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ASCCA applauds the thousands of volunteers who give their time and skills to help other seniors embrace Digital Inclusion!

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20 years and going strong!



Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne, Hills Shire Council, offers her congratulations to Computer Pals the Hills.

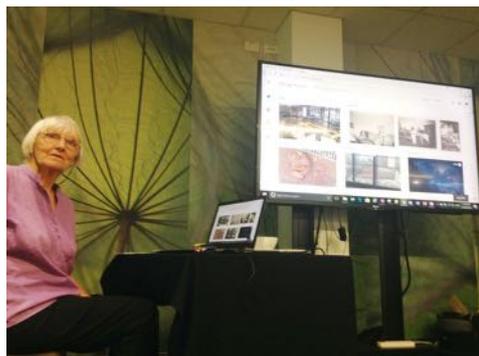
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK NVW is an annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our nation's volunteers. This year it will be held 21-17 May. ASCCA is the national peak body for Seniors and Technology. It is run by seniors for seniors and we are all volunteers.

TURRAMURRA CLUB AWARDED As part of the Ku-ring-gai Council Seniors Festival long serving Computer Pals for Seniors Turramurra Committee member and technical expert Dean Simes received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Mayor for his work on behalf of CPST over many years. Dean manages CPST's computers and leads tuition on Win10 and internet security. Turramurra Club was the winner of the Mayoral award for a club's contribution to the community. These are great honours for the club and represents the excellent contributions of many volunteers over an extended period.



President, Bill Soper, received the award from Mayor Jennifer Anderson

ABOUT GOOGLE PHOTOS A wonderful snapshot about Google Photos was presented in a session by volunteer ASCCA Trainer, Jean Martin, for Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches at Dee Why last month. Participants were astounded at the automation Google has developed for auto recognition of photos by colour, type, date, even freckles! Using Google Photos as a default app they were shown how to synchronise, or uploaded, to Google's cloud service and freely store their photos by selecting the correct compression. Jean's question time gave answers needed to satisfy participants keen to know more about Google Photos.



Watch the training program at the ASCCA Learning Centre at 280 Pitt Street, Sydney, for Jean's next Google Photos session.

ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

- 4 - 15 April 2018 - NSW Seniors Festival , *Let's Do More Together*. For more information go to <http://www.nswseniorsfestival.com.au/>
- 4 -15 April 2018 - Commonwealth Games will be held on the Gold Coast.
- 21 - 25 May 2018 - ACCC's National Scams Awareness Week 2018
- 21—27 May 2018 - National Volunteer Week
- 30 -31 October 2018 - 20th Australian Technology Conference for Seniors, Rydges World Square Hotel, Sydney.



Update with Tik and Jen

Things are hotting up over here in the West, and it's not the weather.

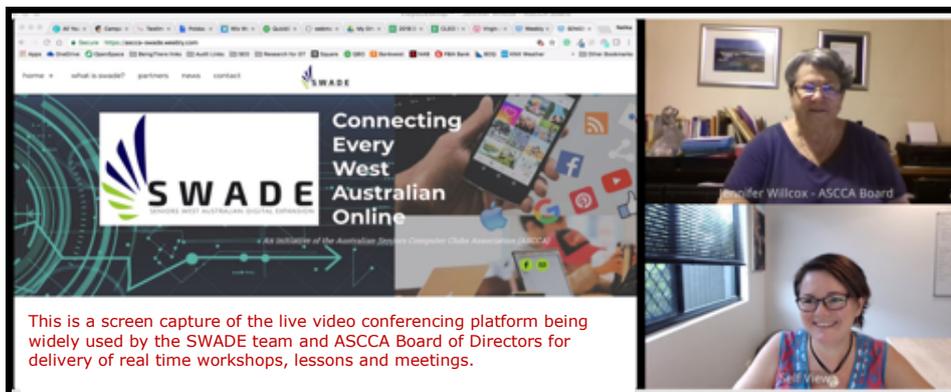
Since returning home to our respective ends of the State, after the Be Connected Capacity Builders' Workshop in Sydney on 21st February, both Tik in Kununurra and Jen in Walpole have hit the ground running.

After distribution of the survey to all Community Resource Centres throughout WA, resulting in a very good 40% response rate, the analytics are being scrutinized to ascertain where assistance is needed and our support will be concentrated, in order to open up the Be Connected opportunities to residents of rural and remote townships. Tik reports already 22 CRCs are registered and many have taken part in the initial workshops via video conferencing. Tik believes there is a reticence in how best to approach community members to come along and take part. The "fear" (of technology) factor is the most major aspect to be overcome so that the program reaches out to those who most need the learning aspect as well as achieve a reduction in social isolation.

