

# MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors – Manly Inc.

March 2009

## SNEAK PREVIEW – Microsoft’s New Windows 7 Beta OS

As many members know Microsoft’s Windows Vista operating system (OS) has not been well received by the computer fraternity: some saying it’s a lemon and a backwards step from Windows XP.

However, whether or not you like Vista, Microsoft intends to replace it later this year with the new Windows 7 OS which was released in January in its Beta test edition. Jack Newton has been having a good look at this new operating system to see how it stacks up against Windows XP and Vista. At our General Meeting 2 pm on March 12 in the Manly Library Meeting Room Jack will give us a preview of it and tell us what he thinks. (The whisper is that Microsoft may well be onto a winner with Windows 7)

Jack will preface his talk on Windows 7 with a simple, readily understood description of how operating systems function – something that all members will be interested to know.



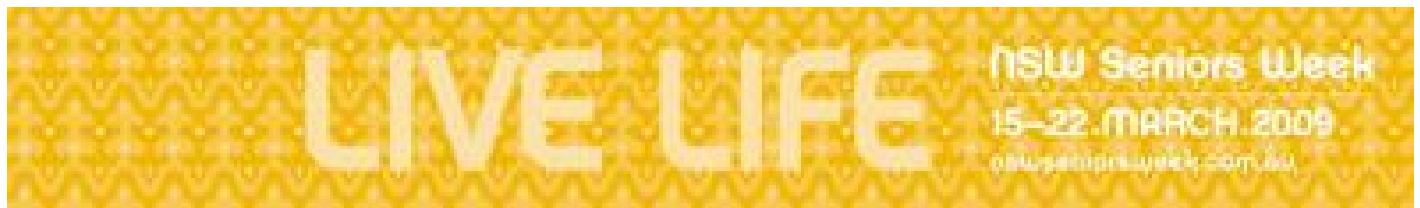
After Jack’s talk there will be a general discussion on a formal program of workshops the club wishes to introduce this year. Previously there have been ad hoc training programs on Basic, Word, Excel, Picasa, Digital Cameras and Internet which have received good support. Your Club Committee would like input from members on the choice of programs for 2009. The participation of members is very necessary to ensure the wants and needs of members are met and you are urged to attend the meeting so that your points of view are heard. Please fill in the attached questionnaire and give to your tutor or bring to the meeting.

Don’t go away then but stay and have a cup of tea or coffee, a biscuit and a chance to talk to and get to know fellow members and tutors. You will meet old friends and make new ones. As you see, Lyn is our charming hostess.



There was a really good crowd attending the last meeting. Graham gave a most useful talk about emailing, particularly with Outlook Express, and this was a good chance for beginners to understand what can be done with email.





**L**ive Life - NSW Seniors Week celebrates the valuable contribution seniors make to our community. The theme, LIVE LIFE, aims to encourage seniors to actively participate at one of the 700 events taking place across NSW during Seniors Week each year. **Manly Computerpals' event is 1 - 4 pm on Thursday 19 March when the club will hold an open day in our club room for interested seniors.**

**N**ew Skype 4.0 software adds full-screen video calls. Skype, the online service that enables people to make free telephone calls via the internet, has overhauled its software to ensure better signal quality and more stable video-calling.

New Skype 4.0 software adds full-screen video calls. Skype has called the new software, which is available as a free download for all Windows users, "the most distinctive new release in the company's five-year history". It brings full-screen video calling to Skype's estimated 35 million active daily users, as well as "crystal clear call quality" and a streamlined interface that's more intuitive and easier to use.

Skype 4.0 also has a built-in bandwidth manager to ensure the performance of video calls even when using a slow internet connection, in an effort to try and keep judder and lag to a minimum.

"Video calling has emerged as a very popular way for people to communicate online" said Mike Bartlett, director of product strategy for Skype. "Whether it's saying hello to your daughter at college or reading a book to your child while you're away on business, video calling lets you have the conversations that make a difference and it really feels almost as good as being there".

Users can also switch more easily between calls, and can keep track of multiple conversations, as well as flit between voice and video calls to friends and family, or instant-messaging and text chats.



The changes have been in development for two years, said Skype, and many of the improvements were based on user feedback.

Skype's service is increasingly being built into other devices, as well as computers. Owners of many of 3's range of mobile phones have a Skype program pre-installed on their handset, which allows them to make free calls via Skype whenever they are in a Wi-Fi internet hot spot.

