



MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors - Manly Inc.

May 2010

Members will be delighted to know that Graham Clark will be presenting the May monthly meeting. This will be held in the Manly Library Meeting Room at 2 pm on Thursday 13 May.

Graham will give us an Introduction to Windows Live Mail. He is using it and says it is really very good and possibly the best email program for beginners who want to be able to send photos via email ever so easily and it comes with some nice added options too. Resizing of your large digital photos is a breeze - it is done for you! You can add from a selection of picture frames to finish off your photos, click to automatically correct colour and exposure, add more photos and even choose whether you want text to the left or right of, or below, your photo. There is a good selection of Smilies and Animations you can add, plus various coloured pictorial backgrounds (stationery) to choose from. With the new Windows 7 not coming with an email program you therefore need to download one and Graham believes this one to be an excellent option. Live Mail is fairly similar to Outlook Express but Graham considers the new enhancements and options make it a far better email program. You can rely on Graham to give us amusing and helpful illustrations. As usual there will be time for questions and that nice cup of tea or coffee provided by Lyn with the friendly smile. All this and door prizes too.



All the fun of the fair at last month's meeting when Rodney Rietdyk gave us a serious talk about funerals in his comedian's patter. He stressed that an Australian owned and family operated company would serve us or our family best at a time when most needed. His company, Mannings of Rozelle would come to us at any time, any place, when called at 9555 7551 and will keep prices down. He also suggested their pre-paid funerals. We were given flyers with the necessary information. More details at www.mannings.com.au





More from Elaine Clarke, former tutor and committee member. We hope we don't lose members who, after reading this, will want to rush off and live in Queensland.

To bring you up to date on our activities in Hervey Bay...I'll start at the end.

We finally have bought a house! Has taken us 6 weeks to find.

Interestingly it was one of the first houses we looked at but it didn't tick all of my boxes. Mike liked it but I wanted to keep looking. And look we did. I think we have seen just about every house matching some of our requirements in HB.

We wanted privacy, about an acre of land and not too far from town. Not a hard ask we thought.

The first obstacle was making the agents understand our privacy requirement. The locals do not seem to like a lot of greenery around their houses, preferring lawn.

The next requirement was open plan living areas. Nearly all the houses here have formal dining and



The climate is great, not too hot and the house is on a rise and will get the lovely sea breezes.

Lastly, have a look on <http://www.realestate.com.au> and type in ID no 106423771 (insert in box for addresses) . That will give you an idea of what the house is like. Nothing grand like I first wanted, but sense prevailed. We settle May 10 - Elaine and Mike 17 April 2010

Microsoft adds repair shop to Windows. Microsoft is testing a new "Fix it Center"--an online and PC-based tool for helping users solve their Windows technical problems.

While a fair amount of diagnostics are built into Windows 7, the free Fix it Center aims to expand on these and also bring similar capabilities to Windows XP and Windows Vista. The service consists of both a Windows download and an online service.



Fixit Center Online

BETA

into an automated tool that does the work for you."

While the service has around 300 fixes built-in, Microsoft said it can also be useful even if it can't solve an issue on its own.

"If Fix it Center cannot solve a specific issue, customers can still access phone, email or chat support with a Microsoft

Club News. All members who have given their email address to the Club will receive this and following editions of the Manly Mouse by email. If your email address is not known or you don't have one you can still read the Manly Mouse on our web page www.manlycompals.org.au

or send your email address to gwyneth@bigpond.net.au

Special Courses. The Digital Camera Course will be held 6 May, 20 May and 3 June 2-4 pm in the Club room. Ted Hulbert and Robin George will be running the course. The cost is \$10 and this includes a manual. The booking sheet will be on the notice board in the club. The Picasa Course will commence 17 June

lounge/media rooms. We don't plan formal entertaining so those rooms were superfluous.

Agents couldn't understand that we did not want a pool as we plan to continue travelling.

Anyway the house we chose fits all the above, but only has 3 bedrooms and no granny/guest flat so your visits to stay may be a bit cramped until we build one.

Mike has his shed (incidentally most Q'landers have a shed!) and we are close to town but with an acre of land, private and quiet.



Support professional who can access their Fix it Center account and get details about the hardware, the problem, and the solutions they have already tried, to ensure faster problem resolution," Microsoft said.

The service works with Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7, although for XP it requires customers to be using at least Service Pack 3 (or Service Pack 2 of the 64-bit version of Windows XP Professional). It also works with Windows Server 2003 (with Service Pack 2) and Windows Server 2008.

The service builds on the "Fix it" brand that Microsoft established as a means for automating Windows problem-solving tasks. Starting in December 2008, Microsoft launched an option on some of its help desk articles that allowed a user to click on a button and have a series of problem-solving steps taken automatically.

Filtering. Google Australia has voiced its concerns over the Rudd Government's controversial mandatory ISP filtering plan directly to the US State Department. One of the internet giant's biggest worries is the filter's scope, which it believes to be too broad.



