



ParraPals Newsletter Vol 5, No: 6, June 2011

President's message

Greetings.

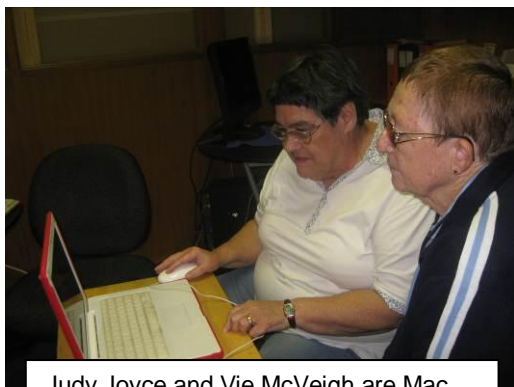
Brrrrrr. Cold and wet, eh?

At our monthly meeting on Friday 17th June, our good friend Robert DelVecchio will be showing us how to clean the outside and, if you're game, the inside of your computer.

This can be important as PCs have been known to overheat, even catch fire, if the fan gets blocked by lint.

Overheating can also slow a computer down.

So, put Friday 17th in your diary.



Judy Joyce and Vie McVeigh are Mac enthusiasts.

And the following week, Friday 24th June, we are holding a meeting to explore running training courses in Apple Macs. The venue is the Gwen Logan room next to the club rooms and it's from 1.00pm until 3.00pm. Come along and tell us what we should cover in our Mac courses.

We have received an invitation from the ABC Television to make up a group and be part of the audience for the very popular Q and A program. The ABC will provide a bus to pick us up in Parramatta and bring us back after the show.

It will be probably in September, when the weather is a bit warmer.

I appreciate that not everyone will want to be out late on a Monday night, but the committee feels it's a good opportunity to do something different. John Lee went a few months ago and he tells us it was a great night.

So, if you're interested, e-mail me and I'll put your name on the list.

More details later.

We are very pleased with your responses to the survey sent out with your renewal forms. It looks like Windows XP has not yet been overtaken by Windows 7, but many of our members are now purchasing laptops.

See you all on Friday.

Regards

John Moxon

Johnmoxon1@gmail.com

9636 7752

Term 3 courses

Day/ Time	Dates	Course	Hours	Cost
Mondays 9.30-12.00 pm	July 18, 25, Aug 1, 8, 15	One on one as required	2	\$10
Mondays 1.00 – 3.15pm (5 wks)	July 18, 25, Aug 1, 8, 15	Internet & Email Beyond the Basics	10	\$40
Tuesday 9.30-11.45am (5 wks)	July 19, 26, Aug 2, 9, 16	Beyond the Basics – Windows 7	10	\$40
Tuesdays 1.00 – 3.15pm	July 19	Genealogy – topic 1 (TBA)	2	\$10
Tuesdays 1.00 – 3.15pm	July 26	Genealogy – topic 2 (TBA)	2	\$10
Tuesdays 1.00 – 3.15pm	Aug 2	Skype	2	\$10
Tuesdays 1.00 – 3.15pm	Aug 9	Genealogy – topic 3 (TBA)	2	\$10
Tuesdays 1.00 – 3.15pm	Aug 16	Genealogy – topic 4 (TBA)	2	\$10
Wednesdays 9.30-11.45am	July 20 only	Ebay - Buying	2	\$10
Wednesdays 9.30-11.45am	July 27 only	Ebay - Selling	2	\$10
Wednesdays 9.30-11.45am	Aug 3 only	Facebook for Beginners	2	\$10
Wednesdays 9.30-11.45am	Aug 10 only	Facebook – Beyond Basics	2	\$10
Wednesdays 1.00pm - 3.15pm	July 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17	Digital Photo Stories	10	\$40
Thursday 9.30-11.45am	July 21, 28, Aug 4, 11, 18	Beginners - Windows XP	10	\$40
Thursdays 1.00pm - 3.15pm	July 21, 28, Aug 4, 11, 18	Beginners - Windows 7	10	\$40
Mondays 9.30am-11.45am	Aug 22, 29, Sept 5, 12, 19	Beyond the Basics – Windows XP	10	\$40
Mondays 1.00 – 3.15pm	Aug 22, 29, Sept 5, 12, 19	Beyond the Basics – Windows 7	10	\$40
Tuesday 9.30-11.45am	Aug 23, 30, Sept 6, 13, 20	Managing Digital Photos	10	\$40
Tuesdays 1.00 - 3.15pm (5 wks)	Aug 23, 30, Sept 6, 13, 20	Beginners – Windows Vista	10	\$40

