

Congratulations to Ipswich, Qld., an Intelligent Community

Inside this Issue

ASCCA Notice Board	2
"Fulfilling a long unfelt need!"	2
Continued on	4
Meet your Ancestors ASCCA Forum	3
Complete your "Income Stream Review" online?	3
ACCAN Submission	3



The Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) is a "think tank" that studies the economic and social development of 21st Century Communities in industrialised or developing nations. To create prosperity, stability and cultural meaning and promote jobs, investment and knowledge, increasingly depends on advances in communications.

ICF works with communities to share the best practices of the world's Intelligent Communities in adapting to the demands of the Broadband Economy and its impacts at the local level. Its aims are to help people and their communities to prosper and overcome the challenges to claim a place in the economy of the 21st Century.

An annual award names the Intelligent Community of the Year and the **City of Ipswich** which is Queensland's oldest provincial city, has been named among the Top 7 Intelligent Community contenders for 2015.

Ipswich is a city that values its heritage; as can be seen by the retention of many beautiful early colonial buildings in the heart of the city. However, it is not afraid of progress and accepts its place as the hub of today's growth region in South East Queensland.

The city has lovely green spaces and the surrounding hills boast



many beautifully restored "Queenslanders" and there are quaint townships surrounding the city.

Ipswich is 40 minutes west of Brisbane and an hour from the Gold Coast. It has faced challenges because of the decline in industrial activity in the 1970s and 1980s which left the city with long term unemployment and worrying crime figures.

However, with the advantages of affordable housing and a good lifestyle, the population began to grow rapidly and in 2011, the city of Ipswich published a 20-year economic development plan to deal with the needs of a forecast 292,000 new residents who will require 120,000 jobs.

The selection of Ipswich as a Top 7 Intelligent Community must be of great encouragement to the community leaders who are working to turn Ipswich into a modern green and sustainable "model city" excelling in digital education and infrastructure.

ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

10 February, 2015 - Safer Internet Day - The theme for 2015; 'Let's create a better internet together', will be used to promote positive digital citizenship across Australian communities
<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

14 - 22 March 2015 - NSW Seniors Week will have the theme "Be Inspired"

17 & 18 March 2015 - An Expo will be held alongside the NSW Premier's Gala Concerts, opening 90 minutes before each concert. The venue is Qantas Credit Union Arena (formerly the Sydney Entertainment Centre) - Level 1. The times are Tues.17th 9.30am-1.30pm and 3.00pm-5.45pm and Wed.18th March 9.00am-4.45 pm. You will find ASCCA represented with a stand within the "Tech Savvy Hub" at the Expo. <http://www.nswseniorsweek.com.au/events/expo>

20 March, 2015 - On Friday 20th ASCCA is planning a free forum, "Meet Your Ancestors" - see more on page 3 and watch out for more details at <http://www.ascca.org.au/>

31 March & 1 April 2015 - you will be able to visit the Seniors Hub at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, where ASCCA will once again be represented

3 - 8 May 2015 - Privacy Awareness Week, NSW

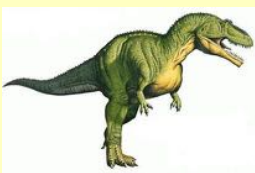
11 - 17 May, 2015 - National Volunteer Week - The theme this year is "Give Happy, Live Happy"
<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>

17 May, 2015 - United Nations World Telecommunications and Information Society Day. 2015, marks the 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union <http://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/Pages/default.aspx>

17 & 18 November, 2015 - The 17th Annual ASCCA Computer Conference for Seniors will take place at the Rydges World Square Hotel, Sydney - with the ASCCA AGM to take place at 3.30 pm on 17th November at the conclusion of the first day of the Conference

NOW IS THE TIME TO PUT THE DATES FOR THE CONFERENCE INTO YOUR NEW 2015 DIARY AND PLAN TO COME AND ENJOY AN EXCITING TWO DAYS WITH GREAT SPEAKERS AND EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY.

"Fulfilling a long unfelt need!"



IBM 360 Computer c. 1960



Have you noticed that it is becoming harder and harder to keep up with the relevance of developing technologies? In browsing technical articles to try to keep abreast of trends and opportunities, the essence of the story often seems to become completely lost in unfamiliar acronyms and suppositions. This either results in one giving up on the article after the first or second paragraph, or in the reader becoming completely buried in researching the meaning and intention of almost everything. Even the titles of many articles are a real challenge to the interested layperson.

While looking for information about the new "must have"

exhibits at the 2015 Annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, to share with our ASCCA Newsletter readers, the words of a "computer dinosaur" and former (1958-1993) valued IBM Engineer (my brother) came to mind. Before his death in 1995 he was often heard to describe new "fad" inventions as; *"Fulfilling a long unfelt need."* Of course, intellectually he knew that the adaptation of new ideas is the lifeblood of progress and working as a computer engineer in 1958 was certainly a confirmation of this.