To this end a series of Q & A type video conferencing sessions have been planned over several weeks during April and, if warranted, May as well, where Jen will provide practical examples for reasons to learn. She says "There is no point learning anything just for the sake of being able to say, I learned that. One needs to see practical applications for the skills learned that the learners can relate to in their own lives, thereby creating a sort of goal and a reason to learn". Walpole CRC has hosted a Seniors Computer Club under its' wing for over 10 years, and is a staunch supporter of the free ASCCA tutorials that membership to ASSCA provides.

Given that Walpole is different to many other towns (especially in the Eastern States) sporting Seniors Computer Clubs, there has been a core group of residents keen to learn anything and everything. Therefore, the last 10 years have been a journey of sorts, by the same group of people. This was hugely beneficial in social support, comradery, team work, caring and sharing and made the task of tutoring and mentoring that much easier, rather than having new learners every six weeks or so, as everyone knew each other, their capabilities, their family and social status.

Before exciting projects can be tackled, the basics need to be learned. So, many months were spent learning those and this is where the Be Connected program will primarily now fit. Once the learners have the basics under their belt, then they can expand their knowledge and skills to the practical applications, utilizing the ASCCA tutorials.



This is a screen capture of the live video conferencing platform being widely used by the SWADE team and ASCCA Board of Directors for delivery of real time workshops, lessons and meetings.

asca-swade.weebly.com

fb.com/SWADEASCCA

Happy 20th Birthday Computer Pals for Seniors The Hills Inc.



Meet some Committee, Foundation Members and Life Members.

20 years and going strong!

The 'Hills' Club, first began training at Oakhill College in July 1998, later at the old Castle Hill Primary School. In 2001 Sonia Phillips, the then Mayor of the Hills Shire offered 'Computer Pals' the lease of the Old Caretaker's Cottage in the Castle Hill Showground.

During the Club's early years, the demand for Seniors to learn how to use a computer became overwhelming. Membership grew to over 600 each financial year, and at least 100 of those members were volunteers who trained, did the administrative work, gardened, cleaned and did the maintenance of equipment.

The club has received many awards for its work

in the community: July 2009 they were awarded the Hills Shire Times Business Achiever Awards 'Community Contribution of the Year', and in 2018 received an Australia Day Award from the Hills Shire Council - 'Community Group of the Year.'

There have also been many awards over past years for members who have been successful entering the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association annual competitions.

Student members are still taught by a dedicated band of voluntary trainers, one on one for Computer Fundamentals and some Microsoft Office courses and classes for many Optional Courses in a friendly, no pressure situation. Students are encouraged when attending the clubrooms to find time for a tea or coffee and a chat. "We have succeeded, through our volunteers, to introduce many people to the world of computing over the years and with our lifestyle now revolving around technology thank goodness for the many hours our trainers have put in."

"Demand for learning the basic fundamentals of computing has decreased, so we now concentrate on modern day technology which seems to change by the day. We thank all our Volunteers. Without you there would be no Computer Pals for Seniors. Now we go a step further....most people now have some idea of computing so our current courses reflect the areas which are more relevant to everyday life. The internet is a source of all information and more often than not the only means by which we complete tasks these days. Snail mail is out and all our information is emailed to us. We all need to keep up to date and our courses now reflect this. There are many on offer. Please have a good look at them and come along to do our courses. We have intentionally kept them short. We realise that everyone is so busy and can't devote weeks to courses. You will find many are just one day or even a half day. Our trainers are waiting to hear from you."



All the attendees, President Lionel Smith in front with ASCCA Vice President, David Bennett.

Congratulations to the Hills. I attended the public meeting that saw your club formed and agree with the comment in your newsletter, 20 years on and still going strong. Well done! Nan

Website www.ascca.org.au

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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
1 - 20 members - \$55 Incl. GST;
21 - 40 members - \$115 Incl. GST;
41 - 100 members - \$175 Incl. GST;
Over 100 members - \$300 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.

So **Let's Do More Together!**

for more information about the NSW Seniors Festival 2018 go to <http://www.nswseniorsfestival.com.au/>



Right now there are events from across NSW listed on the NSW Seniors Festival website, including the Festival's wonderful flagship events – the Comedy Show, Premier's Gala Concerts and the Seniors Expo. New events are added to the website every week, so remember to keep checking in for what's happening near you. Top picks are also being showcased on the NSW Seniors Festival Facebook and Twitter pages.



Hosting the Seniors Festival is one of the ways the NSW Government says thank you to NSW seniors for their invaluable contributions to their communities. The theme for this year's Festival is Let's Do More Together so I encourage you to get together with your loved ones and enjoy the wonderful experiences on offer.

**I hope you enjoy your festival.
The Hon. Tanya Davies MP
Minister for Ageing**