

# MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors – Manly Inc.

June 2008

**B**ob Bellini will present our next monthly meeting which will commence 2pm on Thursday 12 June and will be all about choosing an ISP (Internet Service Provider). This is a somewhat complex task as it involves how much one wants to pay upfront, how much one wants to pay monthly, how much one wants or needs to download/upload each month and how to decipher all of the many plans available. Should you sign up for Dial-up access, ADSL, ADSL2 or Cable? We will show you an excellent site that helps you find a suitable ISP – based on the criteria you enter. Learn about downloads and uploads (this area usually confuses many of us) and how they affect your monthly usage allowance.

Do you know how much 1Mb of download relates to and which downloads/uploads cause the biggest drain on your monthly usage? This will be a topical and educational session of interest to all who use the internet. So come along and learn, and then enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow members and tutors over the always welcome afternoon tea that follows our monthly presentations.



**S**ome of the mysterious electronic components hidden inside a computer were revealed by Jack Newton at the May General Meeting. The audience was shown a motherboard and a CPU (central processing unit) together with a hard disk, RAM, cards and other arcane objects that make up a computer. Jack explained how these parts function and described the increase in speed and power of computers as these components have become increasingly powerful since the first PC appeared in the 1980s. He also attempted to simplify some of the computer storage jargon. Jack's slides are reproduced on page 5.



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**W**orldWide Telescope takes you to infinity and beyond. A new free program will effectively turn every computer that downloads it into a mini-planetarium capable of displaying high resolution images of millions of stars, planets and other celestial bodies. The project, called the WorldWide Telescope (WWT), is the result of several years of hard labour by a small team at Microsoft Research, the software company's key R&D centre.

The program works in the same way as many online mapping tools, allowing users to zoom around on an interactive canvas combining images and data drawn from the world's leading astronomical research organisations. It has drawn lavish praise from some of the world's leading space scientists and educators, including Dr Roy Gould of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics. Dr Gould believes the WWT will give amateur astronomers and even complete novices an opportunity to assist the scientific community in furthering their research. "Galileo's telescope started to give us views of the universe that no one else had seen before and we started asking what was out there and why. And I think the WorldWide Telescope is going to do the same thing for the rest of us", he said in a telephone interview.

The WWT comes as a 20MB download and is available from the WorldWide Telescope site. The program only works on the Windows operating system.

This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/05/13/1210444410606.html>

**B**e careful when opening emails. Emails can contain harmful viruses. To get rid of suspect emails permanently you should use Shift and Delete keys together, rather than just Delete. The best rule is "if you suspect it, delete it!" (Brian Winter)



**R**ead The Words - [readthewords.com](http://readthewords.com)  
Some people have amazing stamina when it comes to reading. They churn through 100 page reports and entire books in the time it takes most of us to scan

the newspaper headlines. However, if reading is not your bag, then this site may help. It allows you to upload any kind of document and have it converted to audio.



You can then listen to the document online or download it as an MP3 for playback offline. *David McAdam From 'Unwired' Users Newsletter*

**P**DF It is possible to save documents in Office 2007 applications (Word, Excel, etc.) in PDF format. All it needs is to download the Microsoft add-in from the following link :-

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=F1FC413C-6D89-4F15-991B-63B07BA5F2E5&displaylang=en>

After you install the add-in, you can save files in PDF format by clicking on the Office button and choosing Save as-PDF. *From Bob Bellini*

## Hibernate follow-up

Dear Editor

In the May edition of MM the article on 'Windows Vista Hibernate' makes the statement that: Windows XP's Hibernate allowed applications running in the background to wakeup the computer - thereby rendering Hibernate useless.

This statement is most misleading as hibernating in Windows XP can be used most successfully and, if you find there's a problem, here's how to fix it:

The first and obvious step is to turn off the computer's power after it has hibernated. The computer cannot wake once its power is switched off! Besides which turning off the power is the environmentally friendly energy saving option. When the computer is powered up again it will resume from its pre-hibernation state.

