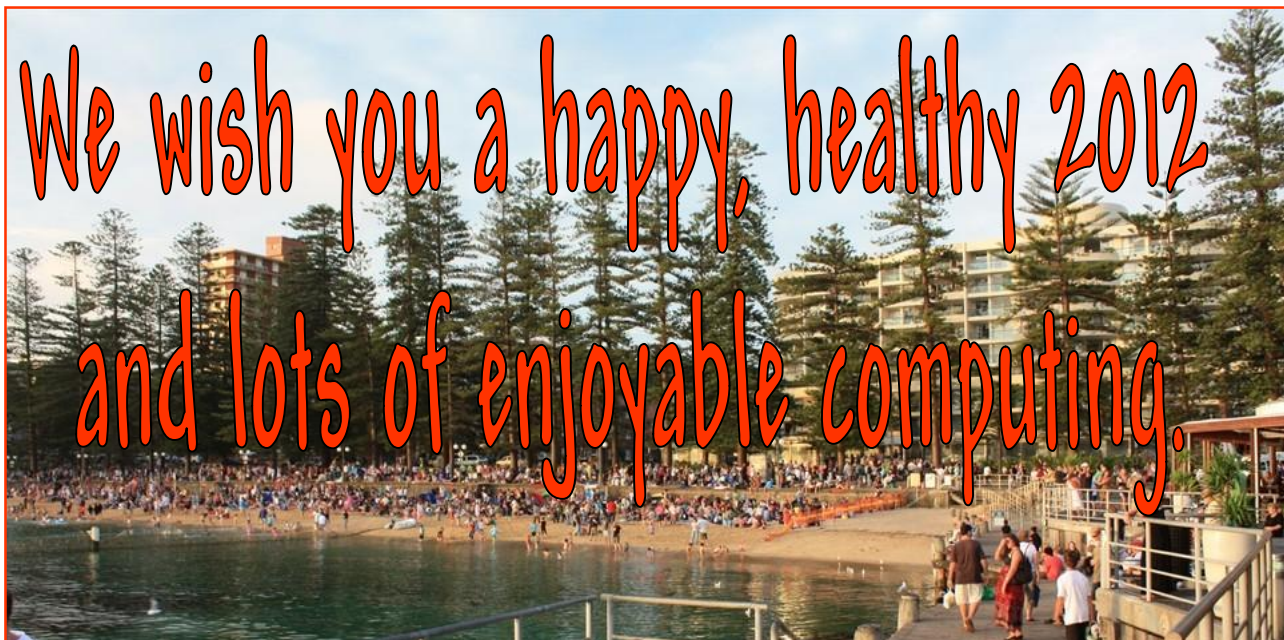


MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors - Manly Inc.

February 2012



What's New in One Two. President Ted Hulbert has been looking at new computer programs that are or will be available this year. He will give you his views on **Thursday 9 February at 2 pm** in the Manly Library Meeting Room. Ted has so much experience you are sure to find this a very interesting talk. And, as usual, you will be able to ask questions and then have a cup of tea or coffee while chatting with your friends.

Here are photos taken at our Christmas party. Without entertainment we had plenty of time to talk to other members and enjoy the good food they provided. We were able to say farewell to Dorothy. Ted presented her with a gift and thanked her for all her help and for being an example to all members. There were lots of good prizes including a special one for Milton Wheeler for the photo he sent to the Manly Mouse.



Manly Seniors' Centre 275 Pittwater Road, Manly Postal Address: PO Box 1128, Manly 1655 Phone: 9976 0930

www.manlycompals.org.au

Editor: Gwyneth Crawford gwyneth@bigpond.net.au



Tutors and Committee members had a very enjoyable Christmas lunch. So here are some more pictures.



Lyn Nicholls, our truly indispensable secretary, is in hospital at the time of writing. She was busy getting everything to do with Computerpals up-to-date before she went into hospital and hopes to continue by computer when she is well enough. Meanwhile we won't be seeing her at classes, or the committee meeting. We all wish her a speedy recovery. It's good to see she still has her smile even when ill. Get well soon, Lyn, we miss you and need you.



This is most helpful... If your friends don't know the way to your house, just send them this site. Faster than googling it although they use Google maps. Some countries will have photos of the house. <http://www.vpike.com/> JUST WRITE DOWN THE ADDRESS AND THE MAP WILL POP UP!
From Pals by the Lake newsletter of Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches Inc.



Coming Soon in 2012. Preparations are in full swing for NSW Seniors Week. From 18-25 March 2012, the largest festival for seniors in the southern hemisphere returns with an exciting program of free and discounted events that are sure to have you celebrating!

