

# MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors - Manly Inc.

March 2010

**M**arch General Meeting will be held on Thursday 11 March at 2 pm in the Manly Library Meeting Rom. Annette Taylor of the Commonwealth Bank will demonstrate Online

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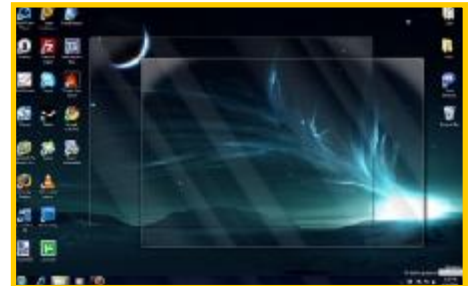
(Internet) Banking. Annette is Manager, Net-bank Support, Online Banking & Sales. Her presentation will be generic and applicable to all banking institutions and will show you how Internet Banking is a convenient and safe way to do your banking on the Internet; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week providing fast secure access to all your accounts. Annette

will answer your questions, particularly those from members who worry about safety. Finally we can all chat together while having tea or coffee and biscuits.

**T**ed Hulbert gave us a good start to our 2010 monthly meetings when he talked about Microsoft's new Operating System, Windows 7. He asked how many of us were using Windows 7 and found there were only two in the meeting. So it was a question



of whether to upgrade or not. If you are already on Vista then you will find Windows 7 will start and close more quickly. It is generally thought to be similar but better than



Vista. New computers will be bought with Windows 7 on them and therefore many members will use it eventually. If you have XP and you like it there is no rush to change although Microsoft will not support XP after 2014. It is important to understand what an Operating System does. It is the essential program in a computer that maintains disk files, runs applications and handles devices such as the mouse and printer.



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## The President's Column

Manly Computerpals bought a shiny new Apple iMac in the second half of 2009 and we now have several members being tutored on its use. Inevitably there has been argument on which is the better system - an Apple iMac or a Windows PC? I first encountered this argument in 1985 when I was the General Manager of a company that ran Apple Macintoshes in its Victorian division and IBM PCs in NSW. As PC clones started to be made around that time the decision simply involved deciding on whether the Mac's superior technology outweighed the big price advantage of the IBM clones.\*

In the intervening quarter of a century the argument continues with the iMac now becoming more price competitive with the PC and the PCs becoming increasingly technologically competitive with the iMac. It's a bit like the Ford versus Holden feud where the decision is emotional - irrespective of whether you're a Ford or a Holden enthusiast - it's a case of "my mind's made up, don't confuse me with facts!".

However, as a club, we gratefully acknowledge the tremendous assistance we have received

over the years from Microsoft. Just this year we have received from Microsoft, via Donortec, thousands of dollars worth of software at a fraction of its retail value. This software subsidy is made available to not-for-profit clubs such as Manly Computerpals that otherwise could scarcely afford the necessary and essential software. Two or three years ago Apple refused to help Manly Computerpals when it asked for assistance in obtaining an Apple computer and the Apple company still does not offer any such support or subsidy for the iMac.

The debate continues ...

Jack Newton

Note: \* I chose to standardise on PCs because of their price advantage (and because far more peripheral hardware and applications were available for PCs).

**Manly Mouse delivery.** Our committee is discussing the electronic and mail-out distribution of Manly Mouse and will report back on its conclusions next month.

**Photographs.** The photos on page 1 were not very good. Would any member like to volunteer to take the photos at our meetings? You could use the Club's camera or your own.

**Articles in Manly Mouse.** These come from many sources such as newspapers and magazines and also from non-members (there is one on page 3) but very rarely from our members. However, this month we have poems from Keith Isbister. Send contributions to [gwyneth@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gwyneth@bigpond.net.au) Anything you would like to share with members, words or pictures and don't be afraid to ask questions. Someone will try to give an answer.





**K**armic Cash. The other day I watched a program that talked about Karmic Cash and I thought that there are so many ways to create it in this area. I'll give a simple example.

Since moving here, I have been amazed how people can just dump good items in the rain for the Council to collect. Microwaves, mattresses, sofas, house and garden stuff, old curtains, kids' toys, electrical items.

Many of these can be recycled and used by someone !!!

Why not first check if there are any re-use options on [www.recyclingnearlyou.com.au/](http://www.recyclingnearlyou.com.au/) There are a number of charities on this website, or you could ask the local charities whether they accept such items.

