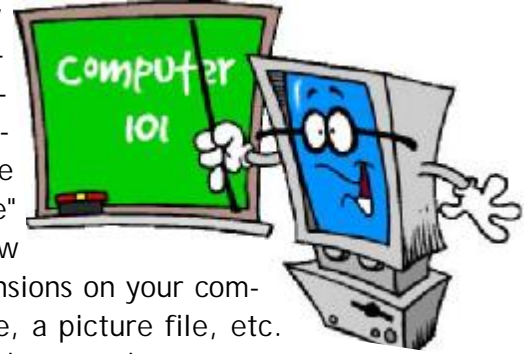


MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors – Manly Inc.

July 2008

July's general meeting will commence 2 pm Thursday 10th in Manly Library meeting room. The presentation will be a Back to Basics session where we will look at one or two of the areas newer members often get confused over - Files & Folders. Do you know how create a new folder or file? Do you know how to delete unwanted files and folders safely? Do you know how to recover accidentally deleted files and folders? How do you store your documents - do you store them safely on your hard drive? Do you store them on a portable USB Flash drive? Or do you simply click "save" and hope to be able to find them later? When you create a new file, it has an extension; can you identify the common file extensions on your computer so as to be able to tell if they are a text file, a music file, a picture file, etc. without even opening it? During this session Graham Clark will show you how to open a new document and name it, how to save it in a specific folder or location - and then how to locate it later on. We will be inviting questions and will attempt to demonstrate "how to" to your queries. Following this educational session, there will be Afternoon Tea and a chance to mingle and chat with fellow members and tutors.



Even If you had no interest in computers you would still have enjoyed Bob Bellini's amusing and informative talk on Internet Service Providers. Using a visit to a showground as an analogy, he described the choice of an ISP as being analogous to going to the showground, picking up show bags and visiting the VIP goodie tent. The connection speed, from dial-up up to fast ADSL or cable connection, was compared to travelling in a rickshaw versus a luxury high speed car. Entering the showground is via your ISP gate. The number of sample bags brought home represents your data download and upload limits. Bob emphasised the fact that you must know what you want before you set out as there is no general answer.



1. Determine how much speed you need - spend the \$\$\$ or spend the time waiting. Dial up is so slow that few regularly keep their PCs updated with latest patches...A dangerous practice!
2. Determine the download/upload capacity you need. Don't underestimate! It's not just the occasional email and attachment you send and the web pages you browse. Remember such things as: Anti virus/spyware, etc., updates, Windows updates, email attachments from friends, photos, little

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movies, etc. These all add up!! And if you exceed your quota you may be charged big \$\$ for the extra. That's what the ISP is depending on with the small 200-400 Mb plans.

3. Decide what extras the ISP may be offering that would justify additional costs over the cheap options. Free extra email addresses, good support, free or at least cheap anti virus, spam and/or spyware filtering before the stuff gets downloaded to you (which is all extra off your quota).
4. When you've worked all that out, use the following web sites to check the ISP offerings www.whirlpool.net.au and www.broadbandguide.com.au for wizards that help select ISPs that match the specs you input. www.whirlpool.net.au/survey/2007 for info on how the informed users rate ISPs. In summary, you have to do some work yourself. No silver bullets.

Important Notice

XP SP3 and Vista SP1 now available.

These are large downloads from Microsoft.

You can order them from the Club on CD —

\$5 each.

Firefox 3 is here!

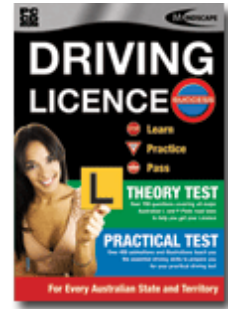
After months of anticipation, eight alpha versions, five betas and three release candidates, Mozilla Firefox 3 is finally here! So what's new? While there might not be one new killer feature, there are plenty of cool additions to impress, including the "AwesomeBar", a revamped address-bar drop-down menu that makes accessing your favourites and recently visited sites a breeze. My personal favourite change is a confirmation step for the password manager. Now Firefox will check to make sure that you've entered your password correctly before saving it, keeping the list free of typos and misremembered strings. Read the Download.com review of Mozilla Firefox 3 and download at <http://www.download.com/mozilla-firefox/?tag=nl.e415> Why would you ever use IE??? (From Bob Bellini)



Driving Licence DVD.