The filter is meant to block content rated Refused Classification (RC) that includes, but is not limited to, child sexual abuse imagery, bestiality, sexual violence, detailed instruction in crime, violence or drug use and material that advocates terrorist acts. Google and various internet experts believe the RC list could also potentially contain legitimate material.

The US government is against internet censorship -- a view reinforced by the country's ambassador to Australia, Jeff Bleich, who said he believes child pornographers can be caught without resorting to mandatory internet filters.

Google Australia's head of public policy and government affairs, Mr Flynn, said the boundaries of the proposed filtering were "very vague" and had the potential to go further through scope-creep.

"Euthanasia is a crime, therefore material which talks about or promotes voluntary euthanasia can also be captured within the scope of this filter," he said. "On an issue like euthanasia -- which is politically and socially controversial -- we think governments should be very, very slow to be blocking access to information on a subject like that."

Senator Conroy has maintained that ISP filtering is one of many weapons in the government's cyber-safety armada.

His spokeswoman could not say if the minister agreed or disagreed with the US Ambassador's comments, but she reiterated the government's stance: it does not support RC content being available on the internet.

"RC material is already prohibited on Australian websites," she said.

"Under Australia's existing Classification regulations this material is not available in newsagencies, it is not on library shelves, you cannot watch it on a DVD or at the cinema, and it is not shown on television.

"As we have consistently said, ISP-level filtering is just one part of the government's \$125.8 million cyber-safety policy, which also includes education, research and international cooperation. Importantly, the policy (provides) \$49m for law enforcement by providing 91 additional Australian Federal Police officers to the Child Protection Unit." *Australian*.

Facebook for Seniors. Stay in touch with the grandkids and technology, by signing up to Facebook. What's Facebook? It is a website that allows for social interaction, sending messages, planning events, sharing photos and making friends. It's easy to sign up, especially if you can get a friend or family member to show you how. Just go to <http://www.facebook.com> and start your own profile. Then, you add friends and start communicating with them. It's also a good idea to become a fan of the NSW Seniors Week Facebook page to keep up to date with events in 2011. For courses in Facebook and other websites that help you communicate online contact the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association on (02) 9286 3871 or office@ascca.org.au From NSW Seniors card e-News.



Facebook is so simple it really doesn't need to be taught but your tutor can show you how to connect to www.facebook.com and you will soon figure it out.

Plant This - in conjunction with Jamie Durie - announces the launch of Australia's most comprehensive plant website for garden makers, www.plantthis.com.au/ The Plant Selector is a garden matchmaker which leads you through three easy steps to choosing the right plants for your garden needs and directs you to a nursery nearby to find them.



Modified virus splits water

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researchers have found a novel way to mimic the process by which plants use sunlight to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. They used a modified virus as a "biological scaffold" that can assemble the nanoscale components needed to split a water molecule into hydrogen and oxygen atoms.

The new technique, described in *Nature Nanotechnology*, could be an important element of the much touted hydrogen economy that some energy experts believe will prevail in the future. By using sunlight to make hydrogen from water, the hydrogen can then be stored and used at any time to generate electricity using a fuel cell, or to make liquid fuels (or be used directly) for cars and trucks. While other researchers have made systems that use electricity to split water molecules, the new biologically based system skips the intermediate steps and uses sunlight to power the reaction directly.

The team, led by Angela Belcher, engineered a common bacterial virus called M13 so that it would attract and bind with molecules of a catalyst (in this case, iridium oxide) and a biological pigment (zinc porphyrins). The viruses became wire-like devices that could very efficiently split the oxygen from water molecules. Over time, however, the virus-wires would clump together and lose their effectiveness, so the researchers added an extra step: encapsulating them in a microgel matrix, so they maintained their uniform arrangement and kept their stability and efficiency.

by Kate Melville. Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology scienceagogo.com

It is interesting that Iain McEwan uses similar technology (not the virus) in his latest book *Solar*. "Deploying techniques and materials still only talked of in nanotechnology, the idea was to split water into hydrogen and oxygen using special light-sensitive dyes in place of chlorophyll and catalysts containing manganese and calcium".

T's 'Love Affair' With Windows XP Ending.

Gregg Keizer

Businesses are finally prying their hands from Microsoft's Windows XP as they warm to Windows 7.

"Over the years, IT has had a real love affair with XP," said Diane Hagglund, an analyst at Dimensional Research, which surveyed 923 IT professionals about their Windows operating system adoption plans in January. "It was just a great OS. It just worked for them. But that feeling is going away."



In the new study, 40% of the respondents said that they're worried about the hassles of maintaining the nearly nine-year-old Windows XP as it gets increasingly outdated -- up from 28% in an April 2009 Dimensional survey.

Meanwhile, 60% of the respondents said they're worried about the cost and overhead of migrating to Windows 7, but that figure is down from 72% last year.

