So much to learn - Down Memory Lane
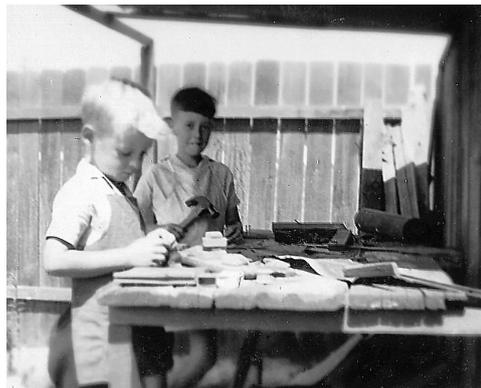
Inside this Issue

Windows 10 Trainers Workshop - 2 x 2 hours on one day at ASCCA **For ASCCA club trainers only**
This intensive two sessions on one day, "hands on" workshop is designed to give ASCCA Club Trainers an overall view and feel for the Microsoft's Windows 10 environment following on from Windows 8.1. Windows 10 computers will be used without touchscreens.

Wednesday 17 February
10.00 – 12.00 and
1.00 – 3.00
Trainers $28
Phone to Book on:
02 9286 3871

An ASCCA member - a man in his mid seventies - reminiscing about his childhood interest in trying to understand all about radio and other technology, recently talked of the passionate interest he shared with his brother in building cats whisker crystal sets and all kinds of little projects in hobby magazines of the time.

He recalled that finding materials for these projects was really difficult - during and after the war - so he and his brother had to be innovative and very resourceful and absolutely nothing was wasted. They rigged up an aerial on poles strapped to the two chimneys on top of the house and this was wired into a special "earthing switch" which allowed it to be connected to ground in the event of an electrical storm. This big aerial gave the boys the ability to listen to longwave stations in other states and shortwave stations all over the world – but only at night when reception was much better. The family did have a working AWA valve radio at the time, but this was a time when the wonder of how and why things worked fascinated them most.

Their mother was thoroughly "underwhelmed" when her sons set up wiring between their bedrooms so they could send each other messages in morse code. They continued to learn as they bought bits and pieces from the local junk shop and used whatever they could buy or scrounge, to build, modify and create all kinds of electronic gadgets.

One of these boys became an aircraft instrument fitter and then a computer engineer from 1965 until his retirement and the other became a production manager in telephones and communications and in 1962 had the opportunity to change direction and become a computer programmer. He retired as a senior systems analyst.

This reminiscent senior was listening to the radio one day when an advertisement came to air describing a great deal on **"A full HD LCD LED TV with HDMI and USB and HDD"**. After he stopped laughing about what his parents would make of all that if they somehow returned to earth for a day; he "translated" the features of this SMART TV for his wife, telling her; *"It is a full high definition liquid crystal display, light emitting diode (back lighting) television with high definition media interface and universal serial bus and hard disk drive!"*

Of course this makes us all chuckle, but it does also remind us, that we still have so much to learn and so much fun to experience. It also makes us aware that staying connected with technology helps us to stay

ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

9 February, 2016 - Safer Internet Day - Join the global celebration and play your part for a better internet. The Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner has a number of resources for the whole community to use. https://www.esafety.gov.au/

1—10 April 2016 - NSW Seniors Festival will have the theme "Be Involved—Try Something New"

5 & 6 April 2016 - An Expo will be held alongside the NSW Premier's Gala Concerts, opening 90 minutes before each concert. The venue is the Forecourt at Allphones Arena, Sydney Olympic Park. The dates are Tues.5th April **and** Wed. 6th April. You will find ASCCA represented with a stand at the Expo. http://www.nswseniorsweek.com.au/events/expo

8 April 2016 - On Friday 8th ASCCA is planning a free, "Share the Shoebox Forum" - see more on page 3 and watch out for more details at http://www.ascca.org.au/

May 2016 - The 2016 Privacy Awareness Week will be held in May - more news later

9-15 May, 2016 - National Volunteer Week - an annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contributions of our nation's volunteers - watch for details http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/

8 - 9 November, 2016 - The 18th Australian 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 8th November at the conclusion of the first day of the Conference

NOW IS THE TIME TO PUT THESE DATES INTO YOUR NEW 2016 DIARY

Please help by letting ASCCA know if you have news of an event that will be of interest or benefit to our ASCCA Members from other States in Australia, please share the details with us at ASCCA. It is not easy for us to discover details of Australia wide seniors festivals or other events and we cannot alert our members to them unless YOU send us the information and report on the outcomes. We are interested in news about ASCCA Clubs throughout Australia.

On the 14th December, 2015 the **Assistant Minister for Social Services, Alan Tudge MP launched the Federal Government's new Carer Gateway** which aims to make it easier for carers to access practical information and advice. This new **Integrated Plan for Carers** will make accessing the nearest existing support services through a national phone service, website and an interactive service finder much more convenient and it will also help to reach out to carers who might not currently identify as carers or know that support is available to them.

