

MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors - Manly Inc.

November 2009

Our next meeting will be a Talk and Free Hearing Screening with Australian Hearing at Manly Library Meeting Room 2 pm on Thursday 12 November. The talk will cover hearing loss, the types of hearing aids available and the services provided by Australian Hearing, along with eligibility criteria. Australian Hearing delivers services to clients eligible under the Australian Government



Hearing Services Program. This includes people with a blue pension card, gold DVA card or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over the age of 50.



Screening of individuals takes 10-15 minutes per person and a number of people can be tested on the day if required. Here's a link to their website <http://www.hearing.com.au/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=33&languageId=1&contentId=-1>

After the meeting there will be the usual opportunity to ask questions and enjoy tea or coffee and biscuits.

Graham Clark took us through the AGM on 8 October quickly but, sadly, announced in his report that he would be resigning at the end of the meeting. Here's a quick run through of the 2009 AGM. Keith Isbister thanked all the Committee for their hard work during the year. Then Graham delivered his Report (see p.2). He gave us a synopsis of the past year's activities and thanked all the Committee Members and Tutors for their hard work throughout the year. Finally he announced he was resigning as President and from the Committee but would remain a tutor. On behalf of Robin George, the tutor coordinator, Graham thanked all the tutors for their untiring work throughout the year. Next Noel McKee presented the Treasurer's Report including the audited financial statements which were approved by the meeting.

Election of Office Bearers and Committee in accordance with Rule 14(8): - Nominations had been received for Jack Newton (Vice-President), Lyn Nicholls (Secretary), Ted Hulbert, Robin George and Gwyneth Crawford (all Committee). There were no other nominations so these five people have been returned unopposed. At the first Committee Meeting after the AGM a new President will be appointed and Hugh Walker has nominated for Committee. It was recommended that William O'Donnell be appointed Auditor again.



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President's Report Computer Pals for Seniors - Manly Inc. 12th AGM 8 October 2009

Dear Members, this is the 12th Annual General Meeting of this fine club and another exciting year has past with many improvements being achieved.

Once again I have had the pleasure of working with a most dedicated committee and thank them all on your behalf for the many hours they put in to keep this club running smoothly. This team effort has seen several major improvements to our clubroom and equipment over this past term.

Your tutors continue with their invaluable gift of time & skills to help you increase your knowledge and ability to do the things you wish on your home PC. Without them we would be lost - so a hearty thanks on your behalf to all of our volunteer tutors.

Last Christmas break saw the installation of new desks and decent ergonomic chairs making our room much more comfortable and workable. We purchased a Laser Printer a few months ago and this is networked to all our computers. This has helped us eliminate the endless purchase and replacement of ink cartridges on the several varying models of printers we had in use. Now we only have 2 printers - the high speed B&W Laser and an Epson multifunction printer/scanner when coloured inks are needed.

Recently your committee decided that due to our healthy bank balance, it was time to replace our 5 PCs with new and more powerful models. As you will be aware, computers are changing all the time and the new programs coming out are demanding more and more power and features. These new computers will be purchased ready for installation over the coming Christmas break - so you will come back in the New Year to all new computers !! We hope to install the new Windows 7 on these machines, along with XP & maybe Vista. Only two weeks ago we purchased a brilliant new Apple iMac. With the increase in public awareness and availability of Apple computers, there is a growing demand for tutoring on these slightly different types of computers. We have re-established the running of Special Courses to satisfy your specific training needs and currently have courses available on EBay & Internet Shopping, Picasa 3, and VoIP. Your committee will be working out a "special courses" schedule for 2010 and will advise you in The Manly Mouse. And speaking of our Newsletter, we swap newsletters with other local clubs and ours is praised by them for its content, layout and general readability.

Membership has been fairly constant throughout the year though I feel we may need to re-advertise to keep that regular flow of new members coming in and ensure the training roster sheet is kept full.

The Future: I have advised my fellow committee members that I will be stepping down as your president & committee member at the conclusion of today's meeting. I have been president for 7 very enjoyable and rewarding years and I feel the time is long overdue for a change in this role. Be assured, I will be continuing as a tutor as I enjoy it too much to give away entirely. This club needs a President with new ideas, new enthusiasm and a good team to work with. Accordingly, your committee will be choosing a new president at their next committee meeting, Wednesday 4th November. This will be in accord with the powers of the committee & our constitution to elect additional members and/or officers, as and when necessary.