If you don't want to switch the power off, another simple step is to schedule any background running applications to times when they cause no problems; for example, don't schedule an antivirus scan to run in the middle of the night. Alternatively and preferably, uncheck the wake-up option when scheduling the background applications.

Vista's hibernation may be better but XP hibernation is far from useless. *Jack Newton*

**Q**uestion Time. **Q.** I have a reasonably new and powerful machine with Windows XP Pro installed. I would like to install Vista in place of XP. Do I need to buy a full Vista installation or are the much cheaper Vista upgrades adequate? Which version of Vista would you recommend?

**A.** An upgrade will be adequate unless you are planning to upgrade to Home Basic or Premium as only these can be upgraded from XP Home. Otherwise a clean install is likely to be required. As you are not sure what version you want, why do you wish to upgrade? For most users



the operating system is not important. What is more important to most users is the applications they use. The more common applications are word-processing, mail, financial records, antivirus and similar software, possibly games, etc., as well as being able to access all your existing hardware. You will have to work out what you will gain or lose as a result of the upgrade. Apart from cost and time in installing and learning, make sure that all your other hardware will be able to work, even if the computer is OK. Peripherals such as printers and scanners will need to be checked because if there are no Vista drivers for your printer, you will need a new printer as well. My guess is that very few users really need Vista and I suggest that you wait until some program appears that will only run on Vista. *From George Skarbek's Question Time in SMH Next. George Skarbek's book based on Question Time is available from [www.skarbek.com.au](http://www.skarbek.com.au)*

## Letter from Ralph Moritz

Thank you very much; as soon as I can get my new Vista computer and Lexmark printer, copier, scanner to talk to each other and me. I just wish my kids would stop insisting I get into the 22nd century. I also got a Canon digital camera and an Image digital photo frame - Media Player Edition (featuring built-in stereo speakers - remote control) which is still in the box for Christmas. I'm supposed to be in retirement. At least my BigPond is working.

Hooray from Ralph

*Thank you Ralph. We do like input from members so please write to us about anything you find interesting.*

**S**kype users: Don't forget to update regularly. You can do this by going to Skype's Help and click on Check for Updates.



**V**ista Security Beats XP, Microsoft's Windows Vista is 37 percent more secure than its Windows XP ancestor, a security vendor claimed, a rate it hinted was disappointing. Using different data collection techniques, Microsoft has recently asserted that Vista is 60 percent more secure than XP. People still need to practice safe computing and need to have good security software, and keep their machines patched and up-to-date. *Gregg Keizer, Computerworld*

**N**ew computer threat is emerging. U.S. scientists say there might be another emerging threat to computing other than viruses and worms: malicious hardware could soon become a problem. Samuel King and colleagues at the University of Illinois have shown how hackers might gain control of a computer by adding malicious circuits to its processor. Because such circuits interfere with the computer at a deeper level than a virus, they effectively operate "below the radar" of antivirus software, said King. However, sneaking malicious hardware onto a chip isn't as easy as installing a virus. The attackers must either

have access to a chip during its design or manufacture, or be capable of manufacturing their own chips. King told *New Scientist* magazine some Apple iPods and Seagate hard drives were recently found to have been sold with viruses pre-installed, demonstrating their vulnerability. *United Press International*

**P**ic of the bunch. Choice magazine picks a surprising winner, writes Terry Lane. (SMH Digital Life) Here's some news that will set the digital cat among the megapixel pigeons. Choice magazine is rating cameras this month and it reckons that if image quality is your top priority, you should go for the Canon SX100IS. The \$400 compact camera gets an image quality rating of 61% on the Choice table, whereas the Canon 40D DSLR (\$2300) manages a miserable 53%.

