



ParraPals Newsletter Vol 5, No: 5, May 2011

President's message

Well, we're back after an enjoyable if sometimes frustrating "family ghost hunting tour" to western NSW, the Barossa in SA and rural Victoria.

For those of you who are interested in family history, particularly those who like to visit where your ancestors lived, I can report that it definitely pays huge dividends to make contact with local historians ahead of your visit.

For example, one email from me to a local historian in SA resulted in an official copy of my great grandmother's baptism certificate, a photo of the priest who baptised her in 1855, an escorted visit to the site of the now demolished church (where Mary MacKillop established a home for difficult girls), a map of where her parents' farm was in the 1850s, including an escorted visit to the site, and numerous birth and marriage records of relatives.

We now have the highest annual membership ever (over 230) and people keep joining. This is great as it tells us that we are definitely meeting a community need.

But we can always do better. So if you can make suggestions as to how we can improve any aspect of our club – courses, notes, venue, monthly meetings, social events, special interest groups, catering – just mention

it to any committee member so your suggestion can be discussed and perhaps adopted. If you don't tell us, we may never think of it.

Michael Myers and band of helpers printed all our notes for this term in-house for the first time. He and Peter Grove located a better source of toner cartridges than I could and now we will save about \$2000 per year compared with getting commercial organisations to do the printing. Thank you Michael and his helpers.

We are planning to mount a drive to recruit more trainers. If you know of a computer savvy senior (really must be a senior) who may like to consider joining us, please put them in touch with me so I can discuss what our needs are and how their skills and knowledge might fit those needs.

Two of our members – Barbara Jones and Jim Rodgers passed away in early April. Margaret Green extended our condolences to their families on behalf of the Club.

Please don't forget our Members' Meeting on Friday 20th May. I look forward to seeing you there.

Regards

John Moxon

Johnmoxon1@gmail.com

9636 7752

Term 2 courses

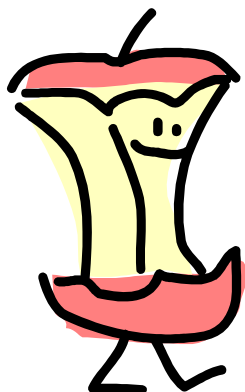
Day/ Time	Dates	Course	Hours	Cost
Friday 9.30-11.45am	May 27	Beginners – Apple Mac	2	\$10
*Mon 9.30am-12.30pm	May 30; June 6,20,27	Managing Digital Photos	10	\$40
*Mon 1.00-4.00pm	May 30; June 6,20,27	Windows 7 – Beyond the Basics	10	\$40
Tues 9.30-11.45am	May 31; June 7,14,21,28	Beginners 1 – Windows 7	10	\$40
Tues 1.00-3.15pm	May 31; June 7,14,21,28	Creat-A-Card	10	\$40
Wed 9.30-11.45am	June 1,8,15,22,29	Word 2007	10	\$40
Wed 1.00-3.15pm	June 1,8,15,22,29	Win XP – Beyond the Basics	10	\$40
*Thurs 9.30-12.30	June 2,9,23,30	Internet & Email – Beyond the B	10	\$40
Thurs 9.30-11.45	June 16 ONLY	Facebook – Beyond the Basics	2	\$10
Thurs 1.00-3.15ppm	June 2,9,16,23,30	Beginners 1 – Windows 7	10	\$40
Friday 9.30-11.45	June 10 ONLY	Picasa Update	2	\$10
	June 24 ONLY	Genealogy – English & Welsh	2	\$10
Friday 1.00-3.15pm	June 10 ONLY	Genealogy – Australian ancestors	2	\$10

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

If you have already reserved a course, we require payment by April 15, due to unprecedented demand, and a waiting list for some courses.

*These courses are four weeks x 2.5h.

Apple Macs – interested anyone?



As you know, we have started to test the waters with Apple Mac courses, beginning with a short course only. However, if we have enough interest, we might be able to run full courses. We

would probably need to hire a venue to do so.

So if you have an Apple Mac, or know of friends who might be interested in learning, please let us know.

Judy Joyce is our resident Mac “expert” but we’d be happy to hear of other seniors who might be interested in working with us to upgrade our Apple Mac skills.

On Friday June 24, we are planning to hold a public seminar for seniors who are thinking of purchasing a Mac or who would like to do a course. More information soon.

Mobile phone for seniors

Telstra has revealed a new phone which boasts a huge keyboard and bright screen with a focus on providing a unique and easy to use experience for seniors.



Telstra's EasyCall 2 phone for the elderly (Credit: Telstra)

The phone, known as the “**EasyCall 2**”, has larger than normal keyboard buttons and a bright screen with large text, as well as support for the telco’s NextG network in regional and rural areas.

“With big buttons and large numbers on the screen for easy dialling, the EasyCall 2 has audible key tones so you can hear the numbers you are typing and make sure you’re dialling the right number,” Telstra Consumer Executive Director, Ms Rebekah O’Flaherty said in a statement.

The phone also has a quick switch on the back of the device, which allows owners to instantly call their preferred phone number as well as sending a text message to their four pre-programmed numbers in the event of an emergency.

