

ASCCA Clubs sharing and working together

Inside this Issue

ASCCA Notice Board	2
ASCCA Clubs sharing & working together	2
Introducing Raymond Hart - newest member of the ASCCA Team	3
NSW Seniors Week Award for Newcastle	3
Changes to Medicare Claims 1st July	4
New Microsoft SCAM Lotus Feet Warning	4

**"We can stop elder abuse" WEAAD
15 June 2016**

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 66/127, has designated June 15 as **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** (WEAAD).

This is the main day in the year when the world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted on older people.



As we reported in the May Newsletter, the recent **"Ways Forward for ASCCA Clubs Forum"**, was a platform for much helpful discussion about the general trend of falling membership numbers in clubs. Important discussions also centred around changes in the needs and preferences of members throughout the clubs.

We know that many clubs have shared lessons and helped each other in different ways in the process of setting up their clubs ever since 1998 when ASCCA began to facilitate easier access to computer training for seniors. This has been an exciting "adventure" for many of us as learners and teachers.

On Thursday 26th May I was pleased to visit **Computer Pals**

for Seniors Turramurra to talk about the fun and benefits of Creative Writing. President Ken Doyle, recalled that his club was grateful for the help given to them by **Computer Pals for Seniors - Epping** back in 2001, when Turramurra was starting out. This was a welcome reminder of the way many clubs both gave and received help and then passed it on to the next start-up clubs.

On Monday 30th May, three members of Computer Pals for Seniors Turramurra visited the 16 year old Creative Writing Special Interest Group at Computer Pals for Seniors Epping to experience how such a group operates.

After an enjoyable and friendly

Continued on Page 2



ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

15 June 2016 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - designated by the United Nations General Assembly.

Saturday 13 August - Sunday 21 August - Queensland Seniors Week "It's on for young and old".

Monday 5 September 2016 - All ASCCA Digital Photography and Creative Writing Competition entries must be received by 4.00 pm on this day. No late entries can be accepted.

10 - 16 October 2016 - Tasmania Seniors Week

October 2016 - Victorian Seniors Festival - This is the 34th Festival and will be celebrated throughout the month of October.

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 and 2016 Competition Awards to take place at 3.30 pm on 8th November at the conclusion of the first day of the Conference.

8 - 15 November 2016 - WA Seniors Week

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.

Continued from Page 1 **ASCCA Clubs sharing and working together**

morning sharing stories written at home, on the topic of the month; Dorothy, Margaret and Betty were convinced they should follow up on their wish to start a Creative Writing Group at their Turrumurra club. Although the topic was "A Funny Story" the approach to the subject and the content of each story displayed the usual diversity - and as would be expected - resulted in much laughter. It was obvious to the Turrumurra ladies that there are many real advantages in meeting with a group of friends and writing regularly.

Currently, most successful ASCCA clubs are looking for new ways of engaging and keeping the interest of their members. Clubs that research and provide training in any new types of computer technology and start up new kinds of interest groups will remain relevant to the changing needs and interests of members.

Computer Pals Turrumurra and **Computer Pals Ku-ring-gai**, which meets at nearby East Lindfield, have also been sharing ideas and pooling resources.

Although there are discussions to be held to overcome some variations in the financial operation of the two clubs, they have already agreed on a plan to boost their tutor resources. By allowing access to classes for which one club or the other does not have a tutor available, these forward thinking clubs are each providing greater

choices for their members and enjoying the opportunity to boost the numbers in classes or at general meetings; while preserving their own identity as a separate club despite falling numbers.

It was very interesting to read in the current newsletter of **Computer Pals Newcastle**, that they have started a new special interest group apparently inspired by the ASCCA "Share the Shoebox Forum" held during Seniors Week. They have aptly called this new group "Memory Pals" "*because that is what the group will be dealing with, as well as ensuring those other precious keepsakes get passed on to the desired destination rather than into a 'skip' headed for the dump.*" They have also suggested that people interested in the new group visit their successful "Writer Pals" group "*for assistance with the story telling associated with recording those memories.*"

Why not tell ASCCA and our readers what your club is doing to move forward. Of course this story just proves what most of us already knew about the resourcefulness of seniors. Even if we can't climb over the fence any more, we will always find a way to get around it and reach the other side.

