

**ASCCA's 16th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors is nearly here - Book Now!**

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**Peter will be there ...  
How about you?**



**Don't forget the 16th  
ASCCA Conference!  
19 & 20 November**

We know that you really enjoy meeting new guest speakers at our Annual ASCCA Computer Conferences, but we do know that you also love to welcome back old favourites from previous years. This year we have "saved" Peter Blasina, the Gadget Guy, to be the final speaker. He will be able to send us off into the coming "computer year" with our heads full of exciting new technology developments to look forward to and share with our friends and individual club members. Always popular at ASCCA, Pete has been explaining technology to consumers for 22 years.

Dr Margaret Richardson who is a Research Fellow at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand will look at the way the Internet is part of modern life, regardless of whether we personally use it or not. How does the Internet impact on our involvements in family, leisure and community; or our access to goods, services and information?

Cullen T. Hayashida, Ph.D., Director, Kupuna (Elder) Education Center, Kapiolani Community College, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii will be talking in a very positive way about Creating a

Community for people of all Ages with focus on wellcare for older folk who are an important asset to the community - as well as sickcare, now and into the future. Dr. Hayashida will talk about "Unleashing the Power and Potential of Active Older Adults and Boomers". He will discuss the part they may play in creating a new culture of hope.



We will be hearing from Brendan Fitzgerald, Manager, Digital Inclusion, at Infoxchange, who will talk about the Go Digi Program in Partnership with Australia Post. This program is to ensure equal and affordable access to technology and the digital literacy skills to enable full participation in modern society.



Brendan's colleague, Emma Fawcett, who will be a Concurrent Speaker on the same day is the Community Engagement Officer for the Infoxchange WeShare Program which aims to empower 55-65 'Emerging Elders' to participate in the 'Sharing Economy'.



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## ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

**October, 2014 - Victorian Seniors Festival - 5-12 October** there will be a core program of events  
<http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/Home/Festival-and-Awards/Your-events/Victorian-Seniors-Festival>

**12 - 18 October, 2014 - Carers Week**

**9 - 16 November, 2014 - Western Australia Seniors Week Festival**

**Nominations for the WA Seniors Awards closing date, Friday 29 August, 2014.**

<http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/communities-in-focus/seniors/Seniors-Week-2014>

**Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 November, 2014 - 16<sup>th</sup> Annual ASCCA Computer Conference for Seniors in Sydney to be held at Rydges Hotel, World Square, Sydney.** It is time to think about making your booking to attend the Conference and book your accommodation in Sydney if you are travelling from out of town or interstate. Check the ASCCA Website for news and updates.

**Wednesday 19 November 3.30 pm - Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association Annual General Meeting will be held at the conclusion of Day 1 of the ASCCA Conference at Rydges.**

## AUSOM Club Invitation for October Victorian Seniors Festival

"Come along and learn with us", is an open invitation extended by the **Apple Users' Society of Melbourne (AUSOM)** to all seniors during the Victorian Seniors Festival which will run throughout October.

AUSOM members will run special workshop sessions for beginners to the iPad/Mac, giving tips and helping visitors to get started. The meetings where this help will be available are to be held at the following times and locations.

**Retirees & Others:** Wednesday 8 October, 10:00 am - 12:00pm at Balwyn Baptist Church, on the corner of Whitehorse and Parring Roads, Balwyn.

**'Everything iPad/iPhone' Melbourne PC User Group:** on Wednesday 15 October, 2:00pm - 4:00 pm, Melbourne PC Users' Group, Level 1/479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin

**AUSOM Mornington Group:** Thursday 16 October. 6:15 pm - 8:15pm, Mornington Community Information Centre, 320 Main Street, Mornington

More details are available on the AUSOM website: [www.ausom.net.au](http://www.ausom.net.au)



**Thank you to Marion Egerton from AUSOM for sharing the news about**

**their involvement in the Victoria Seniors Festival.**

## Does your ASCCA Club have a Creative Writing Group?

**ASCCA is able to offer help to any Club wanting to start a Creative Writing Group for its members.** We can put you in touch with another club with a happy and successful group and offer pointers about what works well and suggest writing topics.

A Creative Writing Group is an excellent way to encourage our seniors to explore possibilities and ideas through fiction or life story writing. Even completely inexperienced writers can find great satisfaction and enjoyment as they - bit by bit - create a permanent record of their life, their work and their family. These stories are personal and social history and are a great gift to leave to you descendants.

How many people have you heard say; "But I have never done anything" as an excuse

to put off making a start? This is simply not true for anyone. There have been few times in the history of the world when such rapid and far-reaching changes to the whole fabric of society have affected the way we live our lives. We should celebrate our lives and relive the good times and reflect on the way even the bad times may have helped us to grow as people.

Quite apart from the fun and satisfaction that Creative Writing Group members enjoy, there is great advantage in the discipline of making time to write regularly.