"IT is still more worried about Windows 7 than XP, but the trend is favouring Windows 7," the study said.

Confidence in Windows 7 has climbed since it shipped. Last April, 67% of those polled said they had concerns about Windows 7, which had not yet been released; this year, only 56% said they did.

"The difference was the release of the operating system, the biggest part of that from hands-on experience," Hagglund said, explaining why some in IT have changed their minds about Windows 7. "They're trying it at home, many of them, long before it comes to them professionally, so they know what it's like."

PCWorld. This version of this story was originally published in *Computerworld's* print edition. It was adapted from an article that ran earlier on *Computerworld.com*.



Four quick tips to help you define your Google searches

Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7

Most of us search by simply typing in what we're looking for. That's fine in most cases. But sometimes it helps to narrow your searches down by defining more precisely what you're looking for. Here are four quick search tips you can use to help define your searches to get more specific search results.

1. Use quotes ("like this") around a set of words in your query to match them exactly.
2. Use a minus sign (-) in front of terms in your query that you want to exclude.
3. Use a plus sign (+) to match a term in your query exactly as is.
4. Use site restrict in your query to search within a site (site:nytimes.com or site:thundercloud.net).



There's more to Gmail than Gmail

All computer users - Gmail account required.

First, if you don't have a Gmail account, you can get one free at www.gmail.com. If you don't have one and don't want to get one, that's fine, but the rest of this tip won't be of any value to you if you don't have a Gmail account.

Once you've signed into your Gmail account and have your email all taken care of, look up toward the top of the page. You notice a link that says "Documents". If you click on it, you'll enter the world of Google Docs.

Did you know that with Google Docs you can create and save documents, spreadsheets and presentations, in Office compatible formats? You can also create PDF files. You can import almost any file and convert it to Google Docs format, edit it, and then save it in any number of formats including PDF, DOC, RTF and others.

And do you know that Google Docs offers dozens of professionally designed templates you can use to write résumés, cover letters, or create invoices, family or business budgets and a lot more.

If you're just looking for a great FREE replacement to Microsoft Office, you'd be wise to consider Google Docs. It does almost everything MS Office does, and does it as well or better - for a lot less money.

So your Gmail account just got a lot more valuable, didn't it? Learn more about Google Docs by logging into your Gmail account and clicking the "Documents" link near the top of the page. Applies to all computers - PC and Mac.

Toyota's Recall Woes May Have Started in Space. By Chuck Squatriglia

Toyota's problem with unintended acceleration has been blamed on everything from the position of the floor mats to the shape of the accelerator pedal to glitches in the cars' software. There may be another cause: Cosmic rays. It's not as crazy as you might think.

Cosmic radiation has been known to wreak havoc on the chips in electronic components. According to LiveScience, some scientists believe that could be one cause of unintended acceleration and other problems Toyota owners are reporting. The automaker has recalled 7.7 million vehicles since November, and investigators are trying to figure out what's going on.

"Radiation is certainly a potential cause of Toyota's problems," Ewart Blackmore, a researcher at TRIUMF, a cyclotron in Vancouver, told LiveScience. "What's not known is what direction Toyota and other automakers are taking in terms of finding and correcting these issues."

This issue has been extensively researched in the military and aerospace sectors but has been largely unexplored by automakers, LiveScience reports. Given the increasing role electronics play in our daily lives, that must change.

"Most everything we do is becoming reliant on digital-information processing," Lloyd W. Massengill, director of engineering at Vanderbilt (University) Institute for Space and Defense Electronics, told LiveScience. "We are approaching the case where a single bit of critical information may be stored with just a thousand electrons; a single particle can easily overcome such small charge quantities, leading to bit corruption."

And, perhaps, unintended acceleration. *Wired.com*





From English-language edition of the German magazine *Der Spiegel*: A functioning police force is seen as a prerequisite for a Western withdrawal from Afghanistan. German trainers, however, paint a disastrous picture of the quality of Afghan security forces. Too many police, they say, can't read or write, can't shoot straight or take bribes.

Good lord! Do we have to teach these guys how to do EVERYTHING? Can't read, can't write, can't shoot straight -- don't even know how to take BRIBES! You put your left hand out, and you shake it all about. I ask you, what's this world coming to? From *A Word A day*

Important Notice.
 Those members who do not receive the Manly Mouse by email will be able to read it on our website www.manlycompals.org.au/
 Send your email address to gwyneth@bigpond.net.au .

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 Agüero & Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Dorothy Peters & Tony van de Walle Special Courses
Friday	9 am - 1 pm 9 am - 5 pm	Ern Cohen & Hugh Walker Hugh Walker 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.

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



Welcome to new members:
 Linda FONG; Geoffrey HUNG;
 Marcia LITTLE; Pat McNEIL;
 Laura ORTEGA; Marie REESON;
 Joan TEMPLEMAN.
 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

Disclaimers
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