

MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors – Manly Inc.

March 2011

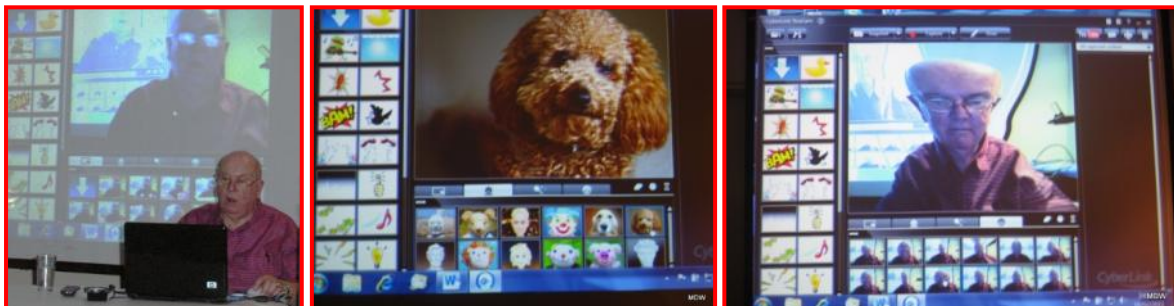
Bob Bellini is back! And on **10 March at 2 pm** in the Manly Library Meeting Room he will give us a talk entitled

The 2010 Computer Oscars—the Critics' Choice



If you are thinking of buying a new PC or laptop now or later this will be very helpful. As usual door prizes and afternoon tea will follow.

Graham Clark started off our 2011 meetings with a really interesting, useful and amusing talk about the improvements in Word 10 over earlier versions – one being the ability to remove the background from a photo and then put the person/object onto a completely different photo and background. Also Word 10 allows greater choice in saving documents and has an instant PDF converter of files. The option to instantly copy and paste a “screenshot” from a web-page or another document, and insert it into a new document is a big plus over earlier versions. After running through all of the changes in Word, he then changed tack and had a look at laptop webcams as many laptop owners are unaware of the useful programs (depending on manufacturer) that usually allow you to do all sorts of funny effects -either for a video you might be making, or for when you are talking on Skype.



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Don't get CONNED.

I have seen a number of "confidence" tricks going around the Internet during the last month. The first one started with a phone call from a man who claimed that he was from Microsoft and that they had found that there was a problem with this lady's computer and that it was flooding the internet with spurious emails. He offered to fix the problem for several hundred dollars. My friend asked for his name and telephone number, and when he refused to give it she hung up. The funny thing was that he rang back a few seconds later and abused her for hanging up on him.

The second one that I saw was an advertisement appearing on the computer screen on starting the computer saying that a certain company had discovered hundreds of viruses on this computer and again offering to fix the computer for \$200.00 dollars. My friend sent the money and never heard from the company again. The interesting thing with this one is that the name of the company looked legitimate except for a very small difference. He is now trying to get his money back. I don't like his chances.

The last one was again an advertisement appearing on the computer screen on start up, saying that this company had discovered viruses on this computer and offering to fix the problem for \$20.00. He sent the money but the same advertisement appeared the next week. He sent the money again. The third time he called me.

I repeat **Don't get CONNED** GO TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST IF YOU NEED HELP. Ted Hulbert

Thank you, Ted, for these wise words.



During Seniors Week we are inviting any senior interested in computing to drop into the Computerpals Club Room in Manly Seniors Centre, 275 Pittwater Road Manly any day and see our one-to-one teaching in action. Tell your friends.

Internet Archive is a non-profit digital library offering free universal access to books, movies & music, as well as 150 billion archived web pages.

www.archives.org You are bound to find something interesting there.

Members! This is your newsletter. We welcome your contributions. Tell other members what you've been doing, what you think of computing, what you would like the club to do. In fact, tell us anything.





Is Your Password Hacker Proof?

You wouldn't lock up your car and leave the key in the door as you walked away. But many people do essentially the same thing when they create weak passwords for their online accounts. Don't make it easy for hackers to plunder your bank account or go on an online spending spree with your credit card. Here are some tips to help you create and manage passwords.

How Secure is Your Password?

