

MANLY MOUSE



Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors – Manly Inc.

July 2011

July 14 - General Meeting Double Header

Trivia Quiz

Conducted by Manly
Computerpals
Quizmaster Graham Clark



Show your skills in an-
swering Graham's
questions on computers,
ANZACs
and general knowledge
And win a prize

Fingers & Feet



Ms Maureen
Myers
Manicurist and
Pedicurist

Maureen will talk and answer questions on fingernail and toenail care with particular reference to their importance to Seniors.

Maureen has generously donated a door prize to the value of \$50 for some lucky member to win.

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served after the prizes have been presented—so come along and meet your tutors and friends and get to know other members.



Next General Meeting at 2pm
Manly Library Meeting Room—July 14

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June 9—General Meeting

The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men
 Gang aft agley
 An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain
 For promis'd joy!

Robbie Burns words rang true as Jack Newton attempted to show how to capture videos from YouTube, the ABC and other websites as neither he, nor it seems anyone else, had reckoned with the configuration of the Library Meeting Room's Manly Council controlled internet connection. This connection, much to Jack's consternation and dismay, proved to be one that, in the interests of the rate-paying Manly residents, barred any web-sites that might distract the Council's staff from their paid, legitimate occupations. And YouTube, the ABC and others were barred!

“ if anything
 can go wrong
 it will

Jack's position was then reminiscent of a concert pianist going on stage and finding there was no piano to play. With no access to YouTube, the ABC, 2GB and any other audio or video streams, Jack was unable to demonstrate the software he had chosen to show how internet video and audio tracks could be captured for subsequent burning to CDs and DVDs.

Fortunately, members of Manly Computerpals are of a forgiving and tolerant disposition and no hisses, jeers or catcalls could be heard after Jack expressed his apologies for having inadvertently proved Murphy's Law that states if anything can go wrong it will.



Pictured from above clockwise:
 President Bob watched by Arthur and assisted by Phyl in the draw for lucky door prizes; Some of the happy members at the meeting; One of the lucky door prize winners and Bob presenting Jack with a bottle of wine .

Thanks to Dorothy Peters for these photos

Of This & That in the Web

David Pogue*, the Times' technology consultant writes:

'The tech world seems to move in spurts and spasms, and right now we're in the middle of the "cloud" wave.

Personally, I find the term "in the cloud" pretentious and annoying. Don't they just mean "online?" Yes, I realize that computer professionals are referring to something much more specific — "data and application software stored on remote servers," for example — but the world's marketers and P.R. people seem to think that "the cloud" just means "online." ("Now you can buy your toiletries in the cloud!!")

In my Times column today [June 18, 2011], for example, I reviewed the first Google Chromebook: a laptop with no hard drive,

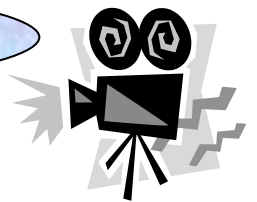
no software programs on board, no files or folders, no traditional operating system. All it does is connect to the Web. Your files, your programs, your e-mail and your photos are all "in the cloud," meaning "on Web sites".

But that's not the worst mega-trend. The worst is caps on home data plans. That's right: Time Warner, Comcast and other broadband providers are putting limits on how much data you get every month, even at home. And that, my friends, is one crazy scary development. How are we supposed to enjoy our cloud if we're allowed only selective access to it? How is the bold new world of online computing going to take off if the meter is racking up punishing overage charges every time we look at our photos.?

* The New York Times' technology columnist, David Pogue, keeps you on top of the industry in his free, weekly e-mail newsletter. Ref: pogue.blogs.nytimes.com



The Nostalgia Page



Who Was That Actor in ...? You Know! - What's his Name?

I switched on TVS's Channel 44 the other night to find out why it was showing a film made in 1926. It was a silent film called "The General" and, although I recognised the face of the leading male actor, I could not remember his name. So I logged on to my computer and went to www.imdb.com (imdb being the acronym for internet movie database). I entered "The General" in the search box and was rewarded by a list of the entire cast with comedian Buster Keaton in the lead role. In addition to information on the film's cast, the database also gave the film's release date, its popularity rating and much, much more. Imdb.com is a fantastic website for all film & trivia buffs; for settling arguments on who's who in films; and for anyone wanting to check whether an upcoming film on TV is worth watching or recording. Have a look at it!

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Play It Again - Sam



Well, you're right, neither Humphrey Bogart nor Ingrid Bergman said "Play it again, Sam" in the 1942 release of the iconic film Casablanca. As described above you can get all the details about Casablanca from the imdb website. But, if you want to delve a bit further into films, videos, music and so forth then you should have a look at the website archive.org.



Archive.org is, as its name implies, the repository of countless film, video, and audio files. Its audio library alone contains over two hundred thousand digital recordings and you can listen to the oldies like Jack Benny or songs from the 70s such as Abba's Waterloo (in Swedish too if you wish!).