Also you could join these on-line communities: [www.reuseitnetwork.org/aus.htm](http://www.reuseitnetwork.org/aus.htm) or [www.freecycle.org.au](http://www.freecycle.org.au) and send an email to the local group to donate to them.

There are hundreds of people in these two recycling schemes in your local area who are keen to come to your house, collect and re-use these items, all for free.

Last year I donated old plants, paints, curtains, a dismantled MDF shelf and electrical goods !!!

I also received a big composter, worms, and kids' stuff.

I know that the council try their best to recycle, but a damp item which spent 2 days in the rain is certainly landfill.

Going back to the theory of karmic cash, by looking a bit harder for a better re-use of everything you do not need, the goodwill will come back to you in double.

Thank you, Mara

**B**uying books online. No doubt you know about amazon.com, online shopping for millions of new and used books on thousands of topics at everyday low US prices plus postage. The used books are often good as new. I bought *The brain that changes itself* for US\$1 plus postage. I'm



sure it had never been opened. These used books are sourced from booksellers all over US so if you order several books from different booksellers you will pay postage on each. Another excellent source of books is UK's The Book Depository with 2.2 million books at low UK prices in



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Of course you should support your local bookseller but books are expensive. If you desperately want a



book instantly the way to go is by Kindle or iPad.



## Should You Allow Java on Your Computer?

Yes, you do need the Java runtime environment or you will be frustrated quite often. If you encounter a website with an embedded Java app, and you don't have Java installed (or enabled) you'll just see an empty space where the program should be displaying. Many sites will provide a helpful link to where you can download the Java runtime environment from Sun Microsystems, the developer of Java. Even cell phones commonly push Java at users. But what is Java, and why should you install or enable it?

Java is an operating system, like Windows or Mac OS or Linux. Java consists of many software components that work together to provide a "cross-platform environment". Essentially, that means a program written in the Java programming language will run on any type of computing platform, not just on an Intel or Apple or Nokia piece of hardware; provided, of course, that the essential Java operating components are present. That's where the Java runtime environment becomes necessary.

Java is handy for programmers; they need only write a program once and not worry about whether the user has a PC or a Mac computer, or be concerned with which browser is being used. So go ahead and install the Java runtime. It won't hurt, if you have sufficient computing resources.

Is Java Safe?

Java is touted as a secure computing environment, one that makes it difficult for bad guys to snoop, cripple, or take over your computer.

When the Java runtime is running in memory, you may see a "steaming coffee cup" icon in the system tray. It may persist after you close your browser or otherwise stop using a Java application. Don't worry, the Java runtime will end itself and the icon will go away after a short while.

*Ask Bob Rankin*



**M**icrosoft warns of lapsing Windows support. Vista RTM's support expires in two months, XP SP2's and Windows 2000's in five. Gregg Keizer

Just days after Microsoft warned Windows 7 users of an impending shutdown of the free release candidate, the company reminded customers running Windows 2000, XP and Vista of approaching support deadlines for those editions.

The closest cut off is April 13, when Microsoft will drop support for Vista RTM (release to manufacturing), the term used for the build the company launched at retail in January 2007. After that date -- it's also April's Patch Tuesday -- Microsoft will not provide security updates for Vista RTM, said Jerry Bryant, a senior manager with the Microsoft Security Response Center (MSRC).

Instead, users should upgrade to Vista Service Pack 1 (SP1), or preferably, Vista SP2, Bryant said. Microsoft shipped SP1 and SP2 in March 2008 and May 2009, respectively.

Both Windows 2000 and Windows XP face support deadlines of July 13, 2010, Bryant added in an entry last week to the MSRC blog.

Microsoft will retire Windows 2000 from all support in July, ending all security patches for the operating system that celebrates its 10-year anniversary this month.

Windows XP SP2, the popular 2004 update that beefed up the security of the under-attack OS, will also exit support July 13. To continue receiving bug patches, users must upgrade to XP SP3, the May 2008 update. Bryant claimed that "many" customers are still using XP SP2, and urged them to upgrade to either SP3 or Windows 7.

According to Web metrics company NetApplications.com, Windows XP powered 66% of the machines that were online last month, while Vista ran 17.5% and Windows 2000 a puny 0.6%.

Gregg Keizer covers Microsoft, security issues, Apple, Web browsers and general technology breaking news for Computerworld. Follow Gregg on Twitter at [@gkeizer](#) or subscribe to Gregg's RSS feed . His e-mail address is [gkeizer@ix.netcom.com](mailto:gkeizer@ix.netcom.com).



