

COMPUTER PALS FOR SENIORS GALSTON AND DISTRICT INC.

June 2005
News Letter

P O Box 43 Galston
2159

THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our project to upgrade the two remaining *older* computers (1 at history Cottage, 1 at Rowland Village) is due to be completed early this month. We now have computers running Windows 2000, Windows ME and Windows XP Operating Systems, at History Cottage. At Rowland Village we have two computers one running Windows ME the other will run Windows 2000 initially. Both of the Windows 2000 computers can be upgraded to Windows XP without additional cost as they are capable of running XP and we already have the licensed XP Operating System software. Since October 2004 we have been able to upgrade these four computers for a total cost of under \$700 This was achieved by the purchase of the (2) Windows 2000 P.C's which are ex lease machines in very good condition and in the case of the other (2) PC's by upgrading machines which have been donated by members of the community.

Meeting News! (*New Work Shop format at bi-monthly meetings.*)

Last meeting (8 April) saw a record attendance.

Members have certainly shown enthusiastic support for the more informal workshops, demonstrations and discussions. I am sure these workshops will serve to expand our knowledge and ideas for using computers to pursue our hobbies and interests.

These workshop sessions are not intended to provide members with comprehensive tuition on any of the topics presented. The size of our group, varied interests and experience of members and the limited time available will mean, we will only provide a glimpse of something you might like to know more about.

So if you are interested in a topic, ask about tuition in that area, we may be able to form a small group with a common interest or individual tuition.

“Little Fundraiser Auction “

We had an interesting little Auction of some surplus software (all brand new) which started at our last meeting and carried on for several days, with emails going too and fro. A bit of fun which resulted in some great value software for interested members and provided some very useful funds for our computer upgrade project.

While on the subject of software programs we have a copy of:

Microsoft Money 2002 (sealed box) Make an offer! Must be worth \$20 to someone!

Microsoft Works Suite 2003 (sealed box) Must be worth at least \$70 to any body who does not have a recent copy of Word on their computer.

Works suite has; Word 2002, Money 2003, Picture It! Photo, Encarta Encyclopedia and Works 7 Home Organisation.

Make an offer!

Next Meeting:

At our next meeting on 24 June at 10.30am we will have a short general meeting, to bring members up to date with business conducted by the committee in preparation for the finalization of the accounts for the year end (30th June).. After this short meeting, we will then move on to our workshop session which will include another interesting demonstration.

Our AGM will be held in the following month

I hope to see you at our next meeting and if I am very lucky, I will have the opportunity to say G'Day !

Lindsay McIntyre

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FROM THE SECRETARY

It was lovely to see such a good turn out of members at our last workshop. Lindsay gave a very good demo on Digital Photography which was appreciated by the photo maniacs. The auction of Computer Programmes was well received and there are only two left.

The Committee extends a welcome to the following new members Anne Whitehead and Tony and Anne Pompeani. Mary Lippman, Dale Rodham and Ann Edwards each paid for a further twenty lessons each.

Please note that the date of our **June Workshop Demo and Discussion** has been **changed** from Friday 3 June 2005 to **Friday 24 June 2005 at 10.30 am.**

Rosemary



Farewell Mick Greene

Members of Computer pals who knew John Rawdon (Mick) Greene will be saddened to hear of his passing on May 10 after a short illness

Mick was a long standing member of Computer Pals, always enthusiastic to learn something new on his computer. He displayed a very genuine and keen interest in the pursuit of knowledge and the application of new technology. To his computer in recent years, he added a scanner, colour printer and digital camera which were put to good use recording many events at Rowland Village, the Historical Society outings and lectures, as well as ANZAC day and RSL memorial events. He maintained records of rainfall in Galston for over 10 years which he learnt to record on Microsoft Excel. His funeral service at the Uniting Church, Galston on 18th May, was attended by a large number from a wide cross section of the community, an indication he was held in high regard throughout the wider community.