In the top 16 cameras rated for image quality there is one DSLR, the Nikon D80. To put it another way, seven DSLRs are rated lower than 15 compacts. However, in Choice October 2007 they say their listed non-SLR cameras are possible replacements for an SLR, **if you are willing to accept the limitations of the compact formula.**

**V**ery interesting Stuff In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase, 'goodnight, sleep tight'.

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them, 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down'. It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'.

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice. [www.takeourword.com](http://www.takeourword.com)

**W**ere you an evacuee during WW2 or do you know someone who was?

The Evacuees Reunion Association (ERA) aims to provide links, support and counselling for former evacuees. It also aims to educate the public about the evacuation and to commemorate the exodus of the three and a half million children from areas at risk of enemy bombing during the Second World War. More details at [www.evacueesreunion.co.uk](http://www.evacueesreunion.co.uk)





**X**P SP3 now available. An easy way to install is to do the upgrade from Windows Update.

You can do that by using any current version of IE and heading to Windows Update. Even easier, go to Start, Help and Support, and select 'Keep your computer up-to-date with Windows Update'. The installer will check to see what you already have on your PC, so the download's sure to be smaller than the full-blown Service Pack. I used Windows Update, and from start to finish--downloading everything, lots of file backups and copying, and an automatic installation it took 25 minutes. Read more at [http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,145810/article.html?tk=nl\\_sbxcol](http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,145810/article.html?tk=nl_sbxcol) or <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=68c48dad-bc34-40be-8d85-6bb4f56f5110&displaylang=en> Don't try this if you are using dial-up. It would take hours. The easiest way is to install from a CD.

**I**nternet travel sites. When looking to book accommodation overseas, how safe are Internet sites such as HotelTravel.com or HotelClub.com?

A huge number of Australians now book accommodation on these websites as well as sites such as AsiaRooms.com and Wotif.com. Given the amount of business they generate, it is in these companies' interests to make sure they are secure. Luckily, reputable sites generally are hacker-safe in a similar way to banks, says David Hall, regional consumer product marketing manager for Symantec. Hall says you can see for yourself whether the site uses encryption (that is, it scrambles the personal information such as a credit card number



so it can only be shared between you and the booking website) by checking that any page where you enter personal data has a padlock icon on the browser frame. The web address on such a page should also start with "https" (the s is for security). In addition, Hall says safety seals such as HackerSafe and eTrust indicate that a site's security has been audited and meets recognised standards. In the case of HotelTravel.com and HotelClub.com, the websites indicate that both use encryption. In addition, HotelClub.com has a "Trusted Shops" seal, giving a money-back guarantee for online shoppers backed by an insurance group. Once you're sure you are dealing with a reputable website, make sure your own computer is secure too. (from SMH Travel)

**S**o who's stupid? Before you bag call centres read these idiotic requests!

CALLER: "I've been ringing 0700 2300 for two days and can't get help."

OPERATOR: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

CALLER: "It was on the door."

OPERATOR: "Sir, those are our opening hours."

CALLER: "Can you give me the telephone number for 'Jack'?"

OPERATOR: "I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about."

CALLER: "In section five of the user guide, it clearly states that I need to 'unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone jack before cleaning'. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?"

OPERATOR: "I think you mean the telephone socket on the wall."

A caller asked for a knitwear company in a place called Woven.

DIRECTORY INQUIRIES: "Woven? Are you sure?"

CALLER: "Yes. That's what it says on the label: 'Woven in Scotland'."

CALLER: "I'd like the number of the Argoed Fish Bar in Cardiff, please."

DIRECTORY INQUIRIES: "I'm sorry, but there's no listing. Is the spelling correct?"

CALLER: "Well it used to be called Bargoed Fish Bar, but the 'B' fell off."

CALLER: "I'd like the number for a reverend in Cardiff, please."

DIRECTORY INQUIRIES: "Do you have his name?"

CALLER: "No, but he has a dog named Ben."

CALLER: "The Union of Shopkeepers and Alligators please."

DIRECTORY INQUIRIES: "Do you mean the Amalgamated Union of Shopkeepers?"

