



SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

March 2023

Meeting **Friday 17** at 7.30pm

Special Interest Group Sunday 19 at 1.00 pm



Richard still has a ‘day job’ in addition to the vast community support he gives to those of us who take advantage of his experience and generosity.

His message for our readers is brief:

‘if you receive unexpected good news that you’ve just inherited \$83,000, IT’S NOT TRUE!’

Richard

An Irishman goes to the doctor. After examining him the Doctor says, “You have some problems with your heart, but if you take these tablets, I think it will be okay.

“So the doctor gives the man the tablets, and the patient asks, “Do I have to take them every day?” No,” replies the doctor, “take one on a Monday, skip the Tuesday, take one on Wednesday, skip the Thursday and go on like that. “Two weeks later, the doctor walks down the street and sees the patient’s wife.” Hello Mrs Murphy,” he says, “how’s your husband?”

“Oh, he died of a heart attack,” says Mrs Murphy.

“I’m very sorry to hear that,” says the doctor, “I thought if he took those tablets, he would be all right.”, “Oh, the tablets were fine,” says Mrs Murphy,

“It was all the bloody skipping that killed him!”

There are naïve questions, tedious questions, ill-phrased questions, questions put after inadequate self-criticism.



But every question is a cry to understand the world. There is no such thing as a dumb question.

Carl Sagan



Gone are the days when group members gathered to see what additional functions could be triggered in the primitive, cumbersome computers coming on to market.

Remember when, as younger, energetic users we welcomed this piece of gear?



A [Commodore 64](#) system, showing the basic layout of a typical home computer system of the era. Pictured are the CPU/keyboard unit, floppy disk drive, and dedicated colour monitor. Many systems also had a [dot matrix printer](#) for producing paper output.

Each of us carries a digital device with capacity beyond our imagination.

David and Russell conduct workshops on the first and third Wednesdays each month in Berry to explore and ‘unlock’ power of this incredible tool.

We sometimes do not know what we do not know and this leads us to believe we know it all.

The apparently dumb question is the one that others were afraid to ask.

It’s good to see the ageing users asking about, and discussing this stuff at our meetings

Frank

Notes from the February meeting.
Russell was on vacation and Gail has provided a brief summary for the benefit of those of us unable to attend.



Present: Members present are recorded by the 'Meet & Greet' committee member on the day and held on file by the Treasurer.
Eleven Members were in attendance.

Apologies: Russell Field, Mick Rigg, Max & Bev Hunt, Lyall Davis, Dennis Collimore, Barbara Baker & Beth Wares, Frank Tynan, Ron Lukin.

General Business:

Gail spoke on the health of Max Hunt, and the meeting wished him good health and a speedy recovery.
Merle complimented the outgoing Committee on a job well done.
Gail asked if she could investigate the price and availability on buying a box of pre-wrapped biscuits for the meeting. Since Covid we are supposed to have biscuits wrapped. Passed by the meeting to buy them if possible.

Questions and Answers:

Due to technical difficulties, I am afraid there is no recording of the questions and answers. No, it has nothing to do with APPLE!! I think I must have left my headphones on and it went through them resulting in a extremely soft recording...too soft for me to hear.

Treasurers' fault not mine!! 😊

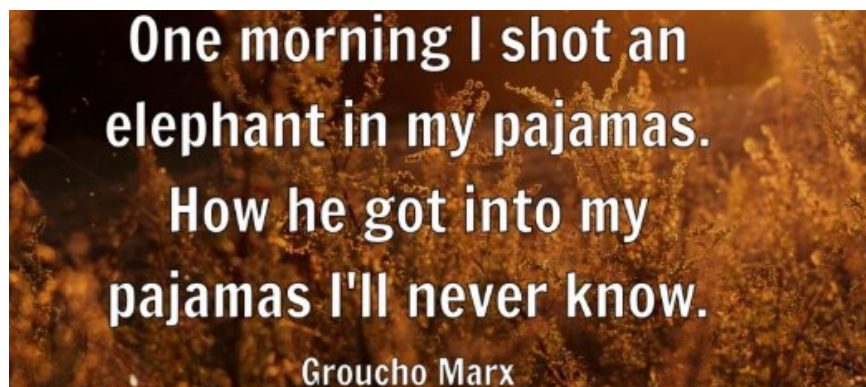
For readers not conversant with our committee roles, Gail is also the Treasurer

Other:

The meeting stopped for coffee 8.03 & resumed 8.20 when everyone was ready for the presentation.
The same applies to Jack Korten's demonstration. I do have some scribble that I will try and decipher.
Jack showed a Google & YouTube clip on how many different languages there are in many countries. Being, South Africa, Australia, Japan, Germany and many many more. Australia was a very big surprise to everyone.
There was a YouTube clip on African shadow play consisting of dance and photography. It was amazing.
Video of animals & birds.
Lastly there were some very funny google clips that had us really laughing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:25pm

Well done, and thanks for sharing it with us, Frank



Curiosity is a key part of David Wastie's make up. It explains his thirst for knowledge and his genuine search for the best solution when an important decision has to be made.



