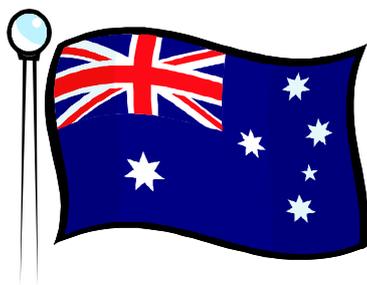


Newest "Gizmos and Concepts" at CES 2014, Las Vegas

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As usual the four day Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show, held early in January, has been hailed by some reporters as, "A Geek Fest" which aims to direct the estimated one trillion plus dollars to be spent in the global market for technology in 2014 into the hands of those mounting the most convincing displays.

Much of what was on display being spruiked as "the next big thing", could probably be placed into the category of "fulfilling a long un-felt need" by those of us who do not love technology for technology's sake. Perhaps some of us might see it all as being just too hard or as shirking our own responsibility to do things efficiently in our own way. After all most of us who wanted to have our children immunized against childhood diseases managed to remember to take them to the doctor at the appropriate times without a smartphone app to remind us. In the past year there have been many apps like that one, invented to encourage us all to be lazy.

Some of us are still not sure if we even need an electric toothbrush; but now we are being encouraged to; "Brush smarter online with the world's first internet-connected toothbrush." This toothbrush is designed to send information to an app on your smartphone while you are brushing your teeth. "Oral care will be reinvented" as we monitor the quality of our teeth brushing techniques as the inbuilt sensor detects and records the percentage of tatar being removed with each brushing. This product

will be on sale for a cost between \$100 and \$200 around the middle of the year.

Also on display at CES 2014 among many items of wearable technology, was Intel's range of "Digital Onesies" for the babies of parents who want to be constantly updated on every detail of their child's health. Apparently you could sit at your office desk, monitoring the temperature and breathing rate of your child through the digital display of your connected coffee cup. The information is collected by a memory stick sized computer, called the Intel Edison, which has a dual-core processor, flash storage, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity embedded in the child's garment.

It was even reported that a range of connected fitness wear has added Bluetooth capabilities to socks and sports bras. People on their exercise run can now monitor their running technique and biometric details in real time with embedded clothing or they may prefer to wear "a 'smart' watch and glasses that can monitor fitness and activity while updating emails and social media accounts and taking photos".

Those of us who attended the ASCCA Conference in November will remember being amazed when our speaker Charlie Brown told us of his interest in wearable technology. Most of us agreed with Charlie's comments after he showed us a motor bike jacket which had a fussy looking hood

ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

11 February, 2014 - Safer Internet Day—"Let's create a better Internet together"
<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

26 February, 2014 - Technology Expo for Seniors — Hosted by COTA (Council on the Ageing WA) and ILC (Independent Living Centre WA) Conference room, the Niche, 11 Aberdare Road, Nedlands, Perth, WA. <http://www.cotawa.org.au/2014/01/technology-expo-for-seniors/>

15 – 23 March, 2014 - NSW Seniors Week - ASCCA is finalising plans to help inspire seniors to learn about and enjoy Information Technology. <http://www.ascca.org.au/>

12 - 18 May, 2014 - National Volunteer Week <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>

17 May, 2014 - United Nations World Telecommunications and Information Society Day— "Broadband for Sustainable Development" <http://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/Pages/default.aspx>

15 June, 2014 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day <http://www.un.org/en/events/elderabuse/>

16 - 24 August, 2014 - Queensland Seniors Week

October, 2014 - Victorian Seniors Festival

12 - 18 October, 2014 - Carers Week

November, 2014 - Western Australia Seniors Week Festival

November, 2014 - 16th Annual ASCCA Computer Conference for Seniors in Sydney

First Commissioner for Senior Victorians Appointed



Mr. Gerard Mansour
Commissioner for
Senior Victorians.

On 12th September 2013, Mr. Gerard Mansour was appointed as the first **Commissioner for Senior Victorians**. Mr. Mansour has been working for more than 25 years as a passionate advocate for the needs of older people and in 2012, he became the inaugural national CEO of Leading Age Services Australia, the peak national body representing the aged and community care industry across Australia. He was previously the CEO of Aged and Community Care Victoria for six years.

This wide experience certainly qualifies Gerard Mansour for his new role, in which he intends to; *"focus on quality of life, workforce participation and access to services for senior Victorians, while maximising opportunities for all, including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged"*.

The new role of Commissioner for Senior Victorians was created *"to promote an age-friendly society and enhance community participation for senior Victorians"*. As Commissioner, Mr. Mansour will head a new Ministerial Advisory Committee for Senior Victorians

(MACSV) and report directly to the Minister for Ageing.

The MACSV which has 14 members in all was established in response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Opportunities for Participation of Victorian Seniors and will help to prepare a co-ordinated and workable action plan that will benefit all Victorian seniors. Independent advice on the impact of policies and programs relating to the participation of senior Victorians will be provided to the Minister for Ageing and government departments; although it is not the role of Mr. Mansour and the MACSV to supply programs for older people or to provide individual advocacy for resolving complaints about government services for seniors, they have a key role in coordinating the seniors participation action plan across government.