It is thought that eBay, which bought Skype for \$2.6 billion in 2005, is looking to sell off the service. The online auction company's chief executive, John Donahue, said recently that Skype was "a great stand-alone business". *UK Telegraph Technology*

**You will notice that March Manly Mouse looks different. It has been suggested that one column is easier to read online than the usual two. What do you think? Email your opinion to [gwyneth@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gwyneth@bigpond.net.au)**



## India to unveil the £7 laptop

The credit crunch computer is set to arrive in India when officials unveil the 500 rupee (£7.25) laptop. In an attempt to bridge the "digital divide" in the country between rich and poor, the government will show off the prototype, low-cost laptop as the centrepiece of an ambitious e-learning program to link 18,000 colleges and 400 universities across the country.

India has a reputation for creating ultra-cheap technologies, a trend sparked last year by the Tata Nano, the world's cheapest car at Rs100,000 (£1,450).

The computer, known as Sakshat, which translates as "before your eyes", will be launched as part of a new Rs46bn "national mission for education". This envisages a network of laptops from which students can access lectures, coursework and specialist help from anywhere in India, triggering a revolution in education. A number of publishers have reportedly agreed to upload portions of their textbooks on to the system.

Prabhakar Rao, vice-chancellor of the university in Andhra Pradesh from where the Sakshat will be launched, said that India was "looking to get the hardware and software cheaper. In a developing country, costs have to be kept low so that the maximum number of students will benefit. That means cheap computers and cheap broadband access, so that students get access to ebooks and ejournals".

Although half of India's 1 billion people are aged below 25, the country has fallen behind in terms of university places, with only 11% of students enrolled, compared with double that in China. India's bigger northern neighbour already has 180 million internet users, five times India's total.

Designed by scientists at the Vellore Institute of Technology, the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras and the state-controlled Semiconductor Complex, the laptop has 2Gb of Ram and wireless connectivity. In an attempt to keep costs low, experts say it is unlikely to use familiar Microsoft Windows software.

Officials have been reluctant to talk about the project ahead of the launch, however, one did say that costs have been kept low by using students and researchers to do much of the designing. He said that in 2007 the cost was \$47, but further refinements meant it dropped dramatically.

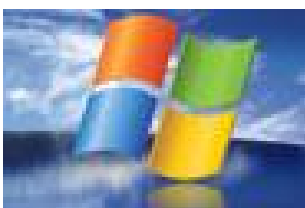
### Low-cost inventions

- India saw the launch of the \$2,000 (£1,410) "people's car" by the motor company Tata last year.
- Wind-up everything. Since Trevor Bayliss invented the wind-up radio in 1989 the technology has spread. Wind-up power is now common in camping equipment and is being installed in African villages to provide lighting.
- DIY-adjustable glasses. The brainchild of British inventor Josh Silver, whose aim is to offer the specs to a billion of the world's poorest by 2020.
- In Kenya Equity Bank recently launched mobile banking, which allows customers to deposit, transfer and withdraw cash using a mobile phone.

guardian.co.uk © Guardian News and Media Limited 2009

## Windows XP's Days are Really Numbered Now. Gregg Keizer, Computerworld

In a few weeks, Microsoft Corp. will begin to retire Windows XP by shifting the seven-year-old OS into a more limited support plan.



Windows XP, Microsoft's most successful operating system ever, will leave what the company calls "mainstream support" on April 14, and enter "extended support". Typically, Microsoft keeps a product in the former for five years, then moves it into the latter for another five, for a total of 10 years. However, the long span between the releases of XP and its successor, Windows Vista, forced the company to push out the support deadline to 13 years altogether.

By Microsoft policy, mainstream support delivers free fixes - for security patches and other bug fixes - to everyone. During extended support, all users receive all security updates, but non-security hot fixes are provided only to companies that have signed support contracts with Microsoft.



## **C**omputer terms Windows all versions Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask

**Adware** - A free program supported by advertising; cousin of spyware.

**Blog** - from "Web log" - Personal web page where the author can post their views and experiences and receive comments.

**BMP** - Bitmap. A proprietary Windows graphics format. BMP has largely been replaced by other file types like JPG, GIF and PNG.

**Bookmarks** - A list of your favourite web sites. Internet Explorer calls them "Favourites".

**Browser** - A software program that displays web pages such as Internet Explorer, Firefox and Chrome.

**Compression** - A method of reducing the storage space a file takes up. Files must be decompressed before they are useable.