\$19.95 www.mindscape.com.au This is an effective way to test your knowledge of Australian road rules before sitting a formal exam from any of the transport authorities. It's easy to install and use, has options for L and P-plated aspiring drivers and allows choice of state or territory, tailoring content to your local situation.

It contains more than 700 questions and answers, plus hundreds of pictures and animations. Unfortunately, it doesn't use as much animation and sound as we would have liked, presenting only a little more zing than at least one road authority's free online practice knowledge test. However, it includes the theory you need with plenty of opportunity to study and review each chapter and take quizzes and exams as often as required. Exam answers aren't shown until the end but the software makes good use of red and green to show where



you went wrong - in the process reviewing the content and helping you retain the correct answers. We would have liked to see the keyboard's arrow keys used for easier navigation. We also missed a search function. Driving instructor Belgica Henry helped us review content and praised the publisher's efforts but disagreed with answers to some questions. We found the promise of "practical" tests wishful but, overall, judged the program to be an aid to learner-drivers and those teaching them. An instructor mode allows the package to be used in a classroom situation and the graphical analysis of results will appeal to teachers and parents. -- LIA TIMSON This story was found at:

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/06/03/1212258832264.html>

Oops! – I've deleted my Pictures. There comes a time when, instead of deleting the one picture in your camera you don't want to keep, you accidentally click on the 'Delete All'. In a flash they are all gone - every single one of them and you're left with a blank memory card. You've probably tried stamping your foot and swearing but found it didn't work. So you know that will not bring them back but there is a way to retrieve (in techspeak that's 'undelete') the pictures that works on most cameras.



It's like this: when you delete a file (can be a photo or any other type) the computer removes the file's address so that when the computer goes to look for the file it can't be found - but it is still there albeit without an address. If the address can be reinstated then the computer will be able to find the file again.

Software programs have been written which can find the deleted address of a file and put it back.

A freeware program I have successfully used to recover deleted photos is 'Zero Assumption Digital Recovery' which is available for downloading at:

www.snapfiles.com/get/zaimagerecovery.html I've found the program to be slow but accurate. It will not work if the photo files have been overwritten so, once you realise you've wiped your photos, take out the memory card and don't use it until you have recovered the lost pictures. It will cost you nothing to try it out (except for the download size if you're near your monthly limit!) and I would recommend you do this just to check that it works with your camera and its memory card. Let's hear how you go. JN June 2008



Question Time George Skarbek June 08

Q How can I tell whether a computer has two separate hard drives (physically or hardware-wise) or one hard disk with two partitions? Apparently it is often mentioned if the computer has C-drive and D-drive.

A You may be able to see this when your computer is booting if you are a fast reader. At boot-up time the text shows what the BIOS has detected in your computer. It will show the details of hard drives, but this information is fleeting even if you manage to press Pause. There is a better way to view this from Windows. Click on Start, Settings, Control Panel and click on Administrative Tools, then Computer Management and finally Disk Management. There it will show all the physical drives, their sizes, how they are partitioned and their drive letters for each drive and partition. By right-clicking on the drives you can change the drive letters. It's useful to make the DVD a higher letter such as R so that inserting a USB drive will not alter drive letters.



But Can It Go – Beep Beep?

IBM's newest supercomputer is called the Roadrunner and it certainly can run fast. In fact it runs at a speed of around one quadrillion operations per second (nearly as fast as the human brain can think?). It is claimed that if all of the 6 billion people on Earth used hand calculators and performed calculations 24/7, it would take them 46 years to do what the Roadrunner can in one day. It is massive and it contains almost 700 dual core AMD chips, has 80 terabytes of memory, has 57 miles of fibre optic cable and covers 6000 sq. ft. (source: www.electricnews.net/article/10124489.html).

Will the next supercomputer be superior to the human brain? We might well believe so. Some people already accept what ardent feminists have been saying about men soon becoming redundant as medical technology makes human parthogenesis a possibility, so we might readily believe that super-computer technology could make the human brain and consequently mankind also redundant.