It also has T-Coil hearing Aid compatibility as well as an FM

radio and torch on the rear of the device. It boasts a talk time of up to 180 minutes, with the device expected to last around 300 hours in standby.

The **EasyCall 2** can be purchased now from Telstra’s website for \$99 pre-paid.

Just go to <http://www.telstra.com.au/> , click on Mobiles, then Pre-Paid mobiles. You may need to search for EasyCall 2.

In-house printing

Now that we have an electronic hole puncher, Committee member Michael Myers recently convinced us to print all our training notes in-house instead of sending them to Office Works. This has meant 25 hours work over five days for Michael and his team of volunteers during the school holidays. The team includes:



Lily Patterson; Julie Williams; Noelene Myers; Eleanor Fox and Ron Taylor.

ASCCA seminar on cyber security

ASCCA will be holding an Open Forum on **Tuesday 31 May** at level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 10am-1pm as their contribution to National Cyber Security Awareness Week.

It is free but you need to book at office@ascca.org.au or by phoning ASCCA at 9286 3871. There will be a light lunch following the seminar. The aim is to raise awareness of the fun that can be had online as well as the dangers and to show how you can

become aware and confident users of the Internet.

More information about cyber safety can be found at the federal government's Stay Smart on Line website at

<http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/>

Annabel Crabb on Google

The ABC Drum's Annabel Crabb has written a quirky article called ***The world seen through Google Goggles***. Check it out at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/06/3209838.htm> (or simply Google the title).

Annabel Crabb always makes good reading. I miss her articles in the Sydney Morning Herald.

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. Note that there is wheelchair access to the ground floor only; Levels 2 and 3 are accessible by staircase with a single handrail.

The Museum is a beautiful sandstone building built between 1817 and 1819 as a barracks for male convicts.

Subsequently it was used for single female immigrants; a female infirm and destitute asylum;



courts and government offices; and then as a museum. The current exhibition is about convict Sydney and features a giant map of Sydney in the early 1820s, a panoramic view of the town, convict dress up clothing, interactive displays and leg irons to try on! Last time Deborah visited there was also computer access to a database of convicts. Photography is permitted as long as you don't use a flash.

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 if you have any questions.

New members

Welcome to the following members joining in April:

- Maria Almeida
- Valma Buckley
- Maryanne Cooper
- Shirley Davies
- Lorenz Dotterweich
- Jenny Hopper
- David & Maggie Malcolm
- Barry McIntosh

- Jacqui Mitchell
- Helen Nagiel
- Sue Natour
- Geoff O'Grady
- Noelene Turner
- Edward Wilson.

Letters to the editor

Let's not see this section empty next month.

How about some letters from our members?

Green with envy

Jan (Gathercole) and Ken Preston are currently spending three weeks in the Lakes District and Scotland, visiting places they missed last year after their marriage at Gretna Green.

Meanwhile, Shirley Edwards and Beverly Beaman are touring in South America.

Telstra's Retired & Wired initiative

Telstra is asking seniors to nominate themselves or others for a chance to win \$10,000. Check it out at <http://exchange.telstra.com.au/2011/05/09/the-search-for-tech-savvy-seniors/>

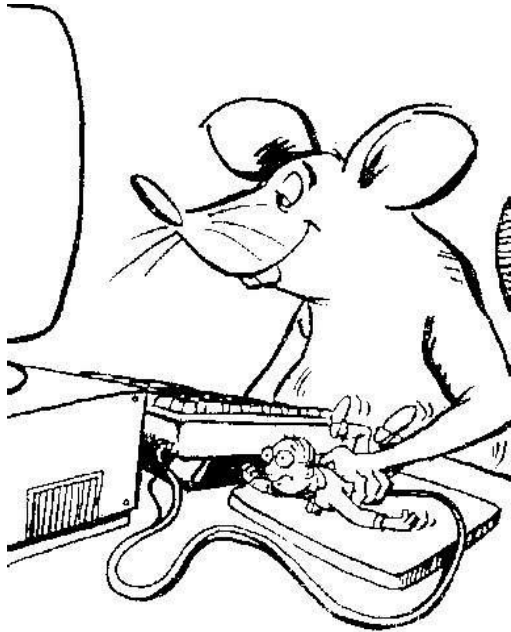
Nan Bosler at ASCCA put us onto it, and John Lee has taken up the challenge. You can too.

Rural transaction centres

In many rural areas, local committees have obtained funding for technology centres in the past few years. On our April travels, we spent a few hours at the Stuart Town Rural Transaction Centre. It is a hive of activity. The photo below shows Margaret recording information about some Moxons who lived there in the 1930s. In fact the lady with Margaret lived in a house built by John's great uncle.



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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.

Dates for Your Diary

Term dates

- Term 2 starts Wednesday 27th April to Friday 1st July
- Week 6-10 courses start at the end of May

Monthly meetings

- Friday 20th May, 9.30am
- Friday 17th June, 9.30am

Special Interest Groups

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

ASCCA events

- Cyber security seminar – 31st May
- 13th annual conference – 16-17 November at RydgesWorld 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*