ASCCA Club Members Visit Google

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2013 ASCCA COMPETITIONS

Google in Sydney have decided to take a new approach to working with non-profit organisations and ASCCA was pleased to be one of the five peak bodies chosen to be part of this new scheme. Previously Google had taken a wider approach, but now they were going to focus on organisations that are leaders in their field.

On the 4th July, a group of over 20 ASCCA club members were hosted by Google to attend a special workshop in their Sydney offices at Darling Harbour. We were going to be shown how to use some of the many Google services. As it was fairly short notice, I wondered if we would get the numbers required. I was really pleased with the response when it filled up in just a few days. Well done to the clubs that participated.

Google wanted to work with people who had some experience with computers. However, since this first session was about Google search and Gmail, I wondered if we might all already know about these topics.

The approach used by Shane Treeves and the other Googlers was to have short presentations and then allow time to work and talk. Each of us had our own Google staff member to help us and to respond to our questions. Here we were talking to some of the people who actually create the products that many of us use every day!

I felt that we were doing more than just working with a company. The Google staff were making a personal effort to help us learn and understand. In the final time allowed, we were encouraged to ask our helper questions about any Google service; even if it was not today's topic. Many ASCCA people appreciated this aspect the most. There was plenty for the participants to take back to their clubs, as well as a genuine feeling of appreciation.

We were told that a film crew from Channel 10's 'The Project' would be there as part of a continuing TV article about seniors and computers. Some of us were a bit apprehensive about how seniors would be portrayed. If you caught the three minute segment on Friday 26th July, you would agree that it was quite positive. If you missed this show 'live' and

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would like to watch it you can see it here:http://theprojecttv.com.au/video.htm?vid=2554011163001

Just like the ASCCA members who were there, the Google staff were all volunteering their time. Googlers are encouraged to take a day out to help others. They can also use up to 20 hours of work time on a project with a non-profit group. ASCCA will be putting up a request for help with distance learning through Google Hangouts through this scheme.

Shane Treeves says that there will be more of these sessions. After all, we didn't really cover Google+, Drive, YouTube, Maps, the Playbook, Android, etc. However, we may have to be a bit patient for our turn to come around again, because our session was the first of the non-profit groups.

When we get another chance to go to one of these sessions, the problem will then be how to share this opportunity around. Unfortunately, the Sydney office is the only Google office in Australia, so we also have a task of sharing what we have learnt to our members in the other States.

Thanks to our ASCCA Technical Officer, Mark Young, for this interesting account of Google's first workshop for non profit groups and thanks of course to Google and their volunteer Googlers.

"Google Guru" to Visit ASCCA Conference

Scott Riddle, Strategy & Operations Manager for Partner Solutions, Google will be a speaker at the 15th ASCCA Computer Conference for Seniors. Scott manages the Asia Pacific strategy and operations function for Google's partner solutions team – spanning AdSense, Doubleclick for Publishers, AdMob and the Google Ad Exchange. He also leads Google's local employee volunteering programme from which ASCCA benefited (see story above). Scott will take us on "A walk through some of the extraordinary ways in which the internet is changing the way we live our lives and show us examples of the role that Google is playing".

This is just one of many exciting presentations we are planning for the Conference this year. *Find out about more on page 5.*

Australian Irish Genealogy Research Volunteer Acknowledged in London

Congratulations to Terry Eakin who was presented with an award and elected the 88th Fellow of the Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS) at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 11th May 2013 in London. The IGRS was formed by the Rev. Wallace Clare, to gather copies of records of wills and other material for deposit in archives after the fire in the Public Record Office of Ireland in June 1922 during the civil war in Dublin. The Society's principal objectives are research into, preservation and dissemination of Irish Genealogical records and Terry certainly seems to have earned a place as a fellow of the Society with all that he has contributed towards realising those objectives. The presentation was made by Fergus Gillespie, the IGRS President (retired Chief Herald of Ireland).

Terry is the leader of the Genealogy Special Interest Group at the Sydney PC Users Group (SPCUG) and has published research guides and newsletters, as well as transcribed census records for the Irish counties, County Clare and County Tipperary. The SPCUG Genealogy SIG began in October 1998 with the aim to educate members and improve their research and computer skills through presentations held at the Mechanics Institute, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney on the third Tuesday of each month from 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm. The meeting details can be seen at www.sydneypc.com and new members are always welcome to join the Sydney PC Users Group. The topics have varied widely with few countries not included at least once over the years. The main areas of research are Australasia and the former Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland where most attendees have their origins. How fortunate the members of Sydney PC Users Group are to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable leader!

