



Australian Seniors Computer
Clubs Association

ASCCA

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National Peak Body Empowering Australian Seniors Through Technology

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ASCCA has come of age and is leaving home ...

ASCCA was established in 1998 and the first location for meetings of the newly formed ASCCA was at 93 York Street, Sydney. COTA provided free use of their boardroom. COTA was waiting for renovations to be made to 280 Pitt Street before moving there and ASCCA was to create a small office within the area rented by COTA. It was a sub-lease arrangement and ASCCA would be paying rent. The office was 3 metres square plus use of kitchen and toilets. The first meeting on level 4 of 280 Pitt Street was on 5 October, 2000. Our next move was to the lower ground floor, where a fully functioning office and comprehensive Learning Centre was developed.

So, for more than the last 21 years ASCCA has called 280 Pitt Street, Sydney home and its' physical headquarters. So many meetings, lessons, workshops, planning sessions, video conferences, media announcements have taken place in the Training Room and Office. So many friendships made, developed, professional connections cemented. People have come and gone. What has stayed constant over these years has been the sound belief that ASCCA and its people have delivered the utmost support and knowledge to fulfil the old motto of "supporting seniors in technology". And this still stands true today.

It was with bitter sweet emotions that the Board of Directors recently made the decision to embark on a digital switchover as part of the Strategic Plan moving forward into the new digital age. The decision was brought about somewhat a little earlier than initially envisaged, but numerous circumstances beyond control forced the hand for the timing to be right now.

Effective 1st July ASCCA will operate totally in the digital space. This means we will relinquish our premises in Pitt Street, all inclusive of landline, fax, internet, office, equipment, training room, etc. The transition has already begun.

As from 1st July ASSCA's phone number will become mobile only -

0434 857 222 (ends in SCCA) with the main email address of office@ascca.org.au remaining—both of which will be monitored by ASCCA Director—Secretary, Susan Jensen

All other email addresses will remain the same, except of course that of markyoung@ascca.org.au, for obvious reasons.

Most important of all, is for everyone to be assured it will be "business as usual". ASCCA is totally committed to supporting our affiliated Clubs and their members.

Alex's ASCCA update - June 2021

We're half-way through the year already, but technology never sleeps! If you have any of Apple's devices, they all received updates in the last week, and while your devices should update themselves automatically, it's always a good idea to manually check and update your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Apple Watch, Mac and Apple TV.

It's also a timely reminder to check your Windows PC, browsers, smart speakers, smart TVs, printers and everything else for updates, too. Again, most of these devices will update automatically, but some won't, or will have updates waiting that you can install now.

Speaking of the future, Google showcased a range of incredible announcements at its Google I/O 2021 keynote, which you can watch in full here. <https://youtu.be/XFFrahdO50M>

There was plenty of info and surprises, including on the upcoming Android 12, amazing advances in Google being able to understand ever more complicated questions from users, whether typed or spoken, and a video conferencing system dubbed "Project Starline" that lets you see the other person in 3D - without glasses. See the video here: <https://youtu.be/Q13CishCKXY>

Another upcoming event is Apple's WWDC 2021 - its Worldwide Developer Conference. Here we'll learn about iOS 15 and all the other Apple operating systems due to arrive in late September or early October this year, along with what are expected to be lots of other surprises, too.

The keynote will be available to watch from June 8 at <https://www.apple.com/apple-events/>

When it comes to the NBN, ever more people are moving to plans that are 250Mbps or faster. The ACCC states more than two-thirds of all NBN connections now relate to services of 50Mbps or above, and about 17% of customers are using 100Mbps or above.

We're told that those on "Home Superfast" speeds of 250Mbps increased from 11,136 in December 2020 to almost 490,000 in March 2021. The number of 'Home Ultrafast' connections (500-1000Mbps) grew from 9,924 to almost 83,000 in the same period.