**C**omputer users over 55 are the fastest growing group to sign up to social networking websites such as Facebook and MySpace, which they use to connect with family and friends.

The online community has responded by creating groups such as "My grandma is on Facebook", "My granny is on Facebook and I love it" and "Proud Nannas, Grandmas, Pas and Grandpas on Facebook" in recent months.

Laurel Papworth, a social network expert, said: "Senior citizens are time-rich and want to go where their grandchildren will go.

"From January 2009 we began to see this shift where senior citizens were signing up to Facebook."

Anne-Marie Elias, of the NSW Council on the Ageing, said seniors were far more technologically savvy than previous generations.

"We're talking about the baby boomer generation, who have been in a working environment where they had a computer," Ms Elias said.

"Facebook is a really great facility that enables senior members to keep in contact with their families and friends who may be overseas, or living next door. For the older generation, and particularly the immigrant population, Facebook is not just a networking tool but a tool to find your loved ones anywhere in the world."

Sirkka Duncan, 63, logs on to Facebook more than once a day, connecting with Finnish and Australian family members.

"At first I was very apprehensive to use Facebook - it was like going down a dark alleyway," she said.

As a member of the Australian Seniors Computer Club Association, Ms Duncan has in the past six months instructed more than 300 seniors. One of her students is the association president, Nan Bosler, 75, who uses Facebook to keep in contact with her grandchildren.

"Sirkka taught me how to use Facebook about six months ago," Ms Bosler said. "As a former teacher, one of my students found me and asked to be my friend. That was lovely." *Sun Herald*



## The Mac Teacher

Computerpals brings us together down Manly way  
we go there to learn what our computers can do  
There are different brands but our Apple Mac is just  
fine it's so brand new  
It sits there waiting for us in line  
They try to teach us to press the right key  
To put the words in place where they're meant to be  
Without making a mistake and getting it right in time  
It so hard at times the teachers must get frustrated  
They tell you this and you do that it's not in line  
You don't know where you're at but it will turn out fine  
Our teachers are so patient they have been there before  
It used to make them climb the wall  
but they now know it all  
That's why our teachers are the best  
Down at Manly computer pals  
That's where they leave behind all the rest  
Each lesson goes by so quick  
Sometimes you don't have time to think  
But eventually we will get there soon and know all  
there is to know and how they work  
About those computers we will learn to love and master  
It's them or us but I know we will win  
Keep on in there and listen to our teachers.

Shelbourne Isbister Jan 2010

## The scams we can have

I went searching on the Google It can tell you everything, you know  
On cats and dogs and even about snow  
My problem was with a camera  
The information was surely there  
But as I pressed the go button The edges around the subject were a mass of lights, bells and flares  
You see I was the millionth visitor  
I had won a major prize they told me so  
I filled the form as they did instruct  
and sent it off post hast  
To find out about my good luck I could not wait  
The days went by and I forgot about that win  
Then the phone call from old U.S.A. came tingling down the line like a sharks fin  
Oh !! You are so lucky sir you've won a marvellous trip  
Seven days in Orlando then four days on a ship  
You'll visit Disney World and the Bahamas too  
Oh !! You are so lucky sir you must be getting excited  
And so their spiel went on and on they 'd done it all before  
The only cost you're up for, is what they said  
Are all the port taxes so you can go ashore  
So please give me you visa card number now  
So I can set in train to get your tickets to you soon  
The four card trick had reared it's ugly head again  
A scam it seemed I had fallen for like many other people  
When it comes to my cards no one gets my numbers



I'll pay the taxes when I get there just send the tickets now  
 I will be obliged if you will do that so get on with the job  
 And make me more excited as you said to me before  
 But alas they would not do it was against the company rules  
 So there goes my trip which I thought was in the bag  
 It will teach me to not brag  
 And always believe  
 What Google puts upon my screen  
 For it's not their fault really it was mine alone you see  
 So please be warned, be careful of those scams  
 Don't fall for them like muggins me.  
 Shelbourne Isbister Jan 2010

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



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 Aguero & Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Dorothy Peters & Jack Newton 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.**

**W**elcome to new members:  
 Suzanne AUBRUN; Anne BYRNE;  
 Lucy CONNAH; Marjorie DAY;  
 Lynne FOWLER; Joan HAWKINS;  
 Tom ROBINSON; Elizabeth SZABO;  
 Marie URWYLER; Ann VILLEFROMOY

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](http://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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