Perhaps most seniors, even those of us who embrace technical advances, could not see ourselves wanting or

Continued on Page 4

Meet your Ancestors - Friday 20th March

ASCCA will be holding a free audience interactive Forum, **Meet your Ancestors** as part of their program to celebrate NSW 2015 Seniors Week. It will be held in the Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney commencing at 9.30 am on Friday, 20 March. Bookings are essential!

The theme for Seniors Week is "*Be Inspired*" and ASCCA will help you learn how to seek out ancestors who were inspiring by their pioneering efforts as they became Australia's early settlers.

The search for the story of your family is exhilarating, frustrating and time

consuming; it's wonderful! Slowly your heritage is revealed, you meet fellow researchers; you have the joy of sharing what you have found and being given wonderful information that you only dreamt of finding. You will find cousins four times removed and become instant friends. Your story is also part of the wider social history of the people, places and times in which your ancestors lived and where you and your family members now live.

See the March ASCCA Newsletter or check with our website for more details.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMPLETE YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES "INCOME STREAM REVIEW ONLINE?"

Human Services have developed a convenient way for seniors receiving the **Age Pension**, those who receive a **Carer Payment** and people on a **Disability Support Pension**, to complete their "**Income Stream Review**", due in February and August each year, online. This review is necessary if you receive income that comes from another type of pension, interest-paying accounts or income from shares or stock-market linked sources. Doing yours online may be just what you have been waiting for to avoid wasting your time queuing at a Centrelink Office.

Although you will probably have received a letter about the online option, this link may be helpful to find out all about "Income Stream Reviews" and what information you will need to have available before you begin. <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/assets/pension-income-stream-reviews#a4>

If you would appreciate some help you can ring Centrelink on 132 300 or go to the Human Services Website where there will be help available under the heading, "Online account guides and video demonstrations". <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/online-services/guides/>

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK

ACCAN has made a submission on behalf of consumers, to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence & Security January 2015, regarding the 2014 Telecommunications (Interception & Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill.

Included in its 14 recommendations to the committee, ACCAN has opposed the passing on of any costs to consumers and has also asked that the costings of the scheme, should be made publicly available if the bill is passed.

While acknowledging that access to communications data by criminal law-enforcement agencies is legitimate; ACCAN also recommends the implementation of "Robust and independent oversight mechanisms to ensure the privacy of Australian citizens is not compromised".

To learn all about the details of this submission you can follow this link:

http://www.accan.org.au/files/Submissions/Data%20Retention%20Bill%20submission_ACCAN.pdf

Website www.ascca.org.au

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

ABN 47 097 847 642

Working for Seniors

280 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone 02 9286 3871 Fax 02 9286 3876

office@ascca.org.au

- General Information: office@ascca.org.au
- Member Support: cdo@ascca.org.au
- New Club Support: cdo@ascca.org.au
- President: ascca@ascca.org.au

Page 4

ASCCA Newsletter
Volume 17 No 1
ISSN 1446-862X

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.

continued from Page 2 - "Fulfilling a long unfelt need!"

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.

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
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.

owning the majority of the inventions on show this year; but we will almost certainly be keen to own future derivations of these products.

Since the Industrial Revolution, there has been increased interest in automation and this was one of the main themes of the 2015 CES. Robots designed for a wide range of uses, were of great interest to visitors as were drones of all kinds being developed for diverse uses. The exhibition was flooded with sensors to connect to smart gadgets to (in theory) make life simpler.

These involve the much talked about Internet of Things (IoT) – but do we really need to remove the decision to water our plants or turn on our kettle to sensors and apps. In our generation we had family and friends who were happy to water our plants when we were on holiday; but today, is there the danger that we are so involved in downloading, playing with and organising our apps that we may become somewhat socially inept?

What amazing inventions we have seen in our lives – and because of many of these discoveries, we can look forward

to longer and healthier lives – but is the risk of artificial intelligence, called (of course) AI something that we should now consider seriously?

Have you heard of the **Future of Life Institute**, which is a volunteer-run research and outreach organisation working to alleviate risks to human existence? They are currently focusing on potential risks from the development of human-level artificial intelligence and have a mission to; "Support research and initiatives for safeguarding life and developing optimistic visions of the future, including positive ways for humanity to steer its own course considering new technologies and challenges." A look at the "Who we are" page on the group's website is quite reassuring. <http://futureoflife.org/>

These thoughts can run on in many conflicting directions and perhaps one of the advantages of being older is that we can enjoy what we choose, to the extent we choose, while remembering society before the radical changes resulting from the plethora of cheap electronic goods and advances in information technology. J.C.