**Fact or fiction - writing is fun!**

**Remember our heritage is found in the day to day stories of people who have gone before us.**

For information email [asca@asca.com.au](mailto:asca@asca.com.au)

## Cont. from Page 1 16th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors

As mentioned last month, there is increasing interest in and reference to "the Internet of things". At the conference we will have Professor Toni Robertson and Dr. Tuck Leong from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Technology, Sydney to answer the question; "Is there a role for the Internet of Things in Ageing Well?" It is their job as researchers, to try to understand the interaction between people, their activities and information and communications technologies. At the Interaction Design and Human Practice Lab, the researchers are committed to Participatory Design.



Also from the University of Technology, Sydney, we will welcome Dr Amir Talaei-Khoei, PhD, from the School of Systems, Management and Leadership. Dr. Talaei-Khoei co-ordinates an international initiative for Assistive Technologies in Aged Care involving seven universities and research institutes from Australia, UK, Norway, South Korea and USA; so his talk, "Ageing in Place Technologies: Creating Possibilities" is all about introducing the practical tech solutions that make exciting things happen. Our speaker also leads an aged care research program at a collaborative centre for the World Health Organisation.



Alex Zaharov-Reutt, who is the Technology Editor of ITWire.com describes himself as being; "Immersed in the digital lifestyle, devouring new technologies and sharing his knowledge far and wide across print, the web, TV and radio." Alex has promised to show us how to have lots of "Fun with technology, while keeping safe online". He is a volunteer at the Sydney PC Users Group and is also busy working on "top secret" technology projects.

If you think there can't possibly be even more excellent speakers coming your way at the 16<sup>th</sup> ASCCA Conference, think again! It's just that we are waiting for final confirmations on titles and details from several other well-know favourites you have previously enjoyed hearing as keynote speakers and a range of other concurrent speakers you will have trouble choosing between.

Some of the other concurrent topics include, "The significance of Tablets in meeting the computing needs", "eBooks", "Drop Box" and "Creating your own family story through photographs and video". Bill McCully, an ASCCA Club Trainer since 1998, will demonstrate how you can make a professional looking DVD of your family story.



Look at ASCCA's Website [www.ascca.org.au](http://www.ascca.org.au) for the latest news on our generous speakers and sponsors. There, you will also discover who will be providing support with the very popular Trade and Information Stands.

**Without the substantial generosity of all these people we would be unable to bring you such a wonderful Computer Conference at such a modest cost. So make sure you attend and enjoy two excellent days of learning and friendship.**

### The Thirteenth 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 Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 3.30pm

**Annual reports  
Election of Board Members**

**Announcement of  
ASCCA 2014 Competition Winners**

RSVP by 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014,  
giving name of Club and delegates attending,  
to 02 9286 3871 or [ascca@ascca.org.au](mailto:ascca@ascca.org.au)

**All delegates attending the 16<sup>th</sup> Australian  
Computer Conference for Seniors  
are welcome to attend but must also RSVP.**



Website [www.ascca.org.au](http://www.ascca.org.au)

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Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

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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](http://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 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 - \$160 Incl. GST  
Over 100 members - \$275 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](http://www.ascca.org.au) or email [office@ascca.org.au](mailto: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.

**DISCLAIMER:** This newsletter is provided "As Is" without warranty of any kind. Each reader of the **ASCCA** newsletter assumes complete risk as to the accuracy and subsequent use of its contents.

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Joan Craymer, Email: [ascca@ascca.org.au](mailto:ascca@ascca.org.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.

### Inspiring uses for new technologies supported by Google

It is probably not altogether surprising that we sometimes question the direction of technology and wonder if we have gone too far and spent too much time and money on trivial projects. Then we read about some exciting new research and the possibilities of great improvements in the provision of technology for third world countries, or the treatment and care of people who live with serious health problems - and we immediately "forgive" the perceived puerility.

Google continues to surprise us with the depth and breadth of its company acquisitions and research through its "moonshot" branch, Google[x] which is the area of the company responsible for things like self-driving cars, Google Glass, Google contact lenses, and Project Loon, Google's Internet balloons. The idea behind Project Loon is to create a ring of balloons that will provide cheap Internet access to the billions of people around the world not yet connected. The balloons will move about 20 km above earth in the stratospheric winds. Pilot testing began in June 2013 with the launching of 30 balloons from the New Zealand South Island. See Google's video <http://www.google.com/loon/how/>

Google is also working on Project Wing, working on delivery drones, shown in this recent test flight in outback Queensland. <http://www.webpronews.com/project-wing-here-come-googles-delivery-drones-2014-08>

Another new Google[x] company is Lift Labs which makes a remarkable spoon that can overcome the extreme frustration of a patient with Parkinson's Disease whose tremors make self feeding exasperating. A Google+ Post announced that the Liftware system with its tremor-canceling device could improve the quality of life for millions of people. Google will also explore other ways that, "Lift Labs technology" could be used to, "Improve the understanding and management of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease and essential tremor."

This 10 second video is nothing short of inspiring to see. The clever spoon obviously returns a degree of independence and dignity to the gentleman <https://plus.google.com/+google/posts/GWBDSf8KkcV>