But I believe that there is no way that computers can ever be smarter than we are: they may calculate more quickly but they can't beat us as thinkers. And why is that so? Well, to start with, we can make computers but they can't make humans. But more seriously, we humans can think and, if necessary, compute whereas all computers can do is compute. For example, if a computer is programmed to add 2 and 2 it always answers 4 (100 in the computer's binary language). If a computer is programmed, for instance, to find the seventh root of three million, four hundred and twenty-four it will take a fraction of a second to come up with the correct and the same answer every time; a non-mathematical unaided human brain wouldn't have a clue how to start the calculation let alone get the right answer. But, and here's the difference, put the question of who to vote for at the next election and this time the non-emotional unaided computer wouldn't have a clue whereas a human will weigh up all the factors: input his/her emotions, needs, wants and a whole host of peripheral influences - or even toss a coin - and come up with a decision. Furthermore, that decision is not fixed and may be influenced by apparently

extraneous and time related factors (best of three tosses?).

However, super-computers offer us immense benefits as they don't have the weaknesses which we have in our neural networks. Our brain's neurons and synaptic connections have various and varying speed limitations - how often have you heard or said: "I remember the face but not the name - wait a while it will come to me - it's on the tip of my tongue..."? No, our memories are sometimes slow and unreliable. Also, other than in some idiot-savants, our ability to calculate and remember large numbers is limited. The speed, memory access and computational ability of these super-computers leave us at the starting post. So let's consider their benefits.

Although Roadrunner will initially be used at Los Alamos for military studies on nuclear weapons which is hardly to the benefit of the human race, its use in studying climate models is envisaged and that is one enormous advantage for mankind's continued enjoyment of the Earth. Also the research being carried out in the fields of computational medical informatics stands to receive major benefits from super-fast computers, as do the investigations into the effects of genetic malformations in the complex structure of human DNA.

One can also envisage a computer smart enough to be hacker-proof and - not outside the bounds of possibility - smart enough to stop a potential hacker by infecting his computer with the fatal error so beloved of Microsoft's operating systems.

Maybe we only need to start to worry when a computer says its prime function is to serve people... preferably medium-rare with a side dish of French fries! JN June 2008

How online shoppers are bagging bargains.

Shoppers are using overseas websites for retail therapy, with the strong Australian dollar meaning online shopping is doing better than ever. Local retailers are reporting a massive downturn, and experts say it will get worse. Consumers are being lured online by the cheaper cost of everything from clothing to fragrance to skin-care products, finding big-name international brands far more affordable when priced in US dollars or pounds. When The Sun-Herald researched a number of products online and in the big retailers David Jones and Myer, it found big bargains were only a mouse click away. In some cases, products were more than twice as expensive in local department stores than they were on overseas websites. While postage and handling costs can sometimes offset savings, many sites offered highly discounted rates, even free shipping. A 50 millilitre bottle of Gucci Envy Me 2 perfume cost \$105 at Myer, but The Sun-Herald found it for \$40.60 online. A 200 millilitre Lancome Tonique Confort moisturiser will set shoppers back \$55 in David Jones, yet costs \$22 on the web. A pair of designer Chloe sunglasses were \$303 on an American online store, yet at David Jones' Elizabeth Street store they sell for \$469. The apparel sector had been one of the worst hit, said Richard Evans, executive director of the Australian Retailers Association,





which represents 1.2 million retail staff. He said growth had already slowed to less than 4 per cent this year, down from 7.6 per cent last year. The clothing sector could be under 2 per cent by the end of the year. But Mr Evans said the near-parity with the US dollar had made domestic technology such as plasma screens and computers more affordable. "Because retail is very competitive, retailers are required to reduce their prices to account for this cheaper import" he said. "So it's good for the consumer". cmarcus@fairfaxmedia.com.au This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/>

We are not unique!

Manly Mouse is also the name of a pop group in Glasgow, Scotland - the picture on the right was in MySpace.





And here's an excerpt from the Tapei Times:

"Lady Mouse, will be betrothed to her manly mouse groom tonight at the National Theater's Experimental

Theater."



