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### *National reconciliation Week* *27 May—3 June*

The theme for Reconciliation Week 2020, “In This Together” couldn’t be more relevant in this time of global crisis. It reminds us that whatever circumstance we find ourselves in the interconnections of our society mean that we are all unavoidably and essentially in this together.

Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians—as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the boarder Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### ASCCA waives Club Membership

As 2020 was ushered in I doubt if any one of us could have imagined how the world was about to change around us. Congratulations to all of those clubs who sought ways to deal with the situation. As the doors to clubrooms across Australia were closed it was quite wonderful to see how clubs worked out ways to keep in touch with trainers and members. Many clubs who were in Council owned buildings were lucky enough to have hire fees put on hold. Thanks to those Councils. However, clubs still had bills to pay and with clubrooms closed there were no student fees being collected to balance the books. It has been financially very hard on clubs. ASCCA is well aware that many clubs do not have cash reserves to fall back on, so, in order to provide practical support the ASCCA Board has decided to waive Club Membership fees for the coming financial year! In the next few weeks we will be sending out the yearly membership forms. Please complete them and return as requested. There may be no fees to pay this year but it is very important that you complete and return the membership forms. Show that your club is a member club of the National Peak Body for Seniors and Technology! ASCCA extends the offer of **no fees this year** to those clubs that may wish to either rejoin or perhaps join for the first time.

COVID-19 is still with us so please take care, stay safe and keep connecting!  
***Together we are empowering Australian seniors through technology!***

“It is essential that all seniors (particularly ASCCA members who understand the value of technology) download the COVIDsafe app. The COVID-19 virus can be deadly. There have been approximately 4,000 cases in NSW. Across Australia there have been more than 100 deaths.

So it makes sense to assist NSW Health in its efforts to keep you safe from COVID-19’s impacts.

It is vital that we all follow the basic rules:

- Keep physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres.
- Wash hands regularly.
- Stay home if you are sick and get tested.

If you are over 50 with other health issues or over 70 the safest place is still home But you can also contribute by downloading the COVIDsafe app to assist the detective work necessary to trace contacts if you happen to become positive. It will also benefit you if someone else becomes positive and the app will identify you and warn you of the risks.

So, as Health Minister and as a local on the Northern Beaches I encourage all members of ASCCA to download COVIDsafe”.

Best wishes  
Brad



*The Hon Brad Hazzard MP  
Minister for Health and  
Medical Research*



## MICROSOFT Free Virtual Workshops

The Microsoft Store team in Sydney has been continuing to educate, support, and entertain organisations and community groups across Australia with free virtual workshops.

We have learning programs available on Microsoft Teams to help you connect to members of your computer club virtually, sessions on online safety, accessibility and even Minecraft!

Using the Microsoft Teams "meeting" feature, the Microsoft team are available to deliver workshops and training to organisations, non-profits, and corporate businesses nationally to stay connected.

Focusing on fundamentals of Teams, Microsoft has educated groups big and small on how they can connect remotely and still have fun with features like Emojis and GIFs. Our workshops around accessibility and online safety help you to tailor Windows 10 experience to *your* needs while also providing a deeper understanding the risks of the everchanging online landscape, and how to navigate it safely. Workshops focusing on Minecraft have provided children and families a way to challenge their creative muscles but also connect remotely using a platform that allows them to play together.

Microsoft trainers deliver these sessions, running for 1-hour including time to ask questions throughout and at the end of the session to ensure no-one is left behind.

Free group training sessions are available for any ASCCA members by sending an email to the Microsoft Sydney Community team at [cmthsyd@microsoft.com](mailto:cmthsyd@microsoft.com). Individuals are also welcome to join any of our free public workshops available at [microsoft.com/Sydney](https://microsoft.com/Sydney).

## Free online Zoom/Teams sessions in June

If any of the following topics interest you, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing, Jean Martin, [training@ascca.org.au](mailto:training@ascca.org.au), include your name, your club and the name of the session/s. These online trainings are being offered free during the challenging times of COVID19. As well as demonstrating the tasks involved in the topic, there will be the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the topic. We hope these sessions will also be sociable. You do not need to install any special software for these Zoom/Teams sessions. You can simply use your web-browser (Chrome, Edge, Safari, etc.)

<p><b>COVIDSafe app</b> Learn how to download and install this Department of Health's app onto your smartphone. You will then know how to install other interesting apps.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Android phones iPhones</p>	<p>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June</p>	<p>11:00 -11:45 am 1:00 – 1:45 pm</p>
<p><b>Crosswords</b> Let's try to solve the day's online crossword collaboratively. Later, learn how to set up a bookmark for your future daily crossword challenges.</p>	<p>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June</p>	<p>11:00 -12:30 pm</p>
<p><b>File &amp; Folder Management</b> Learn to use folders effectively so you can organise, save and find your files, as well as avoid creating multiple unintended files. Learn to back-up files on 'the cloud'.</p>	<p>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June</p>	<p>11:00 -12:30 pm</p>
<p><b>Spotify</b> This free app gives you access to 30 million songs on the Internet, via your laptop or smartphone. Learn how to set up an account and the basics of Spotify's streaming and playlists. You'll be able to listen to tracks from a bygone era, as well as today's music.</p>	<p>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June</p>	<p>11:00 - 12:30 pm</p>

## Your stories from COVID-19

The challenges of COVID-19 have changed the world as we know it. I wonder, how has your life changed? What has remained consistent? What is excitingly new? We want to start a project to enable us to put all ,or some of those changes into words.