Now, it may be true that your current NBN connection isn't yet able to deliver those speeds, but with the NBN offering to upgrade people to "fibre to the home" connections when they take up 250Mbps or after speeds over the next few years, having a connection that's faster than 100Mbps will become ever more common.

That said, the ACCC advises "many consumers will continue to be adequately served running multiple devices on plans with speeds of 50Mbps or below."

So, if you're happy with the speeds your connection delivers, there's no need to upgrade just yet, but if you feel the need for speed, many have already taken up that option, and millions more will be able to do so in the future.

Finally, ASCCA continues work on our 2021 online conference. We're still in the early planning stages, but we're working on making this year's conference even more useful and jam-packed with information that you can use to your benefit, whether immediately after experiencing the conference or at any time in the future.

So, we're already half-way through 2021, but with science-fiction becoming science fact every day, the future is clear: the best is yet to come!



Alex Zaharov-Reutt
ASCCA Director—Promotions



This year we are pleased to bring back the Creative Writing and Club Newsletter categories as well as continuing with the ever-popular Digital Photography competition.

To see the guidelines and entry forms for each category, [click here](#) for the link on ASCCA website.

This year we have a special feature with forms that you can fill out online!

COMPETITIONS 2021

GET READY for the OPPORTUNITY

JULY

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Entries open 1st July
close at midnight on 14th July 2021

AUGUST

CREATIVE WRITING

Entries open 2nd August
close at midnight on 16th August 2021

SEPTEMBER

DIGITAL PHOTO

Entries
open 15th September
close at midnight on 30th September 2021

Have a go

Find out what you and your computer, iPad or iPhone can create.

Test your skills. Don't say you have none — everyone has a spark — one that can be lit.

By reaching for hidden depths within you will surely

Do it for your club

ALL YOUR ENTRIES WIN POINTS for
YOU and your club

Special Announcement



ATTENTION : All affiliated Clubs

Membership subscriptions for the current financial were waived as one of ASCCA's ways to support Clubs that were under financial stress due to the restrictions brought about by the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Be aware that ASCCA too suffered financially with many usual streams of income becoming non-existent.

In order that we may continue to provide the utmost support to our affiliated Clubs the Board of Directors has made the decision to re-introduce fees for the forthcoming financial year, beginning 1st July 2021.

It has been deemed that a form of capitation will apply, and be a gradual process, dependent upon global circumstances at this time of each year.

Notices will be sent to each Club requesting a self-assessment of fees due, based on 50c per member per Club across the board, as at 30th June. Such amount will become due and payable as from 1st July 2021.

Membership Renewal forms have been re-created to be completed and submitted online. The responses will be propagated into a spreadsheet that triggers the issuing of an Invoice for the amount appropriate to the number of members stated.

In addition the QR Code opposite is a direct link to the online Renewal form embedded into the ASCCA website, www.ascca.org.au



For new Applications to become an affiliated Club the form also has been re-created to be completed and submitted online. The QR Code opposite has a direct link to the online Application form, also embedded into the ASCCA website, www.ascca.org.au



Should any queries arise in regard to membership please email—ascca@ascca.org.au

ASCCA CALENDAR

18-24	Oct	Get on Line Week
10	Nov	ASCCA - 23rd Australian Technology Conference for Seniors—Online

ASCCA - BOARD VACANCY

ASCCA is seeking to fill the position on its Board of Directors—Honorary Treasurer—and is inviting expressions of interest, from those who are suitably qualified and experienced and keen to join our dynamic team.

Treasurer:

The main responsibilities will be to ensure that ASCCA's current and future financial obligations are met, to identify strategic implications arising from the relevant financial reports and lead the Board of Directors in discussion of these implications and, in conjunction with the President, support ASCCA in ensuring that it fulfils its responsibilities for the financial governance of the organisation.

ASCCA has a qualified Book Keeper so the level of day-to-day accounting responsibilities is limited.