The ever popular Seniors Week Gala Concerts promise to dazzle you with an excellent line up of Australia's top entertainers. We're bringing a touch of vintage glamour to Darling Harbour for an afternoon of dynamic performances, ambassador talks and fancy footwork.



The 7th Young at Heart Film Festival returns with beloved classics and film premieres and, for the first time, tours locations across regional NSW.

Lovers of the outdoors are in for a treat - we've got walks, talks, tours and a range of healthy activities that are guaranteed to stimulate the mind, body and spirit. Rumour has it that the beautiful Hunter Valley Gardens is going retro in honour of seniors - stay tuned for more details and updates.

The official event program will be bigger and brighter than ever before! Pick up your copy in the first week of March at registered clubs across NSW or visit www.nswseniorsweek.com.au.

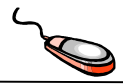
Are you on Facebook? Join our online community for special offers and all the latest news www.facebook.com/nswseniorsweek.

Book publishers are where the music industry was 10 years ago. The Amazon Kindle is allowing authors to ditch their literary agents and self publish. I download a book in seconds to my Kindle at WiFi hot spots in any shopping mall or café. The authors are choosing to publish in eBook format for thousands of Kindle fans. They see the advantage of a wider audience and are selling more books in this format. Thousands of books are downloaded for 99 cents to Kindle eReader fans. The authors are participating. Anyone of us can write a book and send it to Amazon where it will be listed. It beats finding a publisher. Mathew Riley, the well known Oz writer sells books in shopping malls for one price and chooses to sell for a quarter of the price on Amazon. He also publishes in eBook format. This is but one example of where we are going with books. (Thank you, Bridget Mahoney)



Passwords. Some analysts predict that alternative methods of authentication such as voice and facial recognition will become more prevalent in 2012. The old tried-and-true password has problems – we have too many of them to remember; if they're short and simple, they can be cracked; if they're long and complex, we forget them and write them down. Are they good enough for you, or are you looking forward to newer, easier and (we hope) more secure ways of proving your identity to the computer systems with which you interact? Which alternative form of authentication (facial recognition, voice recognition, "picture passwords" which involves having you select an image and then draw gestures such as circling one item in the photo) do you think will replace (or supplement) passwords in the years ahead? WinNews.com





Twenty-one Quick Windows Tips.

Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7



Everyone likes short, quick Windows tips. The following 21 tips work in all versions of Windows, unless otherwise noted. We hope you find these tips useful!

1. To change computer time: Right mouse click on the clock in your system tray (lower far right) or right-click in system tray and choose “adjust date and time”.

2. To save a picture/image from a web page, right mouse click and choose “Save Picture As” or “Same image as” (depending on your browser). You can rename it - if you wish - when you save it to your hard drive. You can rename it - but you cannot change its extension. If you

want to change image formats - you can open the image in your favorite photo editor and re-save it in the format of your choice.

3. To see how much hard drive/hard disk space you have left, do this: Double click My Computer. right mouse click on your C drive (or any hard drive) and chose properties.

4. Most common image formats are JPG, GIF, BMP and PNG. Most common image format exported from a digital camera is a JPG.

5. If you accidentally delete a file, click Control key + Z to bring it back instantly. You can also look in your recycle bin if you don't realize it until later, then just right-click on the file and choose “restore” and it will go back to where it came from.

6. If you hold the shift key down when deleting a file, it bypasses the recycle bin. Control Z will still bring it back.

7. If you occasionally see a red X instead of an image on a web page, it is not a setting problem with your browser. It usually means the webmaster who made the page put in a bad link.

8. F1 key opens Windows Help quickly!

9. You can quickly maximize a window by double clicking the title bar of the window... this is the area with the program's name at the top of your window. Double click again to bring it back to the size it was prior to maximizing.

10. Alphabetize the items in your start menu by clicking Start, Programs, and while hovering over any program, right mouse click and choose Sort by Name. (Windows XP)

11. Quick View of your System: If you hold the Alt key down while double clicking My Computer, it will open the System Properties Window. This is where you can find your computer's name, system restore, auto updates, hardware, and more. The first screen will show you a lot of information about your system such as what version of Windows you are using, who the computer is registered to, how fast your CPU is and how much RAM you have.

12. To open a “Run” command, just press the Windows Key + R.

13. To open Windows Explorer press the Windows Key + E.

14. To close any window that is in focus (on top of the rest) click ALT + F4

15. Use the ALT key + the Tab key to move between open programs.

16. Press the Windows key plus the “D” key to instantly return to your desktop.

17. When browsing the Web using your favorite browser, tapping the F11 key will maximize the browser window and give you the maximum amount of viewing area (no address bars or toolbars in your way). Tapping the F11 key again, returns your browser window to its normal state.