**Cookie** - A text file that is used to track visits to web sites and remembers user preferences.

**Domain name** - A URL or Address of a web site on the Internet, i.e. Microsoft.com, Google.com, Thundercloud.net.

**Download** - Simply means transferring a file from another computer to your own computer.

**Driver** -Software required for Windows to use a piece of hardware such as a graphics card. Sometimes software programs require drivers too.

**Execute** - To run a program; to carry out a program's function.

**Executable** - A Windows program that runs (executes) when you click or double click it; carries the file extension .exe.

**Freeware** - Software that is free to download and use for as long as you like with no restrictions, no ads, and no spyware.

**Hardware** - Physical parts of a computer system such as the hard disk, keyboard, printer, etc.

**HTML**- Hypertext Markup Language. The code that makes up a web page.

**HTTP** Hypertext Transfer Protocol it's a protocol (a language) for data to be passed back and forth between web servers and clients.

**HTTPS** The computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on.

**Home Page** -The main page of a web site, often an entrance or welcome page.

**Hyperlink** - A text or graphic you click on to go to a different page or a different web site.

**Internet** - All the Internet consists of is a very large and extensive collection of inter-connected computers and computer networks.

**Modem** - Device that links a computer to the Internet through telephone lines, cable, DSL, or mobile broadband.

**MP3** - Compressed audio file that allows full length songs to be transferred across the Internet.

**Netiquette** - Acceptable online behaviour.

**Online** - Connected to the Internet; anything on the Internet.

**Phishing** -Fraudulent e-mails and/or web sites that attempt to trick you into giving them personal information.

**Plug-in** - Extra programs that can be installed into larger programs to handle special tasks, such as browser plug-ins which allow you to play certain types of audio or video files in a browser or allow you to perform certain specialised functions. Also known as extensions, add-ins, or add-ons.

**Podcast** - Internet audio broadcast that can be played back on PCs or MP3 players such as the iPod.

**Program** -A set of instructions to make a computer carry out a task.

**Rootkit** -Software that hides system files and itself and can allow attackers to access your computer undetected.

**Router** - Device used to form Internet networks and allow data to be accessed by two or more computers

**RSS** - Really Simple Syndication - a system to feed you news stories from web sites.

**Server** - A computer that hosts web sites and Internet data and files and can send it to another computer when requested.

**Shareware** - Software that is free to download but requires you to pay for it if you want to continue using it after the trial period expires. Also called "trialware".

**Shortcut** - A link you can click to go directly to a particular program or web page.

**Social Networking** - Web sites based on user communication and which relies on users to add content.

**Software** -A program or a set of instructions to make a computer carry out a task.



**Spyware** -Software that tracks your movements on the Web and collects data about you and the way you use your computer. Most often used for advertising purposes (target advertising). Spyware is distributed for the purpose of making money. When a spyware program collects data about you and how you use your computer, it does so without your knowledge or consent.

**Stream** - Music or video files that start playing immediately as soon as it begins downloading.

**Trojan** - Malicious program often disguised as useful software generally used to broadcast data from your computer to another without your knowledge.

**Upload** - Send a file from your computer to a Web server.

**URL**- Uniform Resource Locator. The address of a web site on the World Wide Web.

**Virus** - Destructive and self-replicating computer program that infects computers and has the potential to damage computer files.

**Vlog** - Video web log; video blog

**VoIP** -Voice over Internet Protocol - voice conversations across the Internet.

**Web Page** - An individual page on a web site.

**Web Site** -A collection of connected web pages located at a particular domain name.

**Wiki** - Web site that can be edited by users to add information.

**Worm** - A malicious program or executable code that uses infected PCs to spread itself to other computers.

*Cloudeight*

## Keyboard Shortcuts You Need to Know

These shortcuts work in just about every text editor known to humanity, from Word to WordPad to WordPress.

**Ctrl-Shift-Right Arrow:** Selects the word immediately to the right of the cursor.

**Ctrl-Shift-Left Arrow:** Selects the word immediately to the left of the cursor.

**Ctrl-Home:** Selects all text from the cursor's current position to the beginning of the line.

**Ctrl-End:** Selects all text from the cursor's current position to the end of the line.

**Ctrl-C:** Copies selected text to the clipboard.

**Ctrl-X:** Cuts (i.e. temporarily deletes) selected text and copies it to the clipboard.

**Ctrl-V:** Pastes whatever text has been copied to the keyboard.

Once you master these shortcuts, you'll find yourself working much more quickly in Word and similar programs. So put down that mouse and keep your hands on the keys where they belong.

