certain amount of trepidation concerning the entry of *Microsoft* into the world of tablet computing and the introduction of its new operating system Windows 8. So there was great interest in the presentation, *Microsoft takes tablet computer into the modern era* with



Dan Pracny-Strass from Microsoft.

Dan's impressive presentation was made live from a Samsung Tablet with Windows 8. Mark Young later commented that Windows 8 looked really fresh and different rather than being just a copy of Android or Apple.

Dan told the audience that Microsoft have a vision of their version of a tablet as a tool capable of being useful for real performance, rather than being a media consumption toy. To this end, the Start menu tiles are more than passive icons like other tablets; they actively show the user what is happening. The new Windows 8 apps generally have larger print and clearer text which will be a boon for seniors.

Dan showed a picture of the upcoming Microsoft Surface tablet which has a USB connection and can be used with a mouse as well as touch.

The Seminar finished with a session of Panel Discussion and Questions and Answers to allow the audience to consolidate the wealth of information the morning had provided.

A Simple Explanation of the National Broadband Network - the NBN

Dr. Tony Eyers, who is a telecoms training provider, has a new site, called Broadband Explained. Although Dr. Eyers offers paid training via his website he also

enjoys explaining technology to non-technical people. This site has six short videos to explain the NBN to a lay audience.

<http://www.broadbandexplained.com>