

MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors - Manly Inc.

April 2010

RODNEY RIETDYK will be our speaker on Thursday 8 April. Rodney spoke to us in May 2005 and members found his talk not only helpful but entertaining. So by special request we have

Introduction to the Funeral Industry

a return visit at 2 pm Thursday 8 April in the Manly Library Meeting Room. Rodney will be speaking to us on a subject which is completely different from computers. His role is to discuss openly what can be a difficult subject to raise, and 'provide a light hearted and cheerful (his words) introduction to the Funeral Industry'. He will be providing us with some valuable insight into this industry and outlining the options available. Rodney says, "This is an industry fraught with potential for exploiting people at their most vulnerable, and being able to discuss these issues in a more attentive and receptive state can only be of benefit to everyone listening. Question time is always very enjoyable and enables an interactive conversation opportunity that otherwise would not be available to the audience". Rodney has presented these sessions to many organisations and they have led to many recommendations for him to speak to more and more groups. Afternoon tea will follow as usual.



The Internet Banking presentation in March gave us an amazingly comprehensive view of internet banking and its security. Warren Perumal who is the Executive Manager Online Support at CBA was the presenter. He demonstrated that there is nothing to fear in internet banking and it is quick and easy. He was accompanied by Libby Norman, Commonwealth Bank Deposit Specialist along with Nicole Giarratano who is the new Branch Manager at Manly branch. Nicole also brought a couple of her team with her. There was plenty of opportunity to talk to these very helpful members of Commonwealth Bank. We were made aware that most banks have similar programs. You can see an overall picture on page 3 and members who were there came away with a laminated full size copy as well as a black cap bearing the logo "Better than ever netbank.com.au". You can see Lyn wearing hers here.



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We are always pleased to hear news of members or ex-members. Please email gwyneth@bigpond.net.au and tell us what you are doing or planning to do. It doesn't have to be about computing but your experiences would be interesting to other members. Ask and answer questions too. We are sure to have one of our tutors who can answer any queries you have.

Here's an email from Elaine Clarke, former tutor and committee member:



We have been in Hervey Bay now for nearly 2 weeks (although we left Sydney 23 Jan we had a couple of weeks R & R in northern NSW.

House hunting is the order of the day. Not a lot of success so far but we are managing to eliminate/discard those properties not to our liking. The biggest problem we have found is the lack of privacy. Queenslanders like lots of lawn! With a few trees/shrubs here and there.



We are down to about 10 properties, none of them ticking all the boxes. I was starting to get a bit panicky but have settled a bit and trying not to be impatient.

Hervey Bay has had a lot of rain but we are very comfortable in our little tent, however, we are moving into an onsite caravan for the duration. That will give us space to expand a little. Maybe we should forgo the house and buy a caravan! We thought there might have been some cheap property after the tsunami warning but that seems to have been a non event!

Have found a computer club and will join when we are settled and volunteer at the local Lifeline. It seems there are multiple outlets here including all the other charities.

Regards Elaine (28 February 2010)

Club News. Due to personal reasons, Jack Newton has resigned as President and from the Computer Club. The Vice President Bob Bellini is now the Acting President. Prior to the Annual General Meeting in October nominations for Club President (& other positions) will be canvassed and voted on at the AGM. We thank Jack for all the good things, hard work and expertise he has given the club and its members over many years.

Manly Mouse delivery. This is the last time the Manly Mouse will be posted to you. B & W copies will be available in the club room next month. Nice coloured copies will be sent to anyone giving us an email address. A few printed copies will be sent to Associate members who do not come into the club regularly. This will save printing and postage costs and the valuable time Robin spends folding, addressing, enveloping and stamping