If this position interests you, then please request a full JDF by contacting us at ascca@ascca.org.au



Apple Air Tags – could they be an indoor navigation system?

As a legally blind person I'm always on the lookout for new technologies that can help me get around. Outdoors there's lots of assistance as smartphones using GPS, combined with text.-to-speech tools can provide you with lots of information about where you are and where you're going. But what about indoors? To date this has always been tricky as there's no GPS signal when you go inside. This may have recently changed though thanks to Apple's Air Tag announcement and it's great built-in iPhone accessibility features.

Apple's new [Air Tag product](#), is a small accessory that enables iPhone users to securely locate and keep track of their valuables. While Apple is not the first to introduce product location trackers, its seamless integration with the iPhone has the potential added benefit of assisting people with vision disabilities to navigate indoors.

The Air Tag works by using the 'Find my' feature on the iPhone to locate an object to which the Air Tag is nearby or attached. The potential win for people with vision disabilities, is that users that enable accessibility features on the iPhone like the VoiceOver screen

reader receive a verbal countdown as they get closer along with the bimodal sensory input in the form of a beeping sound and haptic buzz as you move closer to your object. As such, the Air Tags could be used not only to locate objects, but as location beacons that could assist a user in navigating to key areas of a house or building, creating an ad-hoc indoor navigation system.

As an Android user, and as AirTags need a fairly recent iPhone to work, it may be a little while before I get to try out the theory first-hand, but it's a great sign for the future when the accessibility work of a company's prior efforts with accessibility set it up for potential benefits that may not have even been considered when the AirTags were launched.

Cheers,
Scott



*Dr. Scott Hollier,
ASCCA Director—Accessibility*

We all want faster internet so this is an easy one to fall for !

The NBN is supposed to be our connection to fast and reliable internet.
Instead, it seems to be **Nothing But Nonsense**.

This is what makes this scam so successful !

This is what happens:

You get a phone call from an NBN representative (they are not), asking if you have noticed your NBN seems to be getting slower/erratic when it comes to connectivity.

If anyone has the NBN they would have experienced one or both of these, right?

Well, here is the kicker: I don't have NBN – I am lucky enough to be on 5G wireless internet.

So, in the interest of research and hopefully to be able to share my learnings with as many people as possible I played along.

"Yes, it is its terrible", I said, "Everyday it seems to get slower and slower – just yesterday it was quicker for me to walk to the shops and buy my goods than try to log on to the internet shopping site I use!

The response was that I should not worry and they are aware of this and that I am not alone – lots of people are experiencing this.....

Here is the moment when thing could potentially go wrong for you.

The scammer will ask you to install [Team Viewer](#) or [LogMeln](#).

These are both legitimate support software solutions – but they are designed to give a remote user full and untethered control of your device(s)!

You should only ever do this if you know and/or trust the person on the other side of the call.

I asked them why they needed to use my machine to check and surely, they can see the speeds as it is their network? They had an answer prepared for this: " Good question sir, It may not be the network but some settings on your machine and that is what we want to check!"

If you allow them to control your machine they will get (and keep) control of your device!

At this point I decided to advise them that I was tracking their phone call and that I would be handing over to the AFP (Australian Federal Police) but all I heard was a "click" as they put the phone down.

So, please do not fall for this. There are a couple of things to remember:

The chance of the NBN calling you is virtually Zero.

You have bought your internet from an ISP (Internet Service Provider) like Optus or Telstra, so if there was anything that was wrong – they would be calling or texting you.

Before ever allowing anyone to connect to your device, you should only do this if you initiated the call, i.e., you called them for support etc. and therefore know that it is the company you called. I have done this a few times with Apple and have no problem allowing them access to my device as I initiated the call.

In point 3 above, if this was in response to an email or SMS – please be careful as this may be a phishing scam too so maybe dial the number you have for the provider not just the one in the message!

If a legitimate service call is being initiated there should be verification steps involved before you can discuss the matter at hand – no one is going to just call you and ask for control of your device.