Windows Key shortcuts These work in both Windows XP and Windows Vista all versions - with slight differences where noted. Windows Key shortcuts are excellent time-savers and are very much underused.

-  + B Sets focus to first tray icon
-  + D Show the Desktop
-  + E Open Windows Explorer
-  + F Find Files or Folders (Search)
-  + M Minimize All windows
-  + Shift + M Undo minimize all windows
-  + R Opens the Run Dialog (opens the "Run" dialog - the same as clicking "Start" then "Run")
-  + Tab Select Task (On Vista Home Premium, Business, and Ultimate it opens 3D-Flip view)
-  + Pause/Break Opens System Properties
-  + F1 Opens Windows Help
-  + L Locks your computer
-  + U Opens Windows Utility Manager (on Vista it

opens Windows Ease Of Access)

3D TV hits Japan. Badminton matches look so real playing on Hyundai's new 3-D TV that you may reflexively dodge the virtual shuttlecock. A polar bear pawing the glass of his tank may seem to be inside the TV pushing on the screen. However, it is expensive and you have to wear special glasses.



Reinvent, Reuse, Recycle By Anu Garg

Anu Garg is the founder of Wordsmith.org, an online community of word lovers in 200 countries. He has authored three books on the origins of words. In a new column, "On Words With Anu Garg," he will explore the origins and metamorphoses of words throughout history, from brand-new words (such as locavore - one who prefers to eat locally sourced food) to words that have been reconditioned, retooled and overhauled so much that they no longer resemble what they were when they rolled off the assembly line of the language. If you were asked to guess when the word e-mail was coined, chances are you'd say perhaps a couple of decades back. Would it surprise you to learn that the first use of the word is recorded in the 19th century? What was e-mail doing at the time when there were no computers, telephones or even promises of large sums of Nigerian loot? Well, the answer is that it was a different type of e-mail. That e-mail meant enamel, as in the glossy paint applied to metal, pottery, etc. In French, the word émailleur still means "to enamel," not to send out a message using electronic mail. The word mail in electronic mail is of Germanic origin, meaning a bag. The word chainmail is even older, from the 1820s. The word referred to the body armour made of interlocking links, not the e-mails circulating old jokes. The word mail in chainmail means one of the rings of which armour was made, and is of Latinate origin. With the start of the Harry Potter mania in 1997, a new word entered the popular culture: muggle. In the Potterworld, a muggle is an ordinary person, one with no magical powers. By extension, we use the word to indicate someone lacking a particular skill; one who doesn't have a special ability, a novice, one outside a field, one uninitiated in a field. Before J.K. Rowling made "muggle" a household word, it has had nearly as many lives as a black cat. The Oxford English Dictionary shows the first citation for this word is from the 13th century, and defines it as "a tail resembling that of a fish". Since then it has been used to describe a young woman, a sweetheart and later marijuana. Over the years many writers (including Lewis Carroll) have used the word Muggle as a name for their characters, it's just that with the popularity of the Harry Potter books it became better known.

When did the words google, yahoo and pixilated first appear in English? The last few decades? Here are the years of the first known citations for these words: google (1907), yahoo (1726) and pixilated (1848). Welcome back to the future.



Power-hungry gadgets add hundreds to electricity bills. Energy guzzling gadgets are costing households hundreds of dollars a year, yet most people have little idea of the cost. While energy-rating labels have been mandatory for whitegoods since the late 1980s, computing goods remain immune. Some, such as a Sony PlayStation 3, cost five times as much to run as an average-sized refrigerator. That translates to about \$250 a year, said Christopher Zinn, spokesman for the consumer group Choice, which has conducted tests on 16 popular computer gadgets. While a PlayStation was unlikely to be left on and idle permanently, Mr Zinn conceded, even a standard personal computer, an item invariably left on while not in use (on active standby) could be almost three times more expensive to run than the average refrigerator. A combination of desktop computer, LCD monitor, wireless router, plasma TV and DVD player on continuous active standby could add \$450 a year to the power bill. The figures are indicative of just how much electricity these small devices can chew their way through, Mr Zinn said. Choice says the absence of a star-rating labelling system means consumers are unable to make informed decisions when buying electronic goods. It also means manufacturers have little incentive to improve energy efficiency. In contrast, refrigerators have improved in energy efficiency by 4.6 per cent each year since 1993, with manufacturers phasing out poor energy performers. This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/>

Esna Stewart OAM, a tutor at Mosman Computer-pals for Seniors, had her 95th birthday party on 22 June. It was a wonderful party with many of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends present. Is she the oldest person teaching computing? Many Happy Returns, Esna, from Manly Computerpals.