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: "I need you to right dick on the Open Desktop."

CUSTOMER: "OK."

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: "Did you get a pop-up menu?"

CUSTOMER: "No."

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: "OK. Right-click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?"

CUSTOMER: "No."

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: "Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?"

CUSTOMER: "Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'."

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: "OK. In the bottom left-hand side of the screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?"

CALLER: "Wow. How can you see my screen from there?"

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: "Do you have any windows open?"

CALLER: "Yes."

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: "OK, we need to close those windows."

CALLER: "Oh, OK." (Everything is quiet for a few moments.)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: "Are you there?"

CALLER: (After a few more moments) "OK. I had to walk around the room and close all the windows. . . I still can't see my little pictures."

*From another member—Thank you Milton.*



Jack's slides, requested after his Computer Hardware Talk.

**Question: What is a byte?**  
**Answer: In computer jargon a byte is 8 bits and is equivalent to an ASCII character.**

**Question: What is an ASCII character?**  
**Answer: An alpha or numeric character such as a, b, c etc, or 1,2,3 etc**

**Kilo, Mega, Giga and Tera???**

<b>Kilo</b>	(Abbreviation) <b>K</b>	<b>1000 or 10<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Mega</b>	(Abbreviation) <b>M</b>	<b>1000000 or 10<sup>6</sup></b>
<b>Giga</b>	(Abbreviation) <b>G</b>	<b>1000000000 or 10<sup>9</sup></b>
<b>Tera</b>	(Abbreviation) <b>T</b>	<b>1000000000000 or 10<sup>12</sup></b>

**A Guide to Sizes of Some Typical Computer Files**

Type of File	Size of File	Comments
<b>Letter</b>	Approx. 30 Kbytes	i.e. About 500 words (& printer commands)
<b>Digital Photo</b>	56 Kbytes 2 Mbytes	Email size Postcard print size
<b>Music</b>	300 Mbytes 3 Mbytes	WAV file MP3 file
<b>Bluray DVD Movie</b>	up to 50 GBytes	High definition video and audio

**External Storage Devices**

-  •Floppy Disk  
1.4 MBytes
-  •USB Drive  
Up to 64 MBytes
-  •External HDD  
Up to 1 TByte
-  •CD/DVD/Bluray  
•From 700M- to 50 Gbytes

**M**en are just happier people

**EATING OUT**  
 When the bill arrives, Mike, Dave and John will each throw in £20, even though it's only for £32.50. None of them will have anything smaller and none will actually admit they want change back.  
 When the girls get their bill, out come the pocket calculators.

**MONEY**  
 A man will pay £2 for a £1 item he needs.  
 A woman will pay £1 for a £2 item that she doesn't need but it's on sale.

**BATHROOMS**  
 A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel from M&S.

**We welcome reactions to this column!**

The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337.  
 A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

**ARGUMENTS**  
 A woman has the last word in any argument.  
 Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

**FUTURE**  
 A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.  
**SUCCESS**

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend.  
 A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

**MARRIAGE**  
 A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.

A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

**DRESSING UP**  
 A woman will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the bins, answer the phone, read a book, and get the post.

A man will dress up for weddings and funerals.  
**OFFSPRING**

Ah, children. A woman knows all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and romances, best friends, favourite foods, secret fears and hopes and dreams.

A man is vaguely aware of some short people living in the house.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**  
 A married man should forget his mistakes - there's no use in two people remembering the same thing.



**W**elcome to new members: Anne Davey; Margaret Martin; John Byrne; Nancy Christie; Pam Nicholson; Rita Fenelon; Tom Smith; Maureen Smith; Judy Woodley; Patsi Field; Beverly Sundin; Christa Ontalvilla; Adelma Borg; Jan Edwards. If you are not listed here you will be next month.