## Retirement with a grin

Recently I was checking my finances and thinking about retirement, as everyone does when they hit their 60s.

I saw an article about nursing and retirement homes and their expenses. Then it hit me...No nursing home for me!

Here is my plan: I'm checking into the Inn!

With the average cost for a nursing home reaching \$188 per day, there is a better way when we get old and feeble. I checked on reservations at the Inn and found that for a combined long-term stay discount and senior discount, it's \$49.23 per night. That leaves \$138.77 a day for breakfast, lunch, dinner in any restaurant I want, or room service, (and some hotels are now offering a complimentary breakfast every morning, too).

This will leave enough for laundry, gratuities, and special TV movies. Plus, I'll get a swimming pool, a workout room, a lounge, and washer and dryer. I'll also get free toothpaste, razors, shampoo and soap. And one can't forget the daily changed bath towels, plenty of toilet paper, ice for my water and pop, free paper cups and a free newspaper at my door in the morning.

And I'll be treated like a customer, not a patient. Five dollars worth of tips a day will have the entire staff scrambling to help me.

There is a city bus stop out front, and seniors ride free. The handicap bus will also pick me up if I fake a decent limp. To meet other nice folks you can call for a church bus on Sundays. For a change of scenery, take the airport shuttle bus and eat at one of the nice restaurants there. While you're at the airport, fly somewhere. Meanwhile, the cash





keeps building up....

In a retirement home, 24/7 nurse service will cost more than \$190 - so staying at the Inn and paying for a personal nurse may still be the better option. And if I'm really lucky, I might find a Hotel next to a hospital, which means I'll only have a 1 minute ambulance ride!

The Inn also has a lounge so I have a place to visit with friends. And no worries about visits from family. They will always be glad to visit you, and probably check in for a few days for a mini vacation. The grand kids can use the pool. What more can you ask for?

When I discussed my plan with friends, they came up with even more benefits that Inn provides retirees. Most standard rooms have coffee makers, reclining chairs, and as mentioned earlier, a satellite TV - all that's needed to enjoy a cosy afternoon. After a movie and a good nap, you can check on your children (free local phone calls), then take a stroll to the lounge or restaurant where you meet new and exotic people every day.

Many Inns even feature live entertainment on the weekends. Often they have special offers, too, like the Kids Eat Free program. You can invite your grand kids over after school to have a free dinner with you. Just tell them not to bring more than three friends

Pick an Inn where they allow pets, and your best friend can keep you company as well.

If you want to travel, but are a bit skittish about unfamiliar surroundings, you'll always feel at home because wherever you go, the rooms all look the same. And if you're getting a little absent-minded in your old days, you never have to worry about not finding your room -- your electronic key fits only one door and the helpful bell man or desk clerk is on duty 24/7.



Being natural sceptics, we called an Inn to check out the feasibility of my plan. I'm happy to report that they were positively giddy at the idea of us checking in for a year or more. They

even offered to negotiate the rate. We could have easily knocked them down to \$40 a night! "So, when I reach the golden age I'll face it with a grin. Just forward all your emails to the Inn!" *Graham*

**I**t is not how old you are, but how you are old. - Jules Renard (1864-1910)

**Tutors' Roster (subject to change)**

|           |             |   |
|-----------|-------------|---|
| Monday    | 9 am - 1 pm | Graham Clark & Lyn Nicholls<br>David McAdam & Arthur Johnson  |
|           | 1 pm - 5 pm |   |
| Tuesday   | 9 am - 1 pm | Jim Wade & Wally Gora<br>Lyaal McNeish & Harry Brabin         |
|           | 1 pm - 5 pm |   |
| Wednesday | 9 am - 1 pm | Ted Hulbert & Bridget Mahoney<br>Harry Aguerro & Elaine Johns |
|           | 1 pm - 5 pm |   |
| Thursday  | 9 am - 1 pm | Tony Vanderwalle & Dorothy Peters                             |
|           | 1 pm - 5 pm |   |
| Friday    | 9 am - 1 pm | Ern Cohen & Hugh Walker<br>Bob Bellini                        |
|           | 1 pm - 5 pm |   |

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

**Welcome to new members Bev BASHFORD; Dorothy BASHFORD; Margaret BURGESS; Ena ISBISTER; Keith ISBISTER; Margaret LAME; Suzanne MARKER; Elizabeth MOLINIA; Faye SEENEY; Nancy SYKES.. If you are not mentioned here you will be next month**

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

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)**