Phishing Hoax. Here's an example of a recent phishing hoax.

Dear Valued Client

During the verification of your account our processors encountered errors in the proper verification of your account. To protect your online banking your account has been restricted to activate your account please click on the restore my access button below

Failure to do this might lead to access suspension for security reasons.

Sorry For the inconvenience

Westpac Online Banking

Your bank will never ask you to provide details of your account. If you receive an email like this—DELETE IT

After getting all of Pope Benedict's luggage loaded into the limo, (and he doesn't travel light), the driver notices the Pope is still standing on the curb at the Rome Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino Airport.

"Excuse me, Your Holiness," says the driver, "Would you please take your seat so we can leave?"

"Well, to tell you the truth," says the Pope, "they never let me drive at the Vatican when I was a cardinal, and I'd really like to drive today."

"I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job! What if something should happen?" protests the driver, wishing he'd never gone to work that morning.

"Who's going to tell?" says the Pope with a smile.

Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision when,

after exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 205 kph.

Remember, the Pope is German.

"Please slow down, Your Holiness!" pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens.

"Oh, dear God, I'm going to lose my licence - and my job!" moans the driver.

The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches, but the cop takes one look at him, goes back to his motorcycle, and gets on the radio.

"I need to talk to the Chief," he says to the dispatcher. The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going 205 kph.

"So bust him," says the Chief.

"I don't think we want to do that, he's really important," said the cop.

The Chief exclaimed, "All the more reason!"

"No, I mean really important," said the cop with a bit of persistence.

The Chief then asked, "Who do you have there, the mayor?"

Cop: "Bigger."

Chief: "A senator?"

Cop: "Bigger."

Chief: "The Prime Minister?"

Cop: "Bigger."

Well," said the Chief, "Who is it?"

Cop: "I think it's God!"

The Chief is even more puzzled and curious, "What makes you think it's God?"

Cop: "His chauffeur is the Pope!"





This beautiful photograph was taken by Australian photographer Claire Takacs and won the Inaugural International Garden Photographer of the Year award in a field of more than 22,000 entries. www.igpoty.com

Tutors' Roster (subject to change)

Monday	9 am - 1 pm	Graham Clark & Lyn Nicholls
	1 pm - 5 pm	David McAdam & Arthur Johnson
Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm	Tony Van der Walle & Wally Gora
	1 pm - 5 pm	Lyall McNeish & Harry Brabin
Wednesday	9 am - 1 pm	Ted Hulbert & Bridget Mahoney
	1 pm - 5 pm	Harry Aguero & Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm	Jim Wade & Dorothy Peters
	1 pm - 5 pm	
Friday	9 am - 1 pm	Ern Cohen & Hugh Walker
	1 pm - 5 pm	Bob Bellini & Ron Peerless

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

Welcome to new members:
Nance HILL; Pam KIDD; Don McINTOSH;
Amy SO; Kevin SO; Evelyn WEST; Leonard WHITBREAD; Lesley WILLIAMS.
If you are not listed here you will be next month.

Booking lessons ahead. Members are reminded to book ahead to ensure their lessons are on days and times to suit. Every Monday morning the past week's roster is taken down and a new one for two weeks hence is put up. This way the training rosters cover a 3 week period & it is up to the members to get their names down early each week. Some only book a week ahead and when they do come for a lesson they often find the next week or two are already heavily booked. The message is - **GET IN EARLY & BOOK AHEAD.** If you cannot get in on a Monday or Tuesday to put your name down on the new sheet, you can phone in and request a day & time and, if available, we will book it for you.



We thank Yvonne Rowse for this cartoon

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.

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 former copies of the Manly Mouse.

www.manlycompals.org.au