Day/ Time	Dates	Course	Hours	Cost
Wednesdays 9.30-11.45am	Aug 24, 31, Sep 7, 14, 21	Email & Internet Beyond the Basics	10	\$40
Wednesday 1.00 -3.15pm	Aug 31, Sep 7, 14, 21	Train the Trainer	10	Free
Thursday 9.30 -11.45am	Aug 25, Sept 1, 8, 15, 22	Audio editing	10	\$40
Thursday 1.00- 3.15pm (5 wks)	Aug 25, Sept 1, 8, 15, 22	Beyond the Basics - Windows 7	10	\$40
Friday 9.30- 11.45am	Sept 9 ONLY	Apple Mac	2	\$10

Book now at reception 9806 5030 (club hours only), Judy on 9871 6820 or Hazel Labka on 9702 0089. There is no answering machine at the office.

Judy is having her first break from training in nearly four years – on doctor's orders.

iMac with ParraPals

Do you know anyone with an Apple Mac who would like to know how to use it?

ParraPals is holding an information session on Friday 24th June for Mac Users or "wanabees" so that we can better plan our Apple Mac courses. The meeting will be held in the Gwen Logan room from 1-3pm including afternoon tea.

Do spread the word amongst your friends.

Annual fees



It's great to see so many of our members keen to renew their membership for 2010-11. \$20 will secure you the right

to book courses for four terms, maintain your voting rights and more.

Pay at our June members meeting or at reception Monday to Thursday, by 30th June.

At the time of writing, 89 members had renewed their membership. This is a real vote of confidence. Thank you members.

Survey results

Initial survey results show that the most popular operating system is still Windows XP, followed by Windows 7 (often on a laptop), with Vista a very poor third. And one member still has Windows 2000! No DOS users though.



Very few of our members use free Office software applications – such as OpenOffice.org. Most have Office 2007, with Office 2010 becoming more popular and others still using Office 2003. The latter is still quite adequate for the projects most of our members undertake (letters, scrapbooks, cards) but so is OpenOffice.org.

I was surprised that a significant minority of members appear not to have any word-processing/ spreadsheet applications. Maybe

these members only use email and browsers. Who knows? It would be good to have a discussion about this during one of our monthly Q & A sessions.

Finding more trainers

As part of our strategy to lighten the load of our trainers, Deborah Martin has designed a brochure which will be printed this week. If you know someone who is retired, computer savvy and maybe looking for a volunteering opportunity, we'd encourage you to give them a brochure.

We have also joined the initiative **GoVolunteering** as another source of potential trainers.

The important thing is to find trainers who are willing to accept us seniors as we are – enthusiastic for life but sometimes anxious about our capacity to learn as fast as younger people.

Which is why we like peer to peer training.

Combined Field Trip to Hyde Park Barracks Museum



The Digital Photography and Genealogy Special Interest

Groups are visiting Hyde Park Barracks Museum on **Friday, 1st July.**

All members are welcome to join us. We will be departing Parramatta Station at 11 am, having lunch together in the city, and then taking a guided tour of the ground floor of Hyde Park Barracks Museum in Macquarie

Street from 1 pm to 2 pm. The entry fee for Seniors is \$5.

For more information, visit their website: http://www.hht.net.au/museums/hyde_park_barracks_museum. **If you would like to join the field trip, let one of the trainers or buddies know so they can add your name to the list.** Pay on the day. Contact Deborah on 9688 2481 if you have any questions.

New members

Welcome to the following members joining in May:

- Amina Ghulam-Ali
- Audrey Lunan
- Lorraine Mortimer
- Vivienne Saliba
- Mary Silantsev
- Jan Smith
- Isabel Thoroughgood
- Margaret Wright.

When you shuffle off this mortal coil..

Hopefully, most of us seniors will die with our boots on, and as active computer users and social networkers.

But has it ever occurred to you to make provisions for your social networking accounts – Facebook, Blog, Google Albums and others?

If you don't think about this, and you don't have a partner who knows all your user names and passwords, what will happen when you depart? Many of us have quite a digital self these days – I know I do. I have a Facebook account, at least three blogs (diaries),

digital family trees and a Google Album with many photos I treasure.

Each of these has a user name and password.

Just like some people arrange their own funerals in advance, there are now social networkers – bloggers in particular – who prepare their final statements and arrange with family or friends to put it up when they pass away.

There are also websites which will hold all your user names and passwords and make them available to a nominated person (such as your executor). Have a look at Legacy Locker (www.legacylocker.com). You nominate two verifiers to notify Legacy Locker that you are dead and they will notify the “beneficiary/ies” of your various online presences. It is just like another will.

And while we are on the subject ..