This is a great club and it will continue to grow and prosper. I offer the incoming committee my best wishes and support, and assure them of my help or guidance wherever needed.

At the close of the AGM Arthur Johnson thanked Graham and presented him with an engraved tankard. After that Graham gave us a Trivia Quiz. The lucky winners (guessers ?) of Maritime Museum big tickets were Arthur and Gwyneth.





New Kid on the Block

You may have noticed a sleek new PC purring away down at the club. This recent arrival is our new iMac ... and it's a beauty. All in one construction, brilliant screen images and lovely clean lines. Let me tell you about it.

I won't go into excruciating technical details like GHz, GPU and other such arcane ratings. I'll keep it simple. This is a twin overhead crankshaft machine with genuine bakelite drip feed ignition and dual ejector seats, so to speak.

It not only looks and feels good, but it has real fast twin processors, lots of performance memory and a big quick hard drive under the bonnet. To connect all your other gadgets, we have 6 USB ports, a Firewire port, a real quick Ethernet connection and built in Wireless & Bluetooth. A fast read/write DVD/CD is included, and you watch proceedings through a brilliant 20" Flat Screen windscreen. A lean, mean machine!

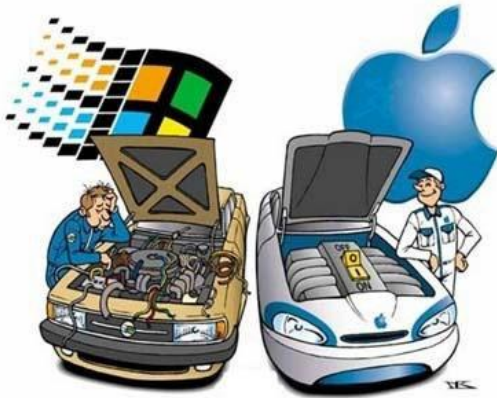


But wait, there's more! In the fuel tank we have lots of additives.

Need an Office suite? We have Microsoft Office and IBM Lotus Symphony. Want to play with images, movies & photos? How about Picasa, iPhoto, iDVD and iMovie? Interested in music? iTunes and Garage Band will provide this, playing through the inbuilt stereo amplifier and speakers. Send the odd e-mail or two? Your choice of Mail, Thunderbird or Microsoft Outlook. Do we browse the web, etc.? There are Safari and Firefox browsers, iWeb for creating web sites, and Skype, with an inbuilt mike and camera for chatting to your long lost aunt in Outer Slobovia. This and more under your control, and the guidance of the latest Apple OSX operating system - Snow Leopard.

But wait, you say. I can't possibly drive something like this beastie! I'm a little ol' Windows Brown Holden driver.

Ah, well that's where you might be surprised. These machines are not designed only for the super power user who wants to burn rubber and terrorise the locals. Mac's legendary ease of use is no legend ... it practically drives itself. It's about as difficult as a Dodgem car to handle! As a Windows user since Win Version 1.0, I can honestly say that the hardest part is to leave the damned thing alone and let it do the driving!



Yes, yes, you say ... but aren't they terribly expensive? Well, I'm a long time authorised Microsoft PC System Builder and have configured and built many Windows PCs. And I can tell you that a Windows PC configured with similar reliable, quality and performance hardware, and a similar amount of genuine useable software can be about the same price. And even more expensive, if you want to get someone to configure the Windows hardware and software

to the level that the Mac delivers on arrival.

A spin around the block for jaded Windows drivers who'd like a burn can be arranged on a Friday morning. E-mail robertbellini@optusnet.com.au

Disclaimer ... I'm a Windows IT Consultant with no connection, association or monetary interest in Apple or its products. My bread and butter is Windows and PCs.

Bob Bellini 18 October 2009

Jack Newton suggested reading www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/sep/28/charlie-brooker-microsoft-mac-windows in which the writer says: Seriously, stop it. I don't care if Mac stuff is better. I don't care if Mac stuff is cool. I don't care if every Mac product comes equipped a magic button on the side that causes it to piddle gold coins and resurrect the dead and make holographic unicorns dance inside your head. I'm not buying one, so shut up and go home.



U.K. Twitter Campaign Helps Curb Gag on Press. By PAUL SONNE Wall Street Journal (abridged)

A Twitter campaign that rippled through the U.K. helped to induce an about-face on a legal injunction that was preventing the Guardian newspaper from reporting on a public parliamentary proceeding.