18. Click F4 while your browser is open and the last 25 addresses you have typed out in your address bar will show. Here' how to do it: Place your cursor in the address bar and tap the F4 key.

19. Press the Windows Key plus the L key to lock your computer. (Works only if your Windows user account is password protected.)

20. While in Windows Explorer, Press ALT + P and a preview should appear on the right.

21. To view properties menu of a file, folder, etc., highlight it and click Alt + Enter. Highlight My Computer and click Alt + Enter to view System Properties. (*Cloudeight*)



Why your broadband internet seems slower by Paul Budde, a telecommunications researcher and consultant.

More often these days, in our email boxes and during radio interviews, we are being asked questions and hearing complaints about the quality of broadband.

In general the complaints are:

the quality (speed) of the broadband service is decreasing;

it takes longer to download and to access websites;

the level of quality of the connection often varies and is typically poor during peak hours such as early morning and early evening.

After a while the users affected by these issues call helpdesks but, as we all know, that rarely results in a positive experience.

Many factors can be involved, which makes it easy for telcos and ISPs to dodge responsibility. And often they themselves have no idea why it is happening. The hard reality is that this issue will not go away until the NBN is in place – and it will only become worse in the meantime.

Of course there are PC and modem issues, but I will ignore them for the purpose of this article and concentrate instead on the telecoms' side, where it is basically a capacity problem.

The copper-based telecoms network was never designed for broadband and it is rapidly approaching its limit. Copper-based technologies such as ADSL and VDSL have been able to lengthen its life, but only so much can be extracted from a piece of copper. And when add-on technologies (e.g. ADSL2+) are brought into play distance becomes an issue also – the further away from the exchange, the more the broadband signal deteriorates.

The problems are worsening as broadband traffic over the telecoms network increases – people are using more and more rich media applications, to such an extent that the network is approaching full capacity; and once the network can no longer handle the amount of traffic it slows down, drops out, etc. Users at the end of the network then see their broadband flow dried up to a trickle.

Obviously this happens mainly in prime time – if one uses the network outside those times the speeds are generally better. However, as more people do this the problem simply becomes extended over longer periods.

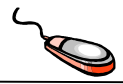
The better the quality of the network the more can be pushed through the pipe. However, many parts of the network are decades old and the quality of the copper network varies enormously. This additional problem is exacerbated by the increasing traffic. Often the quality of the network is unknown to ISPs, and obviously there is very little they can do about it.

So the outlook is bleak. There is very little that can be done with the existing network. The sooner the NBN becomes available the sooner people can be transferred to it; and, as this infrastructure is based on fibre (not copper) and has near-unlimited capacity, the problems will then disappear.

*Paul Budde is managing director of BuddeComm, an independent telecommunications research and consultancy company. This article first appeared on Technology Spectator. Crikey.com

One Person Can. One person's actions alone will not solve climate change, and everyone is much more likely to join in and help if they see that "everyone else is doing it too". The only problem is that actions like switching off unnecessary lights and taking short showers are close to invisible unless we tell people what we do. Practically everyone takes at least some actions that reduce carbon emissions. Please take the survey at <http://onepersoncan.org/> to tell everyone which climate-friendly actions *YOU* take!"





A threat to the internet, and naming the right problem by John Abbe, President of the Co-Intelligence Institute.

The Internet is in an uproar over proposed U.S. Senate bill Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), and its corresponding bill in the House, the Protect Intellectual Property Act (PIPA). Among other consequences, these bills would lead to blocking websites (the way China does), and stopping ads and Visa/Mastercard payments to them, simply by alleging - not proving - that they are engaging in, enabling or facilitating copying content illegally. This and other features of the bills are so broad that many in the technology world have been organizing against the bills, concerned that they are an extreme overreaction which would greatly inhibit free speech and fair competition.

Media Changed Lawmakers' Minds.

Jan. 18, 2012 was a big day for supporters of Internet freedom. Not only did several major websites go dark in protest of two online piracy bills before Congress, but several key lawmakers withdrew their support for the legislation.

So what changed these US politicians' minds about the Stop Online Piracy Act and its Senate equivalent, the Protect IP Act? And what got other lawmakers -- who had previously said nothing about the two bills -- to suddenly come out against them?

A new graphic from visual.ly suggests both the blackout and pressure from citizens who became more aware of what the two bills could do to certain websites deserve credit for the reversals. The bills have now been postponed. *Huffington Post*

Is it better to turn off the computer at night, or is it OK to leave it on?