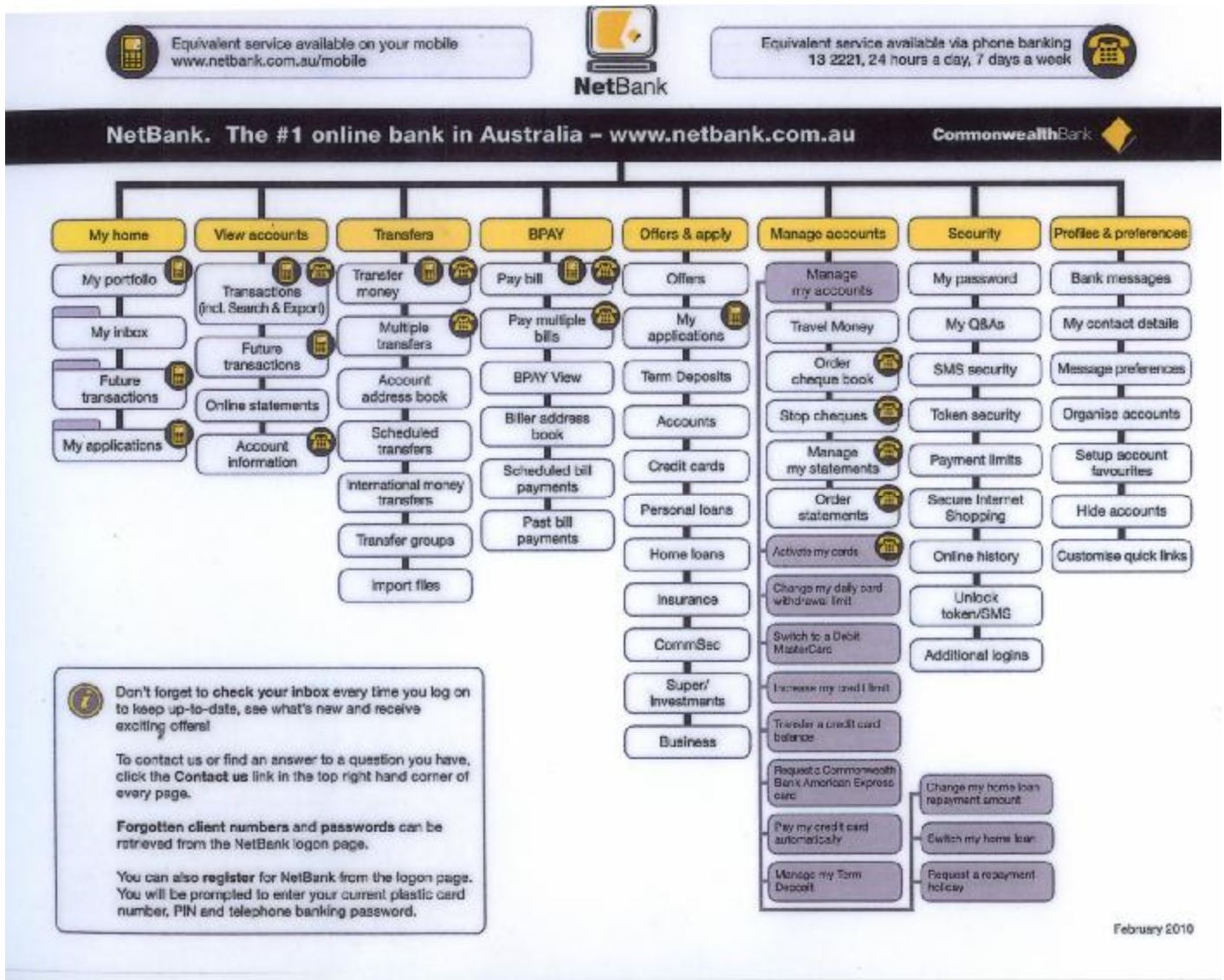
Photographs. Milton Wheeler has agreed to take some of the photos at the monthly meetings.

The Digital Camera Workshop will start on 1 April.

A Thought for Today: Pedantry and mastery are opposite attitudes toward rules. To apply a rule to the letter, rigidly, unquestioningly, in cases where it fits and in cases where it does not fit, is pedantry... To apply a rule with natural ease, with judgment, noticing the cases where it fits, and without ever letting the words of the rule obscure the purpose of the action or the opportunities of the situation, is mastery. -George Polya, professor of mathematics (1887-1985)



Here is the NetBank Guide. If you have more questions your tutor will be able to help you or you can visit the Commonwealth Bank Manly Branch. Manager, Nicole Giarratano, will be pleased to help and advise you or arrange for someone to help.



Be on guard - use your head and keep your anti-virus software and your anti-spyware software updated. Install the latest Windows updates!

Make sure you have an anti-virus installed. Make sure you have at least two good anti-spyware programs installed. And, above all, keep them current. Don't let your updates lapse. Update frequently (at least several times a week). An anti-virus program that is not up-to-date can be worse than having no anti-virus at all. And anti-spyware programs can only be effective if you keep them updated.

Most importantly, your first line of defence is always your own good common sense. Trust it. Trust your instincts. If your common sense and instincts tell you something's wrong, something probably is. Common sense - use it!

The miscreants who produce all the various trojans, adware and spyware are not stupid. They change names, file names, and installation tactics to try to stay a step ahead of the anti-spyware and anti-virus developers. In two words: Update often.

No anti-virus can protect you if you do not keep it updated. Update your anti-virus at least twice a week or more. Install and use only one anti-virus program. Installing two





does not give you twice the protection. On the contrary, installing two could result in reduced protection and many computer problems.