Stay safe online.



Brett Levy
ASCCA Director— Marketing

CLUB NEWS



AUSOM's Vice President Ivan Radywonik recently advised they were thrilled that Pam had won the Not-For-Profit Technology Lifetime Service Award for her accomplishments as editor of AUSOM News all these years.

The ceremony was held at the Australian Not-For-Profit Technology Awards Dinner (part of Connecting Up's Evolve2021 Conference & Expo)



Congratulations to Pam on receiving this well-deserved recognition for her outstanding contribution to AUSOM and the broader community.

Below is the photo of the group of those with awards who were at the dinner. (Full details of nominees and winners are also available)



<https://www.connectingup.org/blog/winners-announced-2021-australian-not-profit-technology-awards>

Pam Doughty Editor of AUSOM news is 4th from the left



ASCCA 2021 Conference - book now!

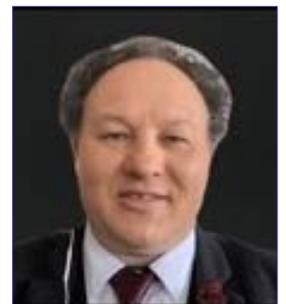
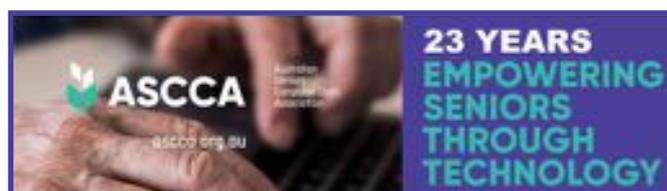
The conference is on from 10am to 4pm AEDT on Wednesday, 10 November 2021, with tickets available to buy here now.

<https://events.humanitix.com/ascca-2021-conference>

Visit the [ASCCA home page](#) where you'll see a prominent link to the conference page, and while there's plenty of information yet to be added over the next couple of months, the conference will be helmed by ASCCA directors (and conference organiser) Sam Isaacs and Alex Zaharov-Reutt, as your MC and closing keynote speaker.



Samantha Isaacs
ASCCA –Vice President / Conference Convenor



Alex Zaharov-Reutt
ASCCA Director—Promotions

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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
You are welcome to copy items from this newsletter but acknowledgment of **ASCCA** is requested.

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.

If your organisation and/or club fits one of these categories and is 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, or -



As from 1st July 2021
ASCCA membership rates are :
50c per head per member registered as at 30th June.
Rate includes GST
Corporate Membership also welcome.

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Newsletter

Editor: Jenny Willcox

Email: ascca@ascca.org.au

Contributions are most welcome.

Remember, this is **YOUR NEWSLETTER**.

Please forward contributions by email to the Editor.



Shades of SWADE

SWADE NT



We'll be there—will you?

ASCCA's Be Connected Lead Digital Mentors Jennifer Willcox, Natika Hawes-Wright and Kerry Grace will be in attendance at the COTA Expo on Friday 9th July where we hope to meet up with a number of our existing Network Partners and contacts as well as new organisations and their representatives to further engage with new and existing partners, while introducing our Project Officer, Kerry.

Date/ Time: Friday 9 July 10.00am – 2.00pm

Venue: CDU Stadium, 235 Abala Rd, Marrara NT 0812

Dress code: To celebrate our multicultural diversity

SWADE WA



Meanwhile in WA, our Four Peaks Partnership project is nearing completion. The partnerships forged with both CWA of WA and Mens Shed WA have already borne fruit to be an ongoing meaningful connection, with like goals and aims. Connections outside the Project have been formed and will no doubt be further developed.

Get Online Week will be held **18-24 October**.

During that week, Good Things Foundation will be supporting community organisations all around the country to host fun, local events that inspire people to improve their digital skills. Put this date in your calendars and stay tuned for more news and updates on how you can get involved in the annual digital inclusion campaign.