If you can remember your password, it's not strong enough. Short passwords composed of familiar words and only alphabetical characters are easy pickings for "brute force" password-cracking software. Such software simply cycles through all possible combinations of letters until it hits the set that works. This is why many Web sites insist that you create a password of 8 characters or more, and include at least one non-alphabetical character. But 8 characters is a poor compromise between security and user convenience. Actually, 12 or more characters are needed to make a password that would take too long to crack with brute force. Don't limit yourself to numbers and alphabetical characters either. Use some special characters such as !#% ^*+ and so on.

Using the same password everywhere you need one is a bad idea, too. If that password is cracked, a bad guy has a master key to your email, bank account, credit cards, Facebook page, and everything else a password is supposed to keep him out of. Create a unique password for every online account you create, or at least for the most critical financial accounts.

Many sites let users choose a "security question" from a list and supply a supposedly secret answer that will serve to confirm your identity in case you lose or forget your password. But think about what you've posted online, and what's available through public records. Your mother's maiden name and the high school you attended are not secrets. Whenever possible, create your own security question with an answer that can't be Googled.

Managing Your Passwords

The leading Web browsers ask, by default, "Do you want (Firefox or Internet Explorer) to remember your password for this site?" Well, of course you don't! Letting a Web browser automatically fill in your password is like telling your car to turn the key for whoever touches the door handle. Disable this "feature" and don't store passwords in your browser.

If you follow these guidelines, you will need help managing passwords. Password management software such as KeePass and Roboform help you create strong passwords, then store them in encrypted databases. A master password gives you access to the database as needed. Make it as complex as you can remember.

Just as it's a good idea to keep car keys safely in your pocket, it pays to use a removable storage device to store and use your password management software. It can be as inexpensive as a generic USB flash drive that hangs on a keychain, or a more sophisticated device like the \$49.95 Mandylion Password Manager. The Mandylion generates and stores up to 50 passwords with "military grade" encryption.

If you want to take it one step further, look into a security feature called 2-step verification. This can make your online accounts more secure by helping to verify that you are truly the owner of an account. You may have already seen this on some banking websites. For some transactions, your username and password are not enough. After logging in, you may need a pin code sent to you in a phone or text message, before completing a transaction. Google is now offering this type of enhanced security for Google accounts such as Gmail, Google Docs, etc.

Ask Bob Rankin: askbobrankin.com



Why great care and consideration should be taken when selecting the proper password



What is the difference between http and https ?

I don't know how many of you are aware of this difference, but it is worth sending to any that do not.

The main difference between http:// and https:// is all about keeping you secure. HTTP stands for Hyper Text Transfer Protocol.

The S (big surprise) stands for "Secure". If you visit a website or web page and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: http://. This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular unsecured language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website. If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site.



This is why you never ever enter your credit card number in an http website! But if the web address begins with https:// that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on.

You understand why this is so important, right?

If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with https://. If it doesn't, you should NEVER enter sensitive information... such as a credit card number.

PASS IT ON (You may save someone a lot of grief). *Thank you Lyn*

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

Day/ course No.	Time	March/April 2011 Courses/Workshops
Mondays 7, 14, 28 3 weeks	1 9.00am - 11.00am	Introduction to "Improve your digital images" - for example how to repair old scratched photos or remove colour casting in digital images.
14 & 28 4 hr Workshop in 2 sessions	2 11.30 am - 1.30 pm	More digital image manipulation - Creating a layered image and more. Understanding of digital image program tools is essential.
Tuesdays One day Workshops 8 or 15	3 9.30am - 4.00 pm	This is a full day workshop for ASCCA club trainers concentrating on Windows 7, Windows Live Mail and Microsoft Office 2010 Ribbon.
Wednesdays 1 day Workshops 16 or 30	4 10.00am - 1.30 am	Website Design and Maintenance - This workshop covers the basics of how to create and maintain your own website. It focuses on topics such as website templates, simple HTML, hosting, maintenance and how to measure the activity on the site which are all important aspects of website creation. By the end of the workshop, you will feel much more confident about the various steps involved in the creation and maintenance of a website. The workshop will be conducted at a gentle pace by our experienced tutor and each student will be given the opportunity to gain hands-on experience throughout the day.
Wednesdays 9, 16, 30 3 weeks	5 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Windows 7, Libraries & Media Player
Thursdays 4 Weeks 3, 10, 17, 31	6 9.00am - 11.00 am	Internet IE8 & Email for Beginners - This program offers instruction in basic Internet literacy including E-mails using Windows Live Mail, with information allowing learners to find their way around the Internet to research information. Learn how to surf the Net and effectively use your Browser tools. You don't have to own a computer or have the Internet to have an email address.
3, 10, 17, 31	7 11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Introducing Word 2010 - we will have a look at some of the new features in Word 2010, this course will be useful for those who are new to the Ribbon features