This is not a competition. It is a way to record an incredible time in our lives. The stories you write need to be true because they will be a record to add to your family history or to the story of your club. These stories will also be a part of our nation's history. The stories you send will be put together as the story of how the network of ASCCA clubs and some of their individual members dealt with COVID-19. They will be shared on the ASCCA website. Should there be sufficient interest we will consider creating a paperback book. Stories will carry the name of their author.

Here are some topics for you to consider:

- ◆ How our club kept connected
- ◆ What I have learned from COVID-19
- ◆ New activities I've discovered
- ◆ How I kept in touch with my family and community
- ◆ The greatest challenge has been ...
- ◆ It wasn't all doom and gloom because ...



We are living through times that none of us could have ever imagined. None of us is old enough to have lived through the awful times of the flu that swept the world in 1919 after the end of World War I!

There are two main objects for this project:

- ◆ To record how your club faced the challenges of COVID-19 to ensure your club could continue to help your members to keep connected.
- ◆ To record your personal story of how you faced the isolation, concern and the difference it made to your lifestyle and your thinking.

Start thinking about what you could write. Here are some guidelines:

- ◆ Your story needs to be true and the maximum number of words cannot exceed 500. Shorter stories are acceptable.
- ◆ A photo to illustrate your story can be submitted as a jpg. Not too large a file please.
- ◆ Stories need to be written in MS Word, double spaced please. Pdf not acceptable as we reserve the right to do some minor editing if necessary.
- ◆ There are no prizes or remuneration for any story used in this project.
- ◆ Copyright for each story remains with the author but the combined publication, either online or in a paperback format, will remain with ASCCA.
- ◆ As many stories as possible will be used in either publication but all will be part of the file preserved for the future.
- ◆ Emailed your stories to [ascca@ascca.org.au](mailto:ascca@ascca.org.au) to arrive by 5.00pm on 31 July 2020 Add a head and shoulders photo of you, the author as a jpg please.

### Nominations are now open!

The NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards are designed to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions individuals, communities and businesses are making throughout regional and rural NSW and the ACT. Check the categories for awards for other states!

Do you know an individual, group, business or organisation who deserves to be recognised? We would love you to enter them into the Awards!

The Awards are free to enter – And completing a nomination online is easy! If you are ready to start your nomination please go to [online portal](#) and select the category from the dropdown nomination award menu.

Want to recognise someone but don't have the time? No problem, we are more than willing to help! Simply Refer Someone to us - It takes only 2 minutes to complete the form and our team does the rest! We'll get in contact with them and have them complete the questions. It's that easy! [Refer Someone](#)

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

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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.

**ASCCA** membership rates :  
1 - 20 members - Nil  
21 - 40 members - \$118  
41 - 100 members - \$180  
Over 100 members - \$310  
All prices quoted include GST  
Corporate Membership also welcome

If your club fits one of these 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**

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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.



## Shades of SWADE

The SWADE team, in all their iterations, and in their home corners (as it were) for the duration of COVID19 lockdowns and restrictions, has been quietly working away on little side projects while some of our Be Connected Network Partners have been offline waiting for things to ease a little to allow them a chance to return to the more traditional, face to face model of digital mentoring.

Tik and Mark have tested out some remote support Apps, working to build their understanding of these new tools, in order to help them better support learners and Digital Mentors. They've tested Zoom, Team Viewer's Quick Support and Google's Remote Desktop. They're still looking for something reliable and user friendly for remote support/access on mobile devices - so if you're using something like that, they'd love to hear from you!

A recent enquiry to one of our ASCCA Conference favourites, Charlie Brown, asking him to speak at a meeting of the Association of Independent Retirees (AIR) West Australian Chapter led him to introduce them to Nan.

A date was made for Margaret and Tik to chat and from there Tik became the Guest Speaker at their May 15th Zoom meeting. The topic list was extensive (and rather daunting due to the variety of topics requested!) in addition to the fact that they have some 400 members in their WA branch. The plan was to 'Talk Tech' and share enthusiasm for technology (easy for



'propeller-head' Tik), but also help with information around such things as the Government's new COVID tracing App, hosting Zoom multipoint meetings and plenty more, all followed by a Q&A session. Luckily the group ended up being around 15 people, all of whom were active participants throughout the video link. The group represented a number of smaller community-based chapters of AIR, and hopefully may result in one or two new ASCCA membership enquiries!

Meanwhile in Darwin, Ursula has held her first day of Digital Mentor training, face to face, as the Territory has been very successful in controlling the spread of COVID19 and are now able to host small gatherings again. She had six Digital Mentors present, four from the Genealogical Society of the NT (a new Be Connected Network Partner) and two from our existing Network partner, the Darwin Italian Social Club.

The East Arnhem libraries are opening again in their remote communities in the next few days, and Tik is keen to get back to working on the Round 5 Capacity Building project and meeting some of the elders via video links we've been working on establishing with the Digital Mentors trained in Darwin way back P.C (Pre-COVID)! Keep an eye open for news of that in a future Newsletter!