Bloggers and Twitter users, led by Guardian Editor Alan Rusbridger, expressed indignation about a court injunction that called into question the British newspaper's right to report on a parliamentary debate.

The injunction's stipulations would have prevented the Guardian from reporting on a question posed by U.K. lawmaker Paul Farrelly in Parliament.

Lawyers Carter-Ruck agreed to change the stipulations of the injunction so that the Guardian could cover the parliamentary question without breaking the law.

"Thanks to Twitter/all tweeters for fantastic support over past 16 hours! Great victory for free speech," Mr. Rusbridger wrote on his Twitter feed. Words tied to the case were among the most mentioned on Twitter that day.

Also see Richard Ackland: www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/a-simple-twitter-brings-down-the-mighty-cone-of-silence-20091015-gz2m.html

Comment by Jack Newton: At first I saw no point in Twitter but I was wrong. Thinking about the shifts in communication and many other things that the internet is and will bring to society, I believe we must be careful that we older people don't limit our view of computers to just machines on which we can send messages; browse the net like contented cows; and use as a tool for doing a bit of picture editing, word processing, etc.

We must look at what Kevin's shiny new net will bring - for the first time since the human race existed as separate tribes in which its members could be heard by the leaders, the individual can be heard not only in his/her local precinct but around the world. Tweeting is making that possible. The Internet gives a voice to the individual that can penetrate bureaucrats' cloaks of secrecy and spin doctors' prevarications.

Sign up for Twitter: twitter.com Facebook: www.facebook.com

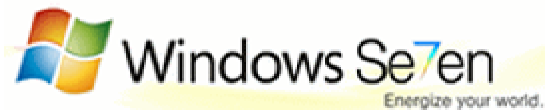


Windows 7 gets the green light in Europe. While the launch of Windows 7 has long been slated for the 22nd October, there was one hurdle that Microsoft still had to cross before they could go ahead with the release. The European Commission, which had been investigating Microsoft's alleged anti-competitive practices for some time, finally reached agreement with Microsoft on the inclusion of Internet Explorer in Windows 7, which means that the Windows 7 launch could go ahead. The investigation centred on whether Microsoft's inclusion of the IE browser with Windows gave Microsoft an unfair advantage over competing browser manufacturers such as Opera and Mozilla.

The agreement between the EC and Microsoft means that users will be presented with a screen asking them to choose which browser they would like to use from a list including Firefox 3, Opera 10, Safari 4, Google Chrome and of course Internet Explorer 8. If a user selects a browser other than IE it will be automatically downloaded and installed on their system. Whether this will mean that more Windows users switch to browsers other than IE won't be known until Windows 7's release, and the statistics collected from popular websites, but at Windows Advisor we welcome any move from Microsoft that gives users more choice.

Source: Windows Advisor, Friday 9th October 2009

But should Microsoft offer Australians this choice of browsers when installing Windows 7? We think so!



Can you upgrade a Windows XP computer to Windows 7? We have read that all you have to do is to use the Windows Easy Transfer to keep all your Windows XP files safe and then install Windows 7 (clean install) on your old XP computer. It's not that easy. First of all Microsoft's "Easy Transfer" does not transfer your programs - only your files and settings. If you use Easy Transfer you're going to have to reinstall all - all - all - of your programs. Regardless of what you've read or how easy they've made it sound it's not easy and it's not quick. Since Windows XP will be supported by Microsoft until 2014 and since Microsoft will inevitably come out with another new operating system by then, you're going to be better off either keeping Windows XP or buying a new computer with Windows 7 on it and using migration software like Laplink's PCmover to migrate your files, settings and programs. Windows Easy Transfer wizard WILL NOT migrate your programs - only your files and settings. Don't believe everything you read. If it ain't broke don't fix it. If you're happy with Windows XP keep it and use it. Microsoft and software vendors are going to continue to support it for a few more years yet. By that time, Windows 8 will be out - or whatever they decide to call it. Save your money, save your time, and save your sanity. Stick with Windows XP and don't believe the pundits who claim upgrading to Windows 7 from XP is a snap. It's not. *Cloudeight*



What is the Application Key, and where is it?

The Application Key is located in different places depending on the keyboard, but usually to the right of the Windows Key (the key with the windows logo on it). The Application Key has a little menu icon on it with a cursor, and is also referred to as the Menu Key. Its main use is for opening a context (dropdown) menu without using your mouse. Try clicking it while in various applications, such as email, browser, and see what menu appears! You will find this a handy little tool!