Mr Tudge said that the new Carer Gateway would make a real difference to the way carers access support. He also said; "Many carers do not have the time to go searching across multiple sites for reliable information on how to access local respite services or social support. Now carers will have an easy to access gateway to help connect them with the existing local services they need."

Carers can call 1800 422 737, Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm, and speak to a helpful and professional Australian-based team who can help with information, and provide links to local services.

Go to www.carergateway.gov.au to find out more about how this $33.7 million Federal Government Plan might be of help to you or others that you know.

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National Carers Week 2016 will run from 16-22 October 2016. Carers Week aims to raise awareness of carers, the caring role and relationships, and carer supports and services. There is a separate website available for Carers in each state.

Take your Treasured Memories on a Journey into the New Age

NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL

Community Partner

Let us show you how you can leave an amazing heirloom legacy for your family to treasure long after you are gone!

Share the Shoebox Forum

Friday, 8 April 2016
9.30am –12.00 noon
280 Pitt Street, Sydney

Planning what to do with the unsorted treasures will be a joy to share with loved ones and the bonus will come when the younger generations respond to your efforts with pleasure .

ASCCA is excited to announce a special **NSW Seniors Festival Forum for 2016.** One again, you can look forward to an excellent "How To" handout, after enjoying the demonstrations at the forum which will be held in the Mitchell Theatre. **See the March ASCCA Newsletter or check with our website for more details.**

Each year NSW Seniors Festival grows bigger and better. In 2016 the festival will run for ten days from 1 April - 10 April and has been renamed the NSW Seniors Festival.

The theme for this year is "Be Involved—Try Something New"

2016 Expo - ASCCA will once again be involved

This year the **Premiers Gala Concerts** and **Festival Expo**, will be held at the **Allphones Arena, Sydney Olympic Park** during the Festival. The 2016 Premier's Gala Concerts will be held: Tuesday 5 April: 11.00am and 2.15pm & Wednesday 6 April: 11.00am and 2.15pm. The Festival Expo is now a stand alone event to the Premiers Gala Concerts, to be held in the Forecourt of the Allphones Arena. The Expo will be open to concert patrons and the general public. The NSW Seniors Festival Expo will expand in 2016 from 30 to more than 50 exhibitor stands. **Don't forget to visit ASCCA.**

THE ASCCA CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION FEEDBACK FOR 2015

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE 2015 RESULTS ON THE ASCCA WEBSITE?

We were able to email Mike Murphy's generously supplied feedback comments on every entry in the 2015 Creative Writing Competition to the authors recently and here are some of the many appreciative comments from our members who entered.

"The feedback is greatly appreciated and we all have a chuckle over taking ourselves too seriously. The criticism feedback from Mike gives us a basis to build on for subsequent competitions and in our monthly club meetings at Newcastle. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Mike for giving so generously of his time and talent to help us."

"Hi, Mike This is just to let you know how much I and the other entrants in the ASCCA Creative Writing Competitions, and especially our AUSOM members, appreciate the hard work that goes into judging our entries. We cannot begin to imagine the amount of time and effort that you put in each year. Particularly valued are the personal critiques; these make us think more deeply about what we are trying to convey and must help us to improve our works. Thank you very much indeed."   Here is a link to Mike's Website: http://mikemurphythewriter.com/

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.

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 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.

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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.

Are you ready for Digital Money?

Would you like to use money which doesn't actually exist? Well there are now currencies which are created by computer programs and being used for buying and selling goods and services. Two examples are "Bitcoins" and "Perfect Money".

These currencies are generated by computer algorithms, and exist only in computer strings of characters somewhere in the Ethernet. You can buy Bitcoins from banks and have them "transferred" to your "Digital wallet", which you must create first, together with a digital money address on the Internet. From there you can spend them with a growing number of retailers.

Do you think that sounds far fetched? Just think of "real money", it hardly exists any more. You hand over a credit card and a transaction occurs. Neither you or the seller actually handles or sees any money, it is just a transfer of digital information from your "digital wallet" – your credit card.

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Thanks to Lynton Bradford who is President of ARV Residents Computer Club, Castle Hill, for introducing this challenging topic. This seems to be just something else that has no real place in the day to day life of most seniors - but it is always ever so good to challenge ourselves to keep up with what is happening so we can understand and accept any changes that "creep up on us".

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abreast of the changes in our language as well.

Sometimes it seems they keep inventing more new gadgets faster than we can learn! However, if we have embraced learning as an exciting life long experience we will be rewarded in many unexpected

ways and we will avoid that "out of control" sensation of feeling irrelevant in a conversation with several different generations.

Would other ASCCA members like to share their technology journey or work memories?