Think of this - Web servers, which are computers, run 24/7/365 year after year. They are never shut down. There are differing opinions on whether it is harder on your hard drive(s) if you leave your computer running or shut it down. It's a pretty general consensus that there is less wear and tear on your hard drives if you leave your computer running. Rebooting and shutting down are harder on hard drives than running constantly. When a computer boots, the hard drives have to spin up to speed. Those who shutdown every night and start up the next day are causing their hard drives to spin up every day, and we feel, as many others do that this causes extra wear and tear on hard drives.

There are some who claim leaving your computer running and connected to the Web (if you have broadband connection, unless you disconnect from it at night, it will be connected) 24 hours a day exposes you to more dangers. If you have installed good AV and antispyware software, there's no more danger at 2 am than there is at 2 pm. This type of reasoning smacks of the boogeyman stories we heard when we were kids. There indeed are bogeymen on the Web - and there are a lot of them - but they are always out there looming - at noon as well as at midnight. If your computer is protected at noon then it's protected at midnight too. (*Cloudeight*) Leave it running but configure to "Sleep" after a set time, and let it take care of itself. The added advantage of this is that you can have all your updates scheduled for the wee hours, & the PC will wake up, install the updates, & go back to sleep.

Tiny 21 gram 'Cotton Candy' USB actually a personal computer.

Norwegian developers have created one of the world's smallest computers on a USB-like stick.

The device, dubbed "Cotton Candy", allows users to turn any screen on a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone into a terminal that accesses the stick's operating system, cloud services and apps. The stick - weighing 21 grams, about the weight of a bag of fairy floss - would also work with television sets, set-top boxes and games consoles, the company, FXI Technologies, said.. *SMH*

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/digital-life/computers/tiny-21-gram-cotton-candy-usb-actually-a-personal-computer-20111121-1nqdf.html#ixzz1ePHtEAOp>





Should I Really Join Facebook?

When I bought my Blackberry, I thought about the 30-year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a cell phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures and communicates with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, 13 grandkids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

That was before one of my grandkids hooked me up for Tweeter, Tweetree, Twhirl, Twitterfon, Tweetie and Twittererific Tweetdeck, Twitpix and something that sends every message to my cell phone and every other program within the texting world. But you still need a 12-year old to program it for you... even the 12-year old you used to rely on... who is now 20...needs a 12-year old to program his phone!



My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my bowling bag. The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth - it's red - phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Barnes and Noble talking to my wife and everyone in the nearest 50 yards was glaring at me. I had to take my hearing aid out to use it, and I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a right turn instead... well, it was not a good relationship. When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me. (It's back in the bag it came in.)

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I can lose three phones all at once and have to run around digging under chair cushions and checking bathrooms and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up everytime I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them in with me. Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or Plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-saksual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look. I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, No, but I do toot a lot."

We senior citizens don't need any more gadgets. The TV remote, the garage door remote, and the remote car starter are about all we really care about! THIS WRITER IS NOT ONE OF OUR MEMBERS! (Thank you Bob)



Free cartridges for Canon Printer, type 40 and 41.

If anyone has use for these they are ones I bought and never used as the printer died before I could install them. Contact Milton at miltondw@hotmail.com

Tutors' Roster (subject to change)

Monday	9 am - 1 pm	Graham Clark and Hugh Walker
	1 pm - 5 pm	Arthur Johnson and David McAdam
Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm	Philip Bratel and Wally Gore
	1 pm - 5 pm	Lyall McNeish and Tony Wu
Wednesday	9 am - 1 pm	Ted Hulbert and Jack Newton
	1 pm - 5 pm	Harry Agüero and Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm	Bridget Mahoney and Judith Timpson
	1 pm - 5 pm	
Friday	9 am - 1 pm	Ern Cohen John Brooks
	9 am - 5 pm	Bob Bellini Mac only

Welcome to new members: .
Mick BLUETT; Kamala JEGARAJ;
Angelah RHOLAND; Leo VOLPE
 If you are not listed here you will be next month.

Tom Miles is qualified in First Aid and can be contacted if required in Meals on Wheels section. He is also the Seniors' Centre Fire Warden. If a fire occurs dial 000 and if necessary meet outside on the footpath towards Manly Pool.



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.

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.

This newsletter is provided "As Is" without warranty of any kind. Each reader of the Manly Mouse newsletter assumes complete risk as to the accuracy and subsequent use of its contents.

if one day you lose everything....



that day you will know how many real friends you have

Ann Marie Kennedy, a resident of Effin in Limerick County, Ireland, complained that Facebook was blocking her from listing her hometown on her profile. She wanted to show her pride in her parish, she said, along with 'so many Effin people around the world.'

- Harper's Magazine from Shortlist Daily

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

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