



Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association

**ASCCA**

ABN 47 097 847 642



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### REMINDER !

**ASCCA Digital Photography Competition 2020 Closes 1 September**

Categories are :

1. Photo-Journalism
2. Travel-Photo
3. People/Portrait
4. Landscape/Seascape
5. Landscape/Structural or Manmade
6. Animals
7. Open

This year entries will be displayed on a website soon after the closing date and ASCCA Club members will be invited to vote for a "People's Choice" award in each category!

Full details on ASCCA website, [www.ascca.org.au](http://www.ascca.org.au)

### Enter now!

Could your photo be in this frame as the 2020 ASCCA Digital Photographer of the Year?

### A Message from Microsoft's Training Team ...

As we all move along in this new normal of COVID-19, businesses and employees are left to their own devices to learn how to utilise their programs at home after who knows how long they've been using them in the constraints of the workplace.



With Microsoft technologies remaining pervasive throughout homes and business for the past 45 years, we all feel fairly confident navigating Microsoft 365 (Previously known as Office) programs such as Outlook, OneNote, Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.

However, with each new year, these programs update and there is always something new to learn and use. Which is why the Microsoft Training Team in Sydney is now hosting "Fundamentals of..." workshops to help people like yourselves to get up date and savvy with the Microsoft 365 suite. Even if you are an experienced user, there are some tips and tricks you might just get lucky to learn. These workshops are now hosted using "Live Events" with a Q&A panel moderated by knowledgeable Microsoft employees - and it's all completely live so your queries are guaranteed a prompt and accurate response!

As previously mentioned, coding workshops are available for kids so if you have any little ones in your life, they have a wealth of after school coding workshops to flex their digital literacy skills all while having fun and being creative. These youth workshops are focused on JavaScript coding and utilise fun concepts such as video game building, app creation, and best of all - Minecraft.

Clubs interested in organising these workshops for their members (for free!) are encouraged to contact the Microsoft Sydney Training team at [cmthsyd@microsoft.com](mailto:cmthsyd@microsoft.com).

Club members are encouraged to explore the current public workshops available at [microsoft.com/sydney](http://microsoft.com/sydney)



# ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

<b>Look Ahead!</b>	1	September	Closing date for 2020 Digital Photography Competition
	15-23	August	Celebrating Queensland Seniors
	10	November	22nd Australian Technology Conference for Seniors



## COVID-19 Isolation—How we are coping

*Deb Neyle, Member of Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors*

The debate about when to shut down and for how long was difficult as the cautious and the brave questioned each other. The President's casting vote shut us down. The Parramatta Council agreed a few days later shutting all community rooms.

### How our club kept connected

Then, it seemed to me that there was a long period of nothing much before we got our act together. The courses that were incomplete were addressed first and then a flurry of useful courses (communications with family, activities to use up time, streaming TV, banking online) started to be rolled out, with strong uptake. The frequency of meetings was doubled and the newsletter became monthly. A "How to use ZOOM" sheet was circulated. This was followed by many other "How to" options, equivalent to our face-to-face Tech Talks. The club was humming along.

### What we learned from COVID-19

A competition for the best COVID joke (held in May) was very popular (100+ entries) but other competitions did not attract much interest so they quietly died in July. A tiredness builds with the isolation that makes going on difficult. Members expressed no interest in new or old courses as the time wore on.

### New Activities discovered

The newsletters linked to ASCCA activities, BeConnected, and other sources of online education. Sites for crosswords, jigsaw puzzles and other mental stimulation were shared. Also sites offering physical exercise, dancing and singing. It was possible to be very busy while staying at home.

### How we kept in touch with our community

It was hard to know what services were open or closed. Sending out regular updates about our activities did not reap many returns but I hope it kept our club in the thoughts of decision makers. Parramatta Council cancelled their round of club grants but then substituted a COVID Resilience grant with a very short submission time. Luckily, we were successful.

### The greatest challenge has been

In the beginning, I held a visceral fear that some older members of our club would be lost to the disease. This has not happened (yet).

The self-discipline to get up each day and undertake some work for the club; As the weather grew colder, the temptation to vegetate was strong.

Also, the "not knowing". If the first wave of COVID wiped out Terms One and Two, would a second wave wipe out Terms Three and Four? What about 2021?

### It wasn't all doom and gloom because...

We discovered ZOOM and picnics.

We paid more attention to people who "sounded down" during a meeting and gave them an extra call.

Our social activities in the open air started before the meeting rooms were re-opened. Everyone really needed some contact even if physically distanced (no hugs).

Despite my fears, members re-joined in strong numbers during June and the club attracted new members during the isolation, although we haven't met them yet.