Terry seems to be one of those people who have found a way to add extra hours to their day – otherwise how can he fit everything in? His recent trip to Ireland was his 22nd trip and he has been contributing to Irish Genealogical research for more than 10 years; since his retirement. Terry has been promoting the study of Irish Genealogy through publications such as the *'All Ireland Sources Newsletter'* and has worked on the digitising of *'The 1901 Index to the towns and 'Town lands of Ireland'*. He has also compiled the database of *'Locations of Graveyards in the thirty-two historical counties of Ireland'* and the lists of *'Local or unofficial placenames in the Province of Ulster.'* In addition, Terry has gathered school registers in Belfast and County Londonderry and deposited them in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and transcribed numerous school registers and graveyard monumental inscriptions for genealogical societies.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Terry has recently committed to transcribe and identify the placenames of the first series of Ordnance Survey (6 inches = 1 mile scale) maps compiled between 1835 and 1842 which number approximately 5,000 maps. He estimates this project will take 3½ to 4 years to complete and will list the townlands and the local place names and the townland it is located within (if identified).

There is just one motivation for all this hard volunteer work and that is Terry's passion to help fellow researchers today and for generations to come.

It is wonderful to see Terry's amazing contributions recognised – congratulations from all of us – and thanks to John Matthews for passing on the good news to us at ASCCA.

With the 2011 Australian Census showing that a little over two million Australians claim Irish Ancestry, Terry's work will certainly have many Australians to appreciate its value.

Some 12.9% of Australians who listed Irish as their ancestry said it was first generation, 13.9% said second generation and 73.2% said Ireland was their third generation ancestry. Of these people 80.4% also stated another ancestry.

Windows 8 – A Great Success at ASCCA!

The Windows 8 courses that ASCCA has been running in Sydney have proved to be a huge success. During June and July over 80 people have attended either the Trainer's or Windows 8 Introduction courses convened by Teresa Wilson.

Teresa says "It's been wonderful to see so many people, particularly club trainers enjoying the rather intense full day workshops which have proved to be a learning experience for all of us. Many of the trainers have said that with their better understanding of Windows 8 they have more of an idea how they might devise courses to suit their own members. The camaraderie in the workshops is great and everyone benefits from meeting other club trainers and sharing some of their experiences."

Demand for the courses remains high so they will be offered again as part of the August/ September program. As many of our clubs are being approached by members with this new operating system, this is an excellent way for Sydney based clubs to enjoy the learning experience with our wonderful volunteer trainer, Teresa and the support of all of us at ASCCA.

Plans for our Interstate & Remote Clubs

However, we have not forgotten our interstate and remote Clubs either. ASCCA's Diane Brentnall is looking at Online Training to reach the many member clubs throughout NSW and Australia that are obviously unable to participate in the activities we hold at our Learning Centre in Sydney.

Our first course, which will be Windows 8 is already booked out for the month of August. September is now open with limited spaces allocated.

Diane, who is the Training Coordinator at the ASCCA Learning Centre says; "We will be using Skype Screen Sharing which will enable your centre participants to view all of the Windows 8 real time screen interactions as they are performed, along with instructions. Your centre will be emailed the training notes prior to the scheduled time so that you can print out hard copies if required.

You will need: A Skype account with good broadband connection and a training computer connected to a data projector if you are planning to have participants (or other trainers) sit in. A stand alone computer with Windows 8 will be necessary to allow for hands on practical application during and after the session and there will also need to be a competent Skype trainer or user available to help out during the session if required."

Anyone interested in participating in this initiative, is invited to let Diane know and to send her your Skype user name. She will then contact you with further information.

Diane says; "I look forward to hearing from you, please use the cyberascca@gmail.com address as much of my work is done outside the Sydney office. Below are my contact details, including my mobile number if you would like to discuss this further."

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Diane & Teresa have put a great deal of their time as volunteers into researching and ironing out all the detailed requirements for these projects—Thank you Diane & Teresa.

Your Rights at Retirement

A guide to making decisions and navigating your entitlements in later life. This booklet helps you to navigate the different phases of ageing. It covers topics from setting up a retirement budget through to considering options for aged care. The booklet provides a snapshot of the services and supports that are on offer. www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/your-rights-retirement See details of the Launch opposite à

15th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors

If you are wondering about what we have to offer at the ASCCA Conference this year, here are some of the wonderful speakers we have lined up for you. We will tell you more details about them and their presentations later and also all about the other great speakers we have lined up; but you can be sure this 15th Conference will be a real "ripper".