More information: 9286 3871 or email office@ascca.org.au

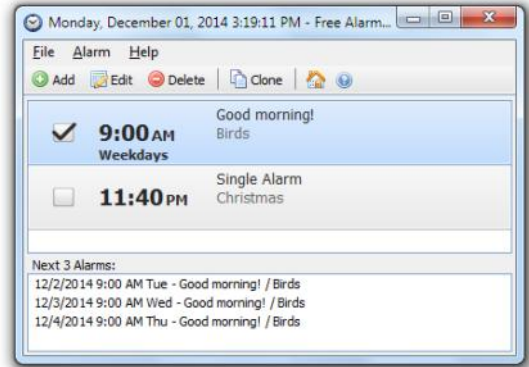


A free, full-featured and user-friendly alarm clock <http://freealarmclocksoftware.com>



This freeware program allows you to set as many alarms as you want. You can set one-time alarm or repeating alarms - activate only from Monday through Friday and give you a chance to sleep on the weekends.

Label different alarms to indicate activities you must do at the sound of the alarm. After you set the time, date and sound for each alarm, you can use a text field to write a note to yourself as a reminder about the alarm's purpose.



How Long Have You Owned a Car?



Mr. Allen Swift (Springfield, MA.) received this 1928 Rolls-Royce Piccadilly P1 Roadster from his father, brand new as a graduation gift in 1928.

He drove it up until his death at the age of 102 !!!

He was the oldest living owner of a car from new. Just thought you'd like to see it.

He donated it to a Springfield museum after his death. It has 170,000 miles on it, still runs like a Swiss watch, dead silent at any speed and is in perfect cosmetic condition. 82 years, that's approximately 2000 miles per year. I guess it was no longer under warranty. *Thank you Remo*



Welcome to new members:

Elaine Boyd, Patty Dawson, Anne Harney, Audrey Hedger, Evelyn Hodgson, Marjorie Maycock, Norma Walker, Bev Wilcher, Kaye Zammit, Dr Alison Beard, Dawn Balken, Dagmar Cook, Jan Fitzsimmons, Pauline Gazzard, Peter Newton

If you are not listed here you will be next month.

Tutors' Roster (subject to change)		
Monday	9 am - 1 pm	Graham Clark & Lyn Nicholls
	1 pm - 5 pm	Arthur Johnson & David McAdam
Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm	Philip Bratel & Nora Takats
	1 pm - 5 pm	Lyall McNeish & Tony Wu
Wednesday	9 am - 1 pm	Ted Hulbert
	1 pm - 5 pm	Harry Aguero & Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm	Bridget Mahoney & Tony van der Walle
	1 pm - 5 pm	
Friday	9 am - 1 pm	Ern Cohen & John Brooks
	9 am - 5 pm	Bob Bellini Mac only

Latest news from Hugh Walker

I am feeling as if I am beginning to mend now; after all it is over 6 weeks since it happened. I must admit I am not as cocky as I was. I have enjoyed a very fit and healthy life and never restricted what I did, where I travelled, and the rigours and risks I sometimes placed on myself.

Three weeks into my injuries my body vigorously complained of all the drugs, particularly the pain killers prescribed for me. As the hospital explained, there is nothing that can be done for such chest fracture injuries, just rest and give nature its time; but with a collapsed lung it is essential to exercise it with such as deep breathing. These two are not compatible so the medication is pain killers to allow for the exercise through the pain barrier with the highest order of morphine based drugs.

The result was about three weeks in I had to greatly reduce the pain killers (morphine) to my body dictates with the result I felt much worse than when it first happened. My body is now giving up complain-

ing so all is sweet. In all things there is always a lesson in life and this for me is I will never become a morphine addict. Also be very thankful on the very healthy life I have been blessed with so far.



My doctor says it will be at least another four weeks. Hugh

Good news, indeed, Hugh but don't go climbing ladders again.

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.



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**