*Thank you Deb and Parramatta Club for sharing your story. Did other clubs have different experiences or came up with ideas to keep their club and members connected? Will you share your story too?*



### BE REASSURED!

"Those who are conscious of being forgetful have no serious problem of memory.

"Those who suffer from a memory illness or Alzheimer's, are not aware of what is happening."

Professor Bruno Dubois, Director of IMMA, reassures the majority of people concerned about their oversights:

*"The more we complain about memory loss, the less likely we are to suffer from memory sickness."*



# Shades of SWADE

## SWADE NT hits the road

Darwin-based SWADE Project Officer Ursula is off on a 600 km round road trip to Katherine, where she will be delivering Digital Mentor Training, on a Sunday no less.

Whilst there Ursula will also be catching up with the Library Program Coordinator for Katherine Library to discuss ideas for remote one on one support during their weekly seniors digital learning session. Also on the agenda is a catch up with the local CWA President, and some of the Red Cross team who are running programs for very isolated seniors.

Perhaps most exciting of all is the official launch of the Rotary Katherine Computer Club. The club was officially launched on Monday 27th July. It has been a long time in the making and getting it over the line and up and running would not have happened without the inimitable effort of Katherine Rotary Club Secretary, Christopher Dixon. Chris attended the Digital Mentor training on the Sunday and then Monday, he and other new trainers spent a beautiful Winters Day launching the club at the Rotary Park in north Katherine. Yes, that's how they do things in the territory, people brought the questions and devices to the park to access the collective smarts of the computer club members.

Now, has anyone been able to GUESS what that strange device we posted last month is yet – NO ? ..... Well here is the pic from last month plus another one to help you along.



## SWADE NSW project builds momentum

SWADE NSW Project Officer, Mark Young reports that in 2019, we entered a partnership in NSW with Be Connected (BC) to run Digital Mentoring courses for clubs that wanted to up-skill their tutors. The clubs involved needed to be Be Connected Network partners.

Our efforts began well, but with some changes of personnel and the arrival of COVID-19, I was scrambling to develop a new plan that didn't involve club visits. I studied the Digital Mentoring material, learnt anything I could about video conferencing from our SWADE WA tutors, attended training webinars, practiced with Zoom, wrote Zoom guides, and began contacting ASCCA Clubs in the Greater Sydney area offering an online version of the Digital Mentoring course.

I was not sure how it would go, but I received gratifying support from ASCCA Clubs and trained thirteen people from five clubs in the first two months. I already have another five people lined up for next month and I will soon be approaching additional clubs about tutoring their trainers using video conferencing.



It costs a Club nothing to become a Be Connected Network partner, with the Digital Mentoring course also being free as are the teaching resources on the Be Connected website that can assist tutors and students alike.

ASCCA's SWADE NSW Project Officer, Mark Young with three ladies from Computer Pals Eastern Suburbs, NSW, who undertook the Digital Mentor training

**SWADE—Seniors West Australian Digital Expansion project -  
an ASCCA initiated concept.**



Network Partner

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

**FB : [www.facebook.com/ASCCAau](https://www.facebook.com/ASCCAau)**

• **General Information:**

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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

These fees are being waived for the 2020-21 Financial year

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.



## Together we dance - dance film project for people over 65



Danced all your life?

Never danced before but always dreamt of joining a dance ensemble?

Be your own choreographer? Be part of a bigger picture?

WHEN? EVERY TUESDAY From NOW - till 22 September 2020 . It's free!

10:00am-11:00am (class) - 11:00am-11.30am (filming extension - optional)

Together We Dance is your opportunity to join like-minded seniors and participate in the making of a dance film directed by FORM's Senior class teacher Diane Busuttill.

REGISTRATION : (02) 9806 5609 or [admin\\_form@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin_form@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

A Zoom link will be emailed to you following registration, one hour prior to class at the latest.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: 02 9806 5672 or [Production\\_Form@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Production_Form@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

Proudly supported by the NSW Government to combat social isolation for Seniors during COVID-19.

## WRITE A BOOK REVIEW:

This is certainly the time for you to find a warm spot with good light and read a book. It could be one that has sat on your shelf waiting for you to find the time for some reading or, if you have run out of options begging to be read, consider one of the many online opportunities to purchase a book or two and have it delivered to your doorstep! I would love to know what book you would like to recommend for us to read! Over a coffee or cup of tea write a brief review of the book you have just read and send it to [ascca@ascca.org.au](mailto:ascca@ascca.org.au) . About 100 – 200 words and it could be perfect to fit into a space in one of the ASCCA newsletters. You could also add a jpeg image of the cover too .