Some files can be captured and converted to formats suitable for burning to CDs and to DVDs. Some of the old films that are now out of copyright can be downloaded from archive.org. The *film noir* movies of the 40s and 50s such as D.O.A., An Act of Murder are two good examples but, just remember, these are big files to download. An Act of Murder is a 694 MB download and it will take around 20 minutes to download at 600KB/sec. But the Stanley Kramer 1950 film "Cyrano de Bergerac" starring Jose Ferrer is a whopping 4.2 GB mpeg2 download. When you are connected to the NBN such downloads will be fast and easy but as of now watch that you don't exceed your down/upload cap and make sure that your download speed is fast enough.

You can browse around archive.com for hours if you like as it can be a bit addictive.

Have a look at it!

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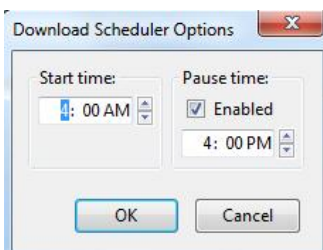


Fig 1 Option Box

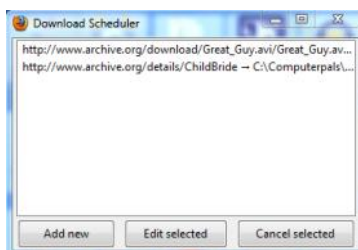


Fig 2 List of files scheduled to be downloaded

DownLoad Scheduler

Many ISPs provide two periods for uploading and downloading from the internet, these are called the peak and off-peak periods. Usually the off-peak cap is substantially greater than the peak cap but off-peak is normally some time after midnight when you want to be sleeping and not messing around on your computer. Well, an add-on to the Firefox browser called the "DownLoad Scheduler" is what you need to handle big downloads in the off-peak period and here's how to do it:

Launch Firefox and click on Tools/Add-ons; then click Get Add-ons and type 'Download Scheduler' in the Search box. Install by following the on-screen instructions.

By clicking on Options in Firefox/Tools/Add-ons/Extensions/Download Scheduler you will be able to set the start time of your off-peak period for the required download and when, or if, the download should be paused. (See Fig 1 Option Box).

When you have selected the download you want, right click it and click on 'Schedule link as' in the dropdown menu. Alternatively the download's URL can be added to Download Scheduler's list of downloads as shown in Fig 2.

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Kath Buchan

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of Kathleen Mary Buchan on 7 June 2011. Kath was a foundation member of Manly Computerpals when it was formed in July 1997. She was Vice-President and Publicity manager for the Club until ill health necessitated her resignation. The Club extends its sympathy and condolences to her family and friends.





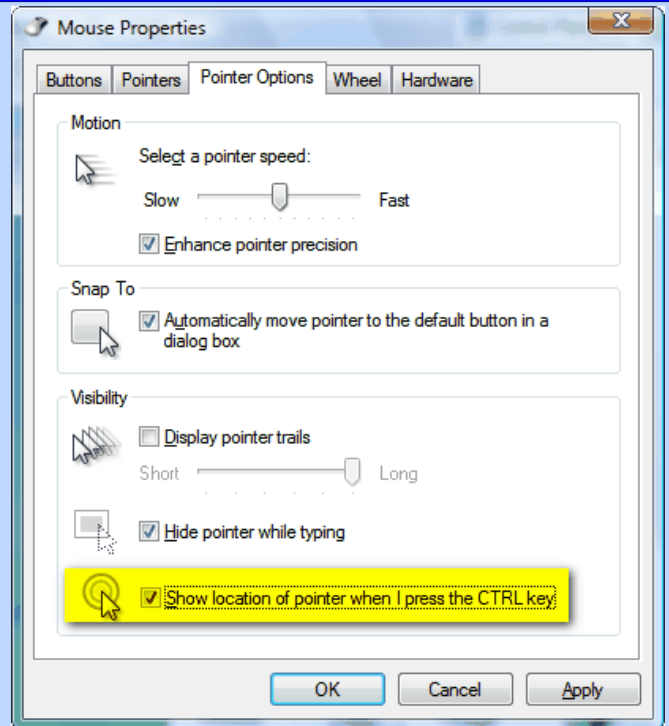
Where's the mouse in the house?

Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7

Here's a great tip for those of you who have trouble locating your mouse pointer on the screen. Windows XP and Windows Vista have a feature that some refer to as "mouse sonar". This option causes your mouse pointer to pop-up in a little concentric ring around so you can easily find it. Some of you may have never lost your mouse pointer, but we have, and its frustrating. The mouse pointer is very difficult to find if you have trouble seeing or on certain colours.

If you'd like to use the "mouse sonar effect" to assist you in locating your mouse pointer at all times, in all conditions, on all colours, here's how easy that is to do. This tip works on Windows XP, Vista, and Windows 7. (This screen cap was taken on a computer running Vista.)

1. Click Start then Control Panel
2. Click On "Mouse" (Windows 7 users: click "Hardware and Sound" , "Devices and Printers", "Mouse".)
3. Choose Pointer Options
4. Select "Show location of pointer when I press the CTRL



key."

Take a look at the screen capture and you'll see it in living colour.