Mick was still a young man at 87 years of age and an inspiration to many other younger retirees. **We will miss you Mick!**

General Tip **INSERTING SYMBOLS** For easy access to thousands of special symbols, like foreign characters. Click **INSERT**, choose **Symbol** and scroll the selections available from the different fonts and subsets of fonts. You can select and use Grow Font and Shrink Font [] to make larger or smaller

WHAT SEX AM I ?

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. A student asked, "What gender is a computer?". Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "computer" should be masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that "computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender, because:

- 1 No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
- 3 Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval, and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine, because:

- 1 In order to do anything with them, you have to switch them on.
- 2 They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves.
- 3 They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem.

Letters to the Editor

Q. I have quite a list of Favourites in my Outlook Express 6. The trouble is I can never seem to find the website that I want as they are all mixed up. How do I list them alphabetically?

A. You will notice that your Favourites in Internet Explorer are the same as your Favourites in Outlook. To list them alphabetically go to Internet Explorer, bring up the list of Favourites and Right Click anywhere in that list. A Menu appears with several options. Choose Sort by Name. It only sorts Ascending (A to Z).

I took Lindsay's advice, from the last meeting, and looked up the Australian Seniors Computing Organization (through Google). It is a very interesting site - lots of motivating links. I enjoyed reading about how Galston Computer Pals started. Have any other members of the club found an interesting site that they would like to share?

Q. Thank you Lindsay for the demo on *Picture It Digital*. When you buy a digital camera, and have to purchase an "SD card", is there any way that you can tell how many photographs you can take?

A. There is no set answer to this question. SD cards can range from 64 MegaBytes to 1 GigaByte and depending on the pixels per picture which you have set your camera at, the number of pictures for a given SD card will vary.

For Example:- A 256 MegaByte SD card storing pictures at 4 MegaPixels per picture, and including compression technology will result in approximately 256 pictures on this card.

Q. When I am downloading information on to my computer from the internet, ie updating virus checking, downloading free programmes etc – do I have to wait until the downloading is complete, or can I continue using the computer?

A. You can continue using your computer. Just keep an eye on the progress which shows in your Task Bar.

I have found a very interesting website which some other members might be interested in. It is www.seniors.gov.au and then go in to "*Living History*". You can read fascinating articles here and you can also contribute yourself. Has anybody else found a website that may be interesting?

Q. How do I USE EMAIL WHEN TRAVELLING ?

A. To use email when travelling you need to set up a web based Email Account. Hotmail www.hotmail.com and Yahoo www.yahoo.com are two popular ones, and they are free. It's easy to set one up, just follow the instructions. Before leaving home set up the Address Book which comes with the account. You can set up group accounts for family and friends which allows you to send one email to a number of people. This saves time and keeps the costs down.

I find there is Internet Access everywhere when we go caravanning, even in small out of the way places. You can find access at Tourist Information Centres, Public Libraries, Cafes and Clubs etc and some Caravan Parks have an Internet Cafe. If you are on a budget Public Libraries are the cheapest, and were even free in South Australia. Some Servicemen's Clubs have free Internet for members and guests. The most expensive is coin in the slot type of access so I only use these if nothing else is available.

A Hotmail account is also handy when you are without your computer for repairs, upgrades etc. Just access your email from a relative or neighbour's computer.

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant, they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself to others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery.

But let not this blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham drudgery and broken dreams; it is still a beautiful world.

Internet Tip **Missing your Favourites?** When you're on the net you may want to bring up "Favourites" on the left hand side, all you have to do is hold down the **Ctrl** key and type **i** on your keyboard. To put it out of the way again **Ctrl+i** and it disappears.

REMINDER

**The Next Meeting of Computer Pals
for Seniors,
Galston & District Inc
Will be at History Cottage
412 Galston Road, Galston
Date: Friday 24th JUNE, 2005
Time 10.30 am**

General Tip You can edit text in Print Preview. Choose Print Preview from the File Menu. Click the page to increase magnification, and then click the magnifier button on the Print Preview Toolbar. This brings the cursor onto the Print Preview Page.

**Future Meetings this year
AGM followed by General Meeting
Friday 22 July 2005**



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