**B**ooking 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.

Tutors' Roster (subject to change)		
Monday	9 am - 1 pm	Graham Clark & Lyn Nicholls
	1 pm - 5 pm	David McAdam & Jan Schoots
Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm	Nora Takats & 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	Arthur Johnson & Dorothy Peters
	1 pm - 5 pm	Jack Newton & Elaine Clarke
Friday	9 am - 1 pm	Ern Cohen & Brian Winter
	1 pm - 5 pm	Bob Bellini

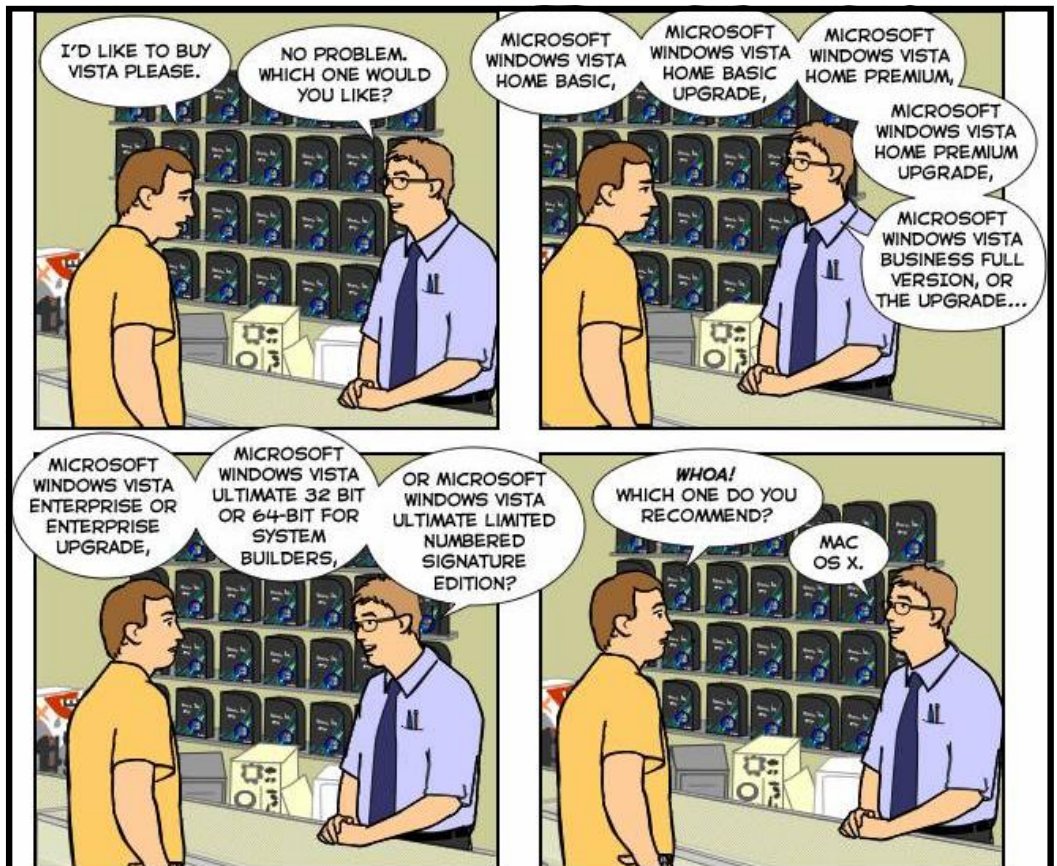
**IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND A CLASS PLEASE PHONE THE CLUB 9976 0930 AND ADVISE THE DUTY TUTOR TO ALTER LIST.**

**M**embers are entitled to book ONE hour per week only. If any member desires additional lessons they can only book these by phoning the club room to find out if there are any vacancies on that particular day. If there are vacancies, they may then book an additional lesson. Under no circumstances are members to enter their name on the training roster more than once per week - other than by following the above procedure. Occasionally, we may need to contact you re your booked training session and this means all members must record their first and last names along with their phone number on the training roster sheets.

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

**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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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](http://www.manlycompals.org.au)