After the recent loss of his dog after years of companionship that many of you understand, he has found a new mate and has probably shown pictures already.

He has also been looking for a new car and has obviously investigated electric vehicles in search of the best option. Perhaps a few of you might also be considering such a move.

Do you realise the electric car is not new? He suggested we might be interested in early versions that were here before the internal combustion engine was good enough.

If you have any interest in the subject, follow the links.

The electric vehicle has been around for much longer than you may think. Though the concept of electric vehicles has been gaining popularity in the 21st century, the roots of EVs go back to the [early 1800s](#). Check out the fascinating history and discover what could have been below.



[Robert Anderson, Thomas Davenport, and The First Electric Cars](#)

[William Morrison and the Electric Carriage](#)

[Andreas Flocken and the Elektrowagen](#)

[La Jamais Contente Breaks 100 KPH Barrier](#)

[Thomas Edison's Electric Car Experiments](#)

[Electric Vehicles Decline in the 20th Century](#)



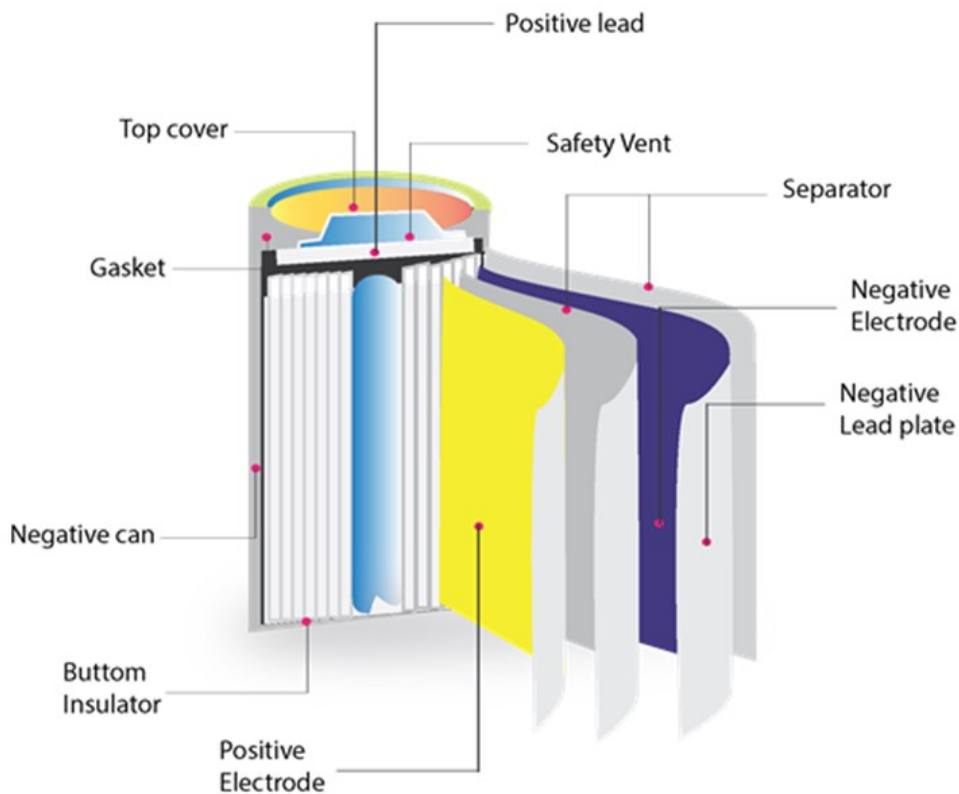
lithium-ion vs lithium-polymer batteries



Lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery technology has historically been the power cell of choice for smartphones. However, modern smartphones now commonly feature lithium-polymer (Li-poly) batteries, a suitable alternative. This certainly isn't a fact to overlook, given lithium-ion battery's rare run-in with overheating problems.

Li-ions are usually delivered in a stainless steel or aluminium case. The case is most often cylindrical but can be button-shaped or rectangular (prismatic). The case is relatively costly to produce and tends to restrict the sizes and shapes that are available. But it is also robust, helping to protect the battery from damage. The case is sealed using a laser welding process.

The trusty lithium-ion battery is the old industry workhorse. The development of the technology began all the way back in 1912, but it didn't gain popularity until the adoption by Sony in 1991. Since then, lithium-ion batteries have powered a wide range of gadgets, from portable cameras to music players and smartphones.

