

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

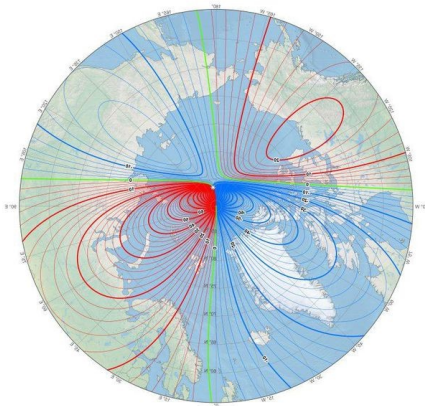
NEWS February 2019

***Our second meeting for 2019 is Friday, February 15.
It begins at 7.30 pm and Visitors welcome***

Sunday Special Interest Group Sunday, February 17 1.00 pm

You might not have noticed!

**Earth's Magnetic North Pole
Has Officially Moved**



Trevor Nace, a science Contributor to Forbes shares recent research on the behaviour of the Magnetic North pole which might interest you.

'Earth's magnetic North Pole has drifted so fast that authorities have had to officially redefine the location of the magnetic North Pole. The extreme wandering of the North Pole caused increasing concerns over navigation, especially in high latitudes.

Earth's magnetic field is known to have wandered and flipped in the geologic past. Earth's magnetic field is a result of spinning molten iron and nickel 1,800 miles below the surface. As the constant flow of molten metals in the outer core changes over time, it alters the external magnetic field.

What we've seen in the past hundred years is that the location of the magnetic North Pole has moved northward. That migration of the magnetic North Pole was switched into overdrive in the past few years, causing the pole to rapidly move. The increased speed with which the magnetic North Pole has moved prompted authorities to officially update its location.

The official location of the magnetic poles is specified by the World Magnetic Model, which acts as the basis for navigation, communication, GPS, etc. around the globe.

The model is typically updated every five years and was last updated in 2015. However, the recent rapid movement of the magnetic north prompted scientists to update the model early.

In the recent past, the magnetic North Pole has moved 34 miles a year toward Russia. Just a half-century ago, the magnetic North Pole was wandering about 7 miles each year.'

I don't understand how systems that use the magnetic north pole as reference are affected by such variation but it prompts a question in my mind about how early navigators handled it when using the magnetic compass.

Perhaps one of our learned readers might have something to say on the subject

The link below has more information and animated model of the pattern:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2019/02/05/earths-magnetic-north-pole-has-officially-moved/#2085fec26862>

You surely noticed; Google encourages doodling

Molière was the subject a couple of days ago and I found it interesting when Wikipedia tells us he lived in the 17th century. His quote below is a message to Bank Executives 300 years later:

It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do.

...Molière



President's Report.

Geoff has given a good report on our last meeting, reminding us the club is alive and well. I hope we can maintain the interest as we move into 2019

2018 was a good experience for the club in terms of member participation at our meetings. On a few occasions, we had a guest speaker. The willingness of those attending to also share their thoughts and knowledge prompted the committee to make more time for member input.

February: The AGM is typically brief, after which focus on a few ideas from David on devices now tempting the digital adventurers in our midst and perhaps a warning on the limited capacity of low cost specials on offer from retailers.

March: A few thoughts from Jack on the subject of Linguistics. Given his occasional observations about the English language, and how we use it, the focus might shift to 'Aussie English' which helps us learn what an English scholar is trying to say.

Don't forget, we also are on the lookout for SME's to share their knowledge at meetings scheduled for 2019. What is an SME? Fair dinkum Subject Matter Experts are welcome to share their knowledge and keep us aware of the many current issues that they deal with on a daily basis.

Our range of topics included in the year just ended included technology and topics that would not have been known to many members in days gone by and unlikely to have been discussed at our meetings. Such things as:

- January...a Google mini
- April 2018... digital natives (grandkids) as coaches for ageing Grandparents
- May 2018...primary school kids building and programming robots
- July 2018...200 year old technology to be used in latest submarine project.

We have much to learn as our group tunes into rapidly changing technology and how it affects life as we come to know .

Richard



The **January Friday night meeting** was a good one but numbers were down a bit. What struck me was that these days, computers feature so much less of what occupies our time these days. We are becoming gadget mad.



Our IT horizons have been opened up so much. If you are a photographer you may not buy a large clunky digital SLR or video camera any more. Ground level pics can be taken with smartphones and iPads achieving astonishing results.

Or maybe you'd be sorely tempted by a relatively inexpensive drone with a camera built in which allows you a standpoint you'd never dreamed of having before. As you know our very own Gadget Man David has done just that and he showed some really great pictures taken from his drone on Friday night.

Controlled by his iPad (or is it a tablet?) he can see exactly what the camera sees so getting good image composition is a snack. I know I can take good pictures with my iPad but old habits often die hard and I still tend to lug my antique SLR around and get inferior results because even after sixty odd years of using one I have never been dedicated enough to learn to use it well. David is so enamoured with his new technology he is talking seriously of entering photos in competitions.

The other principle item on Friday night's agenda was a gadget brought along by our illustrious President. He demonstrated the Google Home Mini, a neat little cloth covered device the size of an ash tray. Now this is not the first such device of its kind on the market.

It has entered the market about 12 months after the competition. But it's a great addition for your IT toolkit. You can get one for as little as \$50+ dollars or somewhat more. Current cost at Office Works, JB and similar places is about \$80