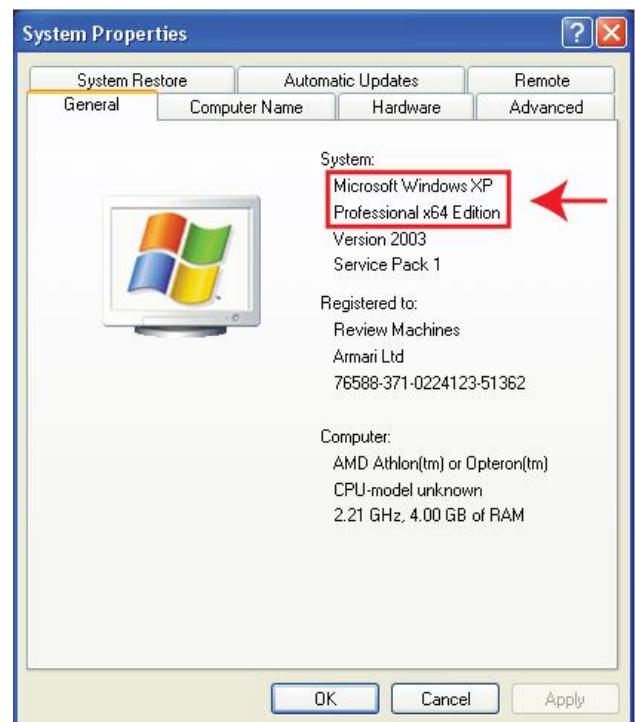
Have you thought of mentioning your family history research collection in your will? Do you have a family member who is interested? If you don't trust any members of your family to take it seriously, you could always leave it to the Australian Society of Genealogists or a one name society. Then it will be available in 10, 50 or 100 years time when another long lost cousin is looking for your family.

Tips and tricks

How do I determine if I have a 32 or 64 bit operating system?



It's good to know what kind of operating system (OS) you have on your computer, that way you'll be able to download the appropriate kinds of

drivers and programs that work best with your configuration. So, how about a tip within a tip for this one? Not only are you going to find out which type of operating system you currently have, but I'll even show you a quick way to get there!



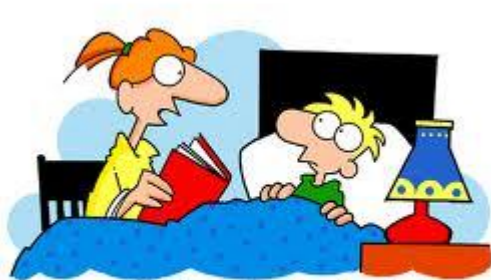
For Windows XP users – Hold the **Windows Key**, and then press the **Pause Key**, which is located two keys to the right of the Print Screen key. This opens the System Properties Window. This window shows all of the basic info about your computer like how much RAM you have and what-not, but it also can tell you what OS you're running. If it doesn't specifically say **Windows XP x64 Edition**, then you're running a **32 bit** operating system.

For Windows Vista and Win7 users – Do the same: press and hold the **Windows Key** and then hit the **Pause Key**. Up comes the system properties window and you'll notice a specific field that says “System Type”, which has your OS type listed after it. Vista will actually tell you 32 bit or 64 bit.

System	
Manufacturer:	Gateway
Model:	DX4200-09
Rating:	 3.7 Windows Experience Index
Processor:	AMD Phenom(tm) 9150e Quad-Core Processor 1.80
Memory (RAM):	4.00 GB
System type:	64-bit Operating System 

With permission from: World Start

Now don't take us too seriously....



"Romeo and Juliet met online in a chat room.
But their relationship ended tragically
when Juliet's hard drive died."

Our sponsors

DCA Computers

Unit 4/8 Victoria Avenue
Castle Hill NSW 2154
Phone: 9634 2555

sales@dcacomputers.com.au
www.dcacomputers.com.au

Meanwhile, members continue to report good feedback about Robert DelVecchio's **InHome Media** which they have used satisfactorily to fix computer problems in their own home.

Phone Robert on 1300 658847 or 0425 202 655.

Useful websites

<http://www.worldstart.com/>

Scroll down the home page of Worldstart and you will find various categories of computer tips. I find them very useful.

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Dates for Your Diary

Term dates

- Term 2 ends Friday 1st July
- Term 3 starts Monday 18th July

Monthly meetings

- Friday 17th June, 9.30am
- Friday 15th July, 9.30am

Special Interest Groups

- Field trip – Genealogy & Dig Photography – 1st July

ASCCA events

- 13th annual conference – 16-17 November at Rydges World Square Hotel, 389 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Our website, blog & Facebook

www.parramattacps.org.au

<http://parrapals.blogspot.com>

Facebook group: Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors (www.facebook.com)

Email:

secretary@parramattacps.org.au

Till next time. *Margaret*