IMDb for the Movie Buffs

IMDb, an acronym for the Internet Movie Database, claims to be visited by over 57 million movie and TV lovers each month. No wonder - it's a fantastic site for anyone interested in films. Have a look at it at www.imdb.com.

The gutter margin is a typographical term used to designate an additional margin added to a page layout to compensate for the part of the paper made unusable by the binding process. In a facing pages layout (Word refers to this type of layout as "mirror margins"), the gutter margin is on the very inside of both pages. It is uncommon to use a gutter margin in a single-sheet layout, although Word allows you to do that. In single-sheet layouts, the gutter margin is typically the area where you might three-hole punch your paper.

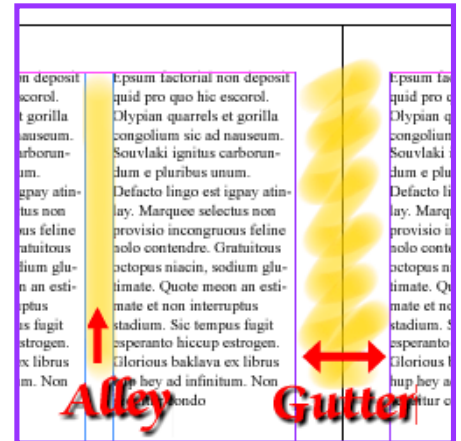
To set the gutter margin:

For Word 2000, 2002 & 2003

1. Choose Page Setup from the File menu. Word displays the Page Setup dialog box.
2. Using the Gutter control, indicate how wide you want the gutter margin to be.
3. Click OK.

For Word 2007

1. Choose Page Layout ribbon.
2. Select Margins.
3. Select Custom Margins.
4. Select Gutter and then
5. Enter the desired position and width.
6. Click OK.



Rural Australian Computer Terminology

LOG ON: Adding wood to make the Barbie hotter.

LOG OFF: Not adding any more wood to the Barbie.

MONITOR: Keeping an eye on the Barbie.

DOWNLOAD: Getting the firewood off the Ute.

HARD DRIVE: Making the trip back home without any cold tinnies.

KEYBOARD: Where you hang the Ute keys.

WINDOW: What you shut when the weather's cold.

SCREEN: What you shut in the mozzie season.

BYTE: What mozzies do.

MEGABYTE: What Townsville mozzies do.

CHIP: A bar snack.

MICROCHIP: What's left in the bag after you've eaten the chips.

MODEM: What you did to the lawns.

LAPTOP: Where the cat sleeps.

SOFTWARE: Plastic knives & forks you get at Red Rooster.

HARDWARE: Stainless steel knives & forks - from K-Mart.

MOUSE: The small rodent that eats the grain in the shed.

MAINFRAME: What holds the shed up.

WEB: What spiders make.

WEBSITE: Usually in the shed or under the veranda.

SEARCH ENGINE: What you do when the Ute won't go.

CURSOR: What you say when the Ute won't go.

YAHOO: What you say when the Ute does go.

UPGRADE: A steep hill.

SERVER: The person at the pub who serves the counter lunch.

MAIL SERVER: The bloke, at the pub who serves the counter lunch.

USER: The neighbour who keeps borrowing things.

NETWORK: What you do to repair the fishing net.

INTERNET: Where you want the fish to go.

NETSCAPE: What the fish do when there is a hole in the net.

ONLINE: Where you hang the washing.



Club News

We all know how fortunate we have been to have Graham Clark as our president for 7 years. He has done everything a president should do and much, much more. So we are very grateful to him for all he has done for our club.



At the next committee meeting the committee will choose a new president. We will let you know the result at the general meeting on 12 November and list all committee members in the next Manly Mouse.

Tutors' Roster (subject to change)

Monday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Graham Clark & Dorothy Peters David McAdam & Arthur Johnson
Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Philip Bratel & Wally Gora Lyall 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 & Tony van de Walle Special Courses
Friday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 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.

Welcome to new members:
 Sidney CARPENTER; Bridget COOK;
 Stefan MARTINEC;
 Henricus TULLEMANS; Hugh WALKER
 If you are not listed here you will be next month.

CHRISTMAS PARTY
2 PM 10 DECEMBER
MANLY LIBRARY
MEETING ROOM

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

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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