Also, it's very important that you keep your Windows updated with the latest patches, fixes, and updates from <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/> . If you don't have Automatic Update turned on, you should visit the Windows Update site once per week.

Always keep your common sense with you when you're on the Internet. Don't be lured into installing free software or signing up for a free service if it seems too good to be true. Read the privacy policy and/or Terms of Service or Licence Agreement of any free software or free service you're considering. As a rule of thumb, free products and free services which have extremely long, difficult-to-understand agreements filled with legal-speak are most often deceptive in nature. Be careful and stay informed - you'll be just fine. Despite all the hooligans that hide in the shadows, the Web is a wonderful place for us all to enjoy! *Cloudeight*

Hackers: We've noticed lately that more and more people are blaming more and more things on hackers. "Someone hacked into my computer!" "If you don't use our firewall you're leaving your computer open to hackers! Your personal information is at risk! Buy our firewall today! A \$19.95 investment today could save you thousands tomorrow!" "Hackers steal millions of credit card numbers". "Someone hacked my computer! My files are missing!"

You've seen the headlines, you've heard the talk, and you've seen the sales pitches. Everything that's wrong with the Internet gets blamed on hackers. Hackers are responsible for very little of what they're blamed for. Yet supposedly savvy tech writers misinform the public all the time; it's no wonder everyone is confused.



Your PC is about as likely to be hacked by a hacker as you are likely to win the Megamillions lottery. As far as the scare tactics vendors use, they're shameful. A firewall isn't going to stop a hacker even in the highly unlikely event a hacker would find your computer in the sea of billions of computers. For instance, Google's servers are protected by highly sophisticated hardware firewalls, yet Chinese hackers (and these were really hackers) wreaked havoc on those servers.

Scaring people, unfortunately, is a way to make big profits. You'll buy software to protect you from hackers if you really believe you're at risk and that the software you're buying will actually protect you. Scaring people with sensational articles about the risks you face from hackers gets attention and lures people to subscribe to newsletters and forums. Scaring people sells. It's unfortunate, but it's true.

Your credit card numbers are much more likely to be stolen because you give them away than because a hacker broke into your computer and took them. You've got about a one in a billion chance of that happening. Your chances of being struck by lightning, conked on the head by a falling meteorite, or winning the lottery are all far greater, yet people spend billions of dollars on firewalls because they believe firewalls keep them safe from hackers.

And most of the time, credit card numbers stolen from large companies are stolen because of someone giving someone access to the system or carelessness, not hackers.

We have seen people blaming hackers for missing files. We have seen people blaming hackers because their computer is running slowly. "My computer's been hacked!" is the cry we see all over the Web. Maybe a few dozen out of a few billion can actually say that - and that's being generous.

No doubt there are hackers everywhere. No doubt they're up to no good. But if you're a hacker and you're good at what you do, you're not going to piddle around searching billions of computers on the Internet trying to find one you can hack. You're going after well-known targets, high-profile companies where you know there's going to be something of value to steal. You're not going seek out Mrs. Johnson's computer and waste your time going through hundreds of photos of baby Lucy or grandson Mike.

There are lots of dangers on the Internet: Viruses, Trojans, worms, phishing, malicious web sites, and more. But your chance of encountering a hacker is very unlikely. Don't be scared, be smart! Go buy a lottery ticket. Your odds are much greater of winning the lottery than they are of being "hacked". *Cloudeight*

What does "Format a Hard Drive" mean? It means to wipe out all data on a hard drive and prepare it for installing or re-installing an operating system. You should be aware that formatting a hard drive does not "erase" the data on it, it merely deletes it. This means that data can be recovered even from a formatted hard drive. While this requires special software, you should be aware that it CAN be done. So, if you've got sensitive data on your computer and you're going to be selling it or giving it to someone - don't rely on formatting and reinstalling Windows to "erase" the sensitive data from your machine.



Word 2007 (.docx) users can read Word 2003 (.doc) documents and send documents that are compatible with Word 2003. It is now also possible for **Word 2003 users to read Word 2007 documents**. You need to download Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint File Formats. This download can be found by going to

www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en or perhaps it is easier to google Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint File Formats Download.

Brief Description: Open, edit, and save documents, workbooks, and presentations in the Open XML file formats which were introduced to Microsoft Office Word, Excel, and PowerPoint beginning with Office 2007.

Users of the Microsoft Office XP and 2003 programs Word, Excel, or PowerPoint—please install all High-Priority updates from Microsoft Update before downloading the Compatibility Pack.