Thanks - Cloudeight

Keep Up, Muriel!



We've all become used to the ubiquitous USB ports into which we plug our printers, memory sticks, external hard drives and the like. What most of us have are USB 2.0 ports, which have been around since 2002, and run at a top speed of 480 Mega Bits per second.

However, we have seen the introduction in 2010 of a USB 3.0 port, with a top speed of 5000 Mega Bits per second. Not many of us have them ... they are only now beginning to appear on new PCs. Whilst this extra grunt won't do a thing for printers etc., they are ideal for devices which can use this higher speed ... like USB 3.0 equipped external hard drives. They are of course backwards compatible with USB 2.0 devices, so your printer will still connect to one.

So you'd reckon that would just about be enough to keep everyone happy for a while, wouldn't you? Oh no, not so Muriel. Intel have now come up with yet another much faster port! It's called Thunderbolt, and runs at 10,000 Mega Bits per second. And that's just the introductory version using copper wire. The big brother version (called "Light Peak") uses fibre optic

laser instead of copper, and blasts along shifting data at around 100,000 Mega Bits per second (remember, your USB 2.0 runs at 480 Mbs).

The Thunderbolt ports are available on the new Apple Macbook range, and will be exclusive Apple technology until 2012. This extra speed is really only of any use for something like an external solid state disk, or other devices yet to be announced at this time. However, it also has the ability to "daisy chain" up to 6 devices, including two monitors, and some areas of business will benefit from this function now ... but probably not us.

So stay cool and don't distress ... your faithful USB 2.0 will probably serve you well enough at the moment, and USB 3.0s on the new PC you are going to buy "real soon now" will give you a healthy boost. But remember to keep your eye on the ball ... things are moving pretty quickly, Muriel!

B. Bellini June 2011





APUN MY WORD

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian .
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris , you'd be in Seine .
21. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'
23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.
26. There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

Thanks Graham



The Fine Art of Plonking

Success as a Plonker arises from the ability to stay supine, preferably with a glass of wine, for periods of 15 minutes or longer; points being awarded for the duration of plonking. Drinking more than one bottle of plonk is frowned upon as is excessive snoring. Please email your entry, entitled "Plonker", to the editor along with a picture and a validated statement of the plonking duration. The winner will be announced in September's issue of the Manly Mouse.

PS Discount all unfavourable references to the term "Plonker"

From LULZ to LULZSEC

LULZ initially was said to be the plural of LOL but whether that is true or not it now means something that derives its interest or fun at the expense of others. Recently there have been many reports about the hacker group LulzSec whose motto is reported as being "*Hacking is fun*". And, to show what it means by its self-styled "fun", it posted to pastebin.com that it was releasing a manifesto claiming:



"For the past month and a bit, we've been causing mayhem and chaos throughout the Internet, attacking several targets including PBS, Sony, Fox, porn websites, FBI, CIA, the U.S. government ..."

Furthermore it has released 62,000 email addresses and their passwords and encouraged others to break into Facebook and other public and gaming sites.

Quite obviously LulzSec has some very competent hackers and the apparent ease with which it steals information on the internet should make us feel very concerned about other groups that are concealing their presence and hacking not for fun but for profit.

In today's world we, the public, depend upon computers and the internet: for information; for banking; for investment; for communications such as emails and Skype. Governments grow increasingly reliant on and enmeshed in computers for data storage and for communicating that information over the internet. We all know the benefits but what little we know of the security of such information should make us worried.

It ain't fun to know that our privacy can be breached just for fun—just for lulz—or otherwise.

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Notice Board

Appointment



The Club is pleased to announce the appointment of Bridget Mahoney as Editor of the Manly Mouse. Bridget has been a tutor of Manly Computerpals for some years and the Club welcomes Bridget bringing her skills to this important position.

Tutors' Roster (subject to change)

Monday	9 am —1 pm	Graham Clark & Lyn Nicholls
	1pm —5 pm	Arthur Johnson & David McAdam
Tuesday	9 am —1 pm	Philip Bratel & Wally Gora
	1pm —5 pm	Lyall McNeish & Tony Wu
Wednesday	9 am —1 pm	Ted Hulbert & Dorothy Peters
	1pm —5 pm	Harry Agüero & Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am —1 pm	Bridget Mahoney & Judith Timpson
	1pm —5 pm	Closed
Friday	9 am —1 pm	Ern Cohen, John Brooke & Sally Bennett
	9 am —5 pm	Bob Bellini (Apple Mac only)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ainslie Birrell, Kevin Boxhall, Peter Bracher, Diana Buchanan, Suzanne Chisholm, Liz Consterdine, Maureen Davies, Gail Dendle, Barbara Elgafi, Jeani Gordon, Patricia Harland, Joanna Redstone and Neridah Tabart.

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

The Club Committee

Bob Bellini—President
 Lyn Nicholls—Secretary
 Noel McKee—Treasurer
 Gwyneth Crawford
 Robin George
 Ted Hulbert
 David McAdam
 Hugh Walker



Manly Computerpals gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided to the Club by Manly Council.

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.

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.