Can your club share the way you are solving the problems of getting around the proverbial fence?

Introducing Raymond Hart - newest member of the ASCCA Team



Raymond Hart is the latest member to join the ASCCA Team and he has now been with us for several months. He joined us at a very busy time when preparations were underway for NSW Seniors Week and he immediately settled in to meet visitors and talk about what ASCCA can offer when he manned our stand at the Seniors EXPO which was held in conjunction with the Premier's Concert at Allphones Arena Homebush.

Then followed the "Share the Shoebox" Forum in Pitt Street and the ASCCA Clubs Forum. It was a rather hectic "apprenticeship" with a busy couple of months, but with good opportunities to meet some of our members and see how he could enjoy his passion; *"To help people come to terms with technology that is now part of today's living"*.



Now Raymond, who is also a voluntary trainer for Richmond Seniors Computer Group, has taken on his main task of **ASCCA Training Officer** and has been running some successful courses and starting to write new courses.

We welcome Raymond who has much practical work experience and formal education in many aspects related to Information Technology. He was born in England, but has been a proud Australian citizen since 1976.

2016 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award for Computer Pals for Seniors Newcastle

A **NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award** (for an organisation) was presented to **Computer Pals for Seniors Newcastle** by the NSW Member for Newcastle Tim Crakanthorp on Wednesday 27th April.

"Computerpals for Seniors are a huge help and relief to local seniors who are looking to further their computer skills. They open up the world to their members by connecting them to the internet."



He is pictured here with Barry Keen, Judy Wallace and Lindsay Threadgate after the presentation at which Mr. Crakanthorp said:

Many of the club's members were present at a special Seniors Week Morning Tea when Petria Jukes from Newcastle City Council distributed copies of the Council's new Seniors Directory. The lead story of this new publication featured the story and photos of Computer Pals Newcastle's success.

Congratulations to everyone who volunteers at Computer Pals Newcastle!

Thanks to Newcastle Club President Lindsay Threadgate for sending us this information and picture.

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Page 4

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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 - \$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.

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.

Changes to Medicare Claims from 1 July 2016

Have you heard about the changes to Medicare claims that will come into effect on 1st July 2016?

From 1st July cheques will no longer be issued for Medicare benefits. To receive your benefit you will need to register your bank account details with Medicare.

You can register your details online—by using your Medicare online account via **myGov**, <https://my.gov.au/LoginServices/main/login?execution=e1s1> or the **Express Plus Medicare mobile app** <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/>

[customer/services/express-plus-mobile-apps](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/express-plus-mobile-apps)

You can also complete a **Bank account details collection form**

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/forms/ms013> and return it to a **Service Centre** <http://findus.humanservices.gov.au/> or send by post to:

Department of Human Services Medicare, GPO Box 9822

in your capital city or phone: 13 20 11*(call charges may apply)

Once you have registered your bank account details your Medicare benefit will be paid directly into your bank account.

New Microsoft Scam - Lotus Feet is NOT an accredited Microsoft organisation

Alwyn Stucky, ASCCA's Secretary, has reported that a member of Westlakes Seniors Computer Club has been caught up in a new **SCAM** which involves a notification claiming to be from Microsoft. The scam offers a "**Lotus Feet Internet Security Package**" and asks for bank details.

Alwyn has spoken to Microsoft in Sydney and been advised that Lotus Feet is **NOT an accredited Microsoft organisation**.

Fortunately the Westlakes member immediately realised a grave mistake had been made and contacted Alwyn, who advised her to contact the bank immediately.

Although, the Bank put a stop on the account all within about five minutes of the original consent

being given, there was already a transaction in the pipeline and it would take 24 hours to appear on the account. Unfortunately the debit was \$349.99.

Lotus Feet is listed at level 40, 140 William Street, Melbourne with a phone number (Phone 1-800-248-183). This is only a service centre and calls are transferred to America. If any one has a problem regarding receipt of this scam you are advised to ring 13 2058 1112 to report the matter.

Thank you Alwyn for telling us about this and sharing your investigations with our ASCCA members. Having someone to help if you have a problem like this, is one of the great advantages of belonging to an ASCCA Club.