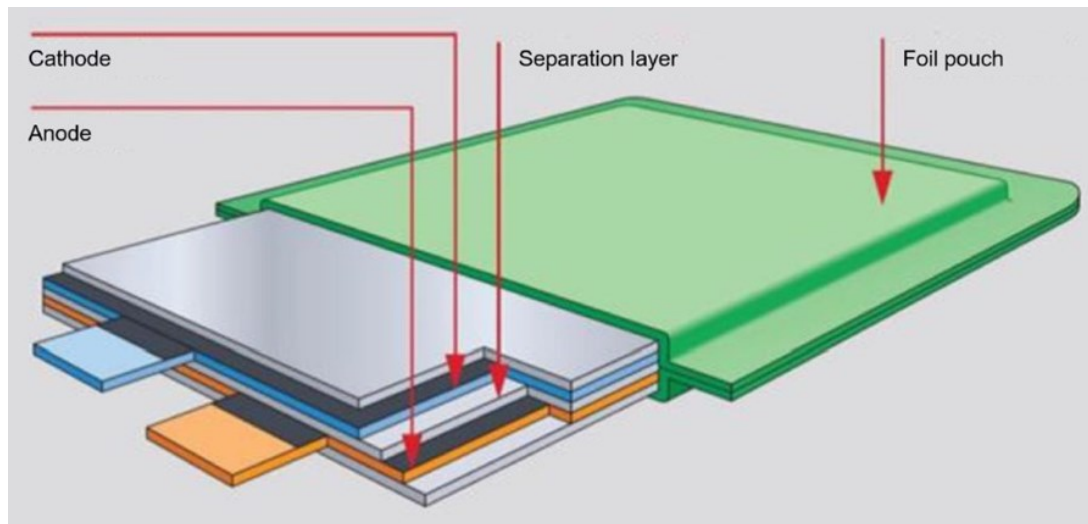


*Lithium-ion battery construction is relatively complicated with a large number of components.
(Image: TechSci Research)*

All lithium batteries include a barrier to separate the anode and cathode while also enabling the movement of ions between the electrodes. In a LiPo, the polymer separator also contains the electrolyte. In addition, polymer separators can provide an additional function acting as “shutdown separators” that can shut down the battery if it becomes too hot during charging or discharging. Shutdown separators are multilayer structures with at least one polyethylene layer which can stop current flow when the temperature rises too high and at least one polypropylene layer which acts as a form of mechanical support for the separator.

Except for the polymer separator, LiPos operate on the same principle as Li-ions. However, they are packaged in quite different ways.

LiPos are packaged in an aluminium foil “pouch” and are called soft or pouch cells. The pouch is mostly prismatic and easier to fabricate, and lower in cost than the stainless steel or aluminium cases of Li-ions. This type of construction also enables the production of batteries with a variety of custom configurations. The other components in LiPos include wafer-thin layers ($< 100 \mu\text{m}$) that can be mass-produced at a relatively low cost. Substituting the foil pouch for the metal can result in high energy density and lightweight batteries.



Lithium polymer battery pouch construction. (Image: Jauch

Lithium-polymer battery technology is newer than lithium-ion. It didn't appear on the scene until the 1970s and has only made its way into smartphones much more recently. The technology has become increasingly popular in smartphones that make use of very fast charging technologies.

Li-Poly batteries tend to be a bit more robust than Li-Ion.

Lithium-polymer technology again uses a positive and negative electrode, but with a dry solid, porous chemical, or gel-like electrolyte, rather than a liquid. As a result, polymer batteries can offer a lower profile, flexible, and more robust designs. They also have a lower chance of leaking electrolytes resulting in thermal run away. They're a fair bit safer.

Both battery types have their pros and cons. Generally speaking, lithium-ion batteries offer the highest capacities at the lowest prices. Li-ion's drawbacks are a gradual self-discharge, not that this matters too much for phones that are always-on.

Li-poly is slightly safer, by comparison, which is particularly important in these days of super-fast charging technology. These batteries also have a very low self-discharge level, so won't go flat when you're not using them. However, this comes with a higher price tag, a shorter lifespan, and a lower capacity density. Although, the lightweight nature of lithium-polymer batteries results in an overall better energy density.

Lithium-polymer is slowly replacing lithium-ion in smartphones due to its superior safety.

Thanks Jack

Do other people ever misunderstand what you said?

Perhaps it might occur like this...



A GRAMMAR LESSON

Is it "complete"... "finished"... or "completely finished" ?
No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain
the difference between these two words - "Complete" or "Finished".

In a recent linguistic competition held in London and attended by supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over five minutes.

The final question was: 'How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand? Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.'

Here is his astute answer.

"When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. "When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. "And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

He won a trip around the world and a case of 25 year old Scotch.

A billion dollar idea...
A smoke detector that shuts off
When you yell
'I'm just cooking.'

You think you know stress?
When I grew up, if you missed it,
You missed it forever.

It only takes one slow-walking person in
the grocery store to destroy the illusion
that I'm a nice person.

I've reached that age where my brain
goes from 'you probably shouldn't say
that ' to
'what the hell, let's see what happens.'

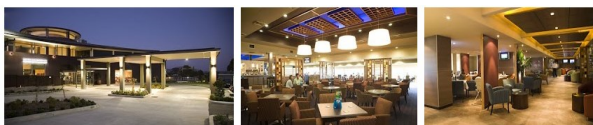
The biggest lie I tell myself, is
'I don't need to write that down, I'll
remember it.'

My super power is holding on to junk for
years and throwing it away a week
before I need it.

When that's about it for March.

Happy St Patrick's day

Frank



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