By installing the Compatibility Pack in addition to Microsoft Office 2000, Office XP, or Office 2003, you will be able to open, edit, and save files using the file formats in newer versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The Compatibility Pack can also be used in conjunction with the Microsoft Office Word Viewer 2003, Excel Viewer 2003, and PowerPoint Viewer 2003 to view files saved in these new formats. For more information about the Compatibility Pack, see <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/924074>.

Administrators: The administrative template for the Word, Excel, and PowerPoint converters contained within the Compatibility Pack is available for download.

Update: The Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack has been updated to include SP2. Additionally, with the updated Compatibility Pack, if .DOCX or .DOCM files contain custom XML tags, those tags are removed when the file is opened in Word 2003. For more information, please see KB978951.

Microsoft finally provide a tool to allow you to choose your default browser

Microsoft have agreed with the EU to provide a tool in Windows 7, Vista and XP to allow users [in many countries but not yet in Australia] to choose which web browser they would like to use by default, and have the tool install the browser of their choice automatically. This is all down to the years of legal wranglings between Microsoft and the EU, over Microsoft's supposed abuse of its position as developer of the world's most widely used operating system to force everyone to use Internet Explorer. You can of course install any browser you choose manually, but the EU felt that most people didn't bother looking into what was available, and just used the default supplied with Windows. Starting from the 1st of March, Windows users in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland have had the browser choosing tool pushed out to their PC via the Windows Update service. If you have Internet Explorer set to be your default browser, after the update installs you will see a screen asking you whether you'd like to change browser, and a shortcut to the tool will be placed on your desktop. To change browser, proceed as follows:

1. When the screen is displayed telling you that you need to make a choice about your browser, ensure that you are connected to the Internet then click **OK**.
2. You will be presented with a list of available browsers. You can choose from **Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Internet Explorer 8** and **Opera**. Click the **Install** button under the browser you'd like to use. If you don't want to change browser, click **Select Later**. Note: If you want to carry on using Internet Explorer, but currently have IE6 or IE7, then you should use the tool to upgrade to IE8.
3. The wizard will download the selected browser, install it and set it as default. *Windows Advisor*

Tip - Anytime you're looking at a Web page or an email you can use the CTRL Key and your mouse's scroll wheel to enlarge or reduce the size of the text. Just hold down the CTRL key and push the scroll wheel away from you to enlarge and toward you to reduce. It doesn't work on every page or email, but it works on most.

This is True is a weekly e-mail newsletter by Colorado humorist Randy Cassingham. True reports on bizarre-but-true news items from legitimate newspapers from around the world (never "tabloids"). Each story ends with commentary by Randy -- a tagline which is humorous, ironic or opinionated. Sign up for stories of human weirdness sent to you each week by e-mail at www.thisistrue.com/ if you would like to read articles like this:

Shocking! Hookers in Lugano, Switzerland, are being trained how to use defibrillators after heart attacks killed several elderly men as they were ...uh... utilizing their services. There are 38 brothels in Lugano, with more planned to handle the influx of Italian men travelling over the border to visit. "Modern defibrillators are becom-



ing "increasingly quick and easy for the lay person to use," says the British Heart Foundation. One brothel owner said the machines are necessary, since "Having customers die on us isn't exactly good publicity". (London Telegraph) ...And when she says "die on us" she means that quite literally.



Important Notice. Next month those members who do not receive the Manly Mouse by email will be able to pick it up at the Club or read it on our website www.manlycompals.org.au/ It will not be posted to you unless you are an associate member who does not come into the club regularly.

Tutors' Roster (subject to change)		
Monday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Graham Clark & Lyn Nicholls Arthur Johnson & David McAdam
Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Philip Bratel & Wally Gora Lyll McNeish & Tony Wu
Wednesday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Ted Hulbert & Bridget Mahoney Harry Agüero & Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Dorothy Peters & Tony van de Walle Special Courses
Friday	9 am - 1 pm 9 am - 5 pm	Ern Cohen & Hugh Walker Bob Bellini Mac only

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND A CLASS PLEASE PHONE THE CLUB 9976 0930 AND ADVISE THE DUTY TUTOR TO ALTER LIST AND ALSO PLEASE TELL YOUR TUTOR.

The assistance provided by Manly Council to Manly Computerpals is gratefully acknowledged.

Welcome to new members:
 Ron CARTER; Les DAVIES;
 Jill MARTIN; Ann MATHIAS;
 Jim STEPHENSON.
 If you are not listed here you will be next month.



Our Website is kept up to date by Graham and includes photos, latest news and recent and earlier copies of the Manly Mouse.

www.manlycompals.org.au

Disclaimers
 Members who bring equipment such as a laptop computer or digital camera to the Club do so at their own risk and Computerpals accepts no responsibility for damages or loss.
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