Kathryn Braun, DrPH, President of the Active Ageing Consortium Asia Pacific, will take an affirmative approach about the increase in "silver resources" that are on tap for governments and society with improved longevity. Dr. Chris Conybeare from the University of Hawaii-West, Oahu, who is a human rights attorney, will encourage us to promote media "literacy", become citizen journalists and campaign for an equitable regulatory environment for the media.

Dr. Alex Byrne, State Librarian & Chief Executive, State Library of NSW will tell of the "revolutions" taking place in this library, which goes back to 1826. New techniques, a new "Amaze" Gallery, a new app, a mass digitisation program and new discovery tools are exciting innovations. Now that's the kind of revolution we like! Anne Doherty, Consultant, Public Library Services, State Library of NSW will take us beyond the confines of the library walls and tell of the new approaches and choices for those who use the home library services. Great innovations here too!

Charlie Brown will tell us all about the latest technology in his uniquely enthusiastic way and without using confusing technical jargon http://www.lifeandtechnology.com.au/. Angus Deveson from 3D Printing Systems will amaze us with a presentation about this very topical additive manufacturing technology, its history and its future. www.ufactory.com.au

Natasha Crampton an Attorney from Microsoft will help us understand the legal issues as we take advantage of the benefits of cloud services.

Joy and Allan Murrin; experts in genealogy, are coming to share some of their knowledge and keenness with us at the Conference. http://www.joymurrin.com.au/

Trish Levido, Oral Historian, VALUING MEMORIES – Oral History in the Digital Age, will share her passion and talk about some of the easy and inexpensive digital tools for recording, editing & preserving your family memories.

Leonie Smith will address Cyber Security, while Gerry Murphy's presentation will be about video-conferencing and Peter Blasina, the Gadget Guy will make his usual anticipated appearance.

"Your Rights at Retirement" Launch in Sydney

The new and useful publication, "Your Rights at Retirement" was launched by NSW Minister for Ageing and Disability Services, The Hon Andrew Constance MP, at the Australian Human Rights Commission on 30th July 2013. ASCCA's President Nan Bosler attended the launch at which Australia's Age Discrimination Commissioner, The Hon Susan Ryan AO, spoke.

"For many people it is hard to know where to start and what to plan when it comes to retirement," said the Commissioner. "There are options for income support, health and aged care, senior's cards, financial planning, superannuation, housing and rent assistance, to name a few - and to find out about each different topic, you have to contact a different government department or other service."

"Some people are unable to realise their human rights because of lack of access to information and the new guide provides a free source of information to those not online and not familiar with the many resources and entitlements for older people" Ms Ryan said.

Commissioner Ryan said, "The guide was intended to be a beginning point, rather than an authority on any one topic.

Nan says; "Technology is covered; starting on page 176 and there is also information to guard against scams and dishonest practices."

Website www.ascca.org.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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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.

Berri Senior Citizens Club SA says Thanks for ASCCA CD

We all like to be appreciated— so what a thrill it was for us at ASCCA to receive an email of appreciation from Kathy Caddick of Berri Senior Citizens Club in South Australia.

Dear ASCCA Team, Many thanks for the CD Training Materials which arrived in the mail this week. It was so opportune as I had a lady asking `How to Use Facebook`? She wants to keep in touch with a Grand-daughter in Queensland and I am delighted to see that I will be able to give Betty a copy of your information about Facebook and we will be able to go through it together.   This will increase my proficiency and help her to get connected.   Many thanks for the clear and concise info and congratulations.

As our Club meets once a week and as our community doesn't have public transport we encourage members to use a computer and get proficient in using email and Internet. We are a small mixed club of Seniors – all age groups – and we don't offer formal lessons at the moment.

Rather we look at what concerns members each Tuesday – hence this week it was Facebook, while a couple of weeks ago it was a member's relative visiting from WA with an iPad query. Earlier in the year in response to an interest in Tablets we had an open session involving the wider community. This was presented by our local library Manager who is very helpful and offers us sessions either at our club or at the library.

We encourage members to contact us via email if they have computer concerns and we currently have a new member who wanted to increase her knowledge of sending and receiving emails even though she is travelling the "Outback" at the moment.

We have received emails from her from Pt Augusta, Coober Pedy and Darwin and now she is on her way to Charters Towers. As well as her email skills improving she has received our newsletters and decided to `take us up on the challenge` of knitting squares to incorporate in a blanket to be donated to homeless or those in need.   She emailed; "I have knitting needles and wools – what size would you like, I can do that whilst in the car on these long journeys!"

These South Australians are very resourceful - even the Berri Senior Citizens' Club monthly Newsletter, "The Grapevine" is produced "remotely" with information going back and forth via email from Kangaroo Island to Berri! Thanks for your email Kathy we are so glad you can put the ASCCA CD to good use.