Contact information for the Commissioner and for other agencies that deal with complaints can be found on this website under the tab **Services & Information**. <http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/Home.aspx>

Vale Eric Whitehouse - ASCCA Director and friend



Eric Whitehouse was a friend, a colleague and a person dedicated and committed to any task he undertook. He will be greatly missed by all his ASCCA friends. We extend our most sincere condolences to his wife and family, who described Eric as a "Big picture man".

If Eric became interested in any cause, it was never enough to help at the local level, he always wanted to see how everything fitted together and help to grow any worthwhile project in which he took an interest - hence joining Computer Pals for Seniors—The Hills as a senior trainer, led to volunteering for the umbrella organization, the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA).

After showing an interest and willingness to promote the work of ASCCA, Eric was invited onto the ASCCA Board and was appointed as a Director on 2nd March 2012 to fill a casual vacancy. He was re-elected to the Board for the current year at the November AGM.

Eric died on 20th January 2014, after a relatively short, but courageous battle with oesophageal cancer, which was diagnosed in April 2013. Some treatment held the cancer at bay long enough for him to enjoy one last overseas holiday with his wife Isabel in September 2013.

When he returned home to Australia, Eric attended an ASCCA Monthly Board Meeting from the outpatients clinic at hospital, where he was having chemotherapy to stabilise his precarious condition. This was not the first time that Eric had displayed this amazing level of commitment in joining the board meetings via Skype from the hospital, since his illness was diagnosed.

His motivation in joining ASCCA was to help ASCCA members by pursuing his lifelong

interest in the use of technology to revolutionise the delivery of education. His personal education philosophy was - *"it's not about what the course covers, it's about what the student discovers"*.

With this in mind Eric volunteered at his very first ASCCA Board Meeting, to prepare a submission for a grant from the 2012 Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) Grants Scheme, which *"Funds projects that align with the ACCAN vision of a communications market that is fair and inclusive for all – a market which is available, accessible and affordable. These ACCAN Grant Projects focus on developing research, advocacy, or educational tools that address issues for communications consumers in Australia."*

<http://accan.org.au/>

After the successful submission, Eric, with the help of other dedicated ASCCA people, including Diane Brentnall, Mark Young and Keith Harvey, worked tirelessly toward doing the research and preparing the Report *"Efficient Seniors' Training Using Broadband Technology"*, which you can read at:

http://accan.org.au/ASCCA_Efficient_Seniors_Training.pdf

We were also fortunate that Eric willingly took on the role of being MC for our 2012 Computer Conference for Seniors and was keen to do this again in 2013. However, he was not well enough to attend when the time for the conference arrived.

Eric had a BA/Diploma of Teaching from the University of Queensland and spent 10 years as a dedicated teacher with the Education Department before joining IBM and gaining computing experience from mainframes to PCs. He finished his career in 2009 by running the Australian Centre for Advanced Computing and Communication. He was also involved with U3A and was a volunteer mentor to small business owners as part of programs run by the NSW Department of Industry and Trade.

Our friend and colleague, Eric Whitehouse was an inspiring man who will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

"We owe it to older persons and societies at large to fight ageism in all its forms and enhance the dignity and human rights of older persons everywhere."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

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ASCCA Newsletter
Volume 16 No 1
ISSN 1446-862X

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.

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.

Newest "Gizmos and Concepts" at CES 2014 continued from Page 1

which acted as an air-bag which would immediately inflate to provide the same protection as a helmet when an accident occurred. We all agreed with Charlie, that it would really just be easier to obey the rules and wear a helmet.

Affordable fingerprint scanners and iris-recognition devices which have a "one in a trillion" level of online security, will apparently do away with passwords completely and robots will tell us there is somebody at the front door or monitor up to 24 selected objects connected to a "motion cookie". These sensors can also detect temperature and patterns and could also keep track of the watering of plants and even ensure family members take their medicine or put out the bins on time. Best of all – one of these sensors could also remind you to clean your teeth if it was attached to your online toothbrush!

Now that we all have flat screen TVs and smart TVs, it appears from the offerings at the CES 2014 technology show that "the next big thing" in TV will be curved screens to give more depth. However this time they will be concave curves.

Of course many of these clever

ideas will undergo many changes before they come to the market and all of this has a ring of science fiction to some of us, but from past experience we know that most of these inventions will ultimately be embraced by a very significant proportion of the population of most technically advanced countries.

Of course much of this development has been driven by the increasing spread of smartphones and tablets, which are predicted to account for 43 per cent of technology spending in 2014.

It is a great satisfaction to those of us who have made the decision to understand the concepts and try to keep abreast of the latest technology advances; even if we do not intend to embrace them all wholeheartedly ourselves.

It would not take long in the world of 2014 to feel lost in a "foreign" and confusing place where even the language seems to have changed significantly. We will find great benefits from being able to pick and choose the new ideas and equipment that will give us the level of involvement that suits our circumstances.

<http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/1116351>

January 2014: SCAMwatch is warning consumers to beware of scammers targeting their smartphones and tablet devices with the "computer virus scam". If you store personal information on your phone, tablet or computer, keep it out of the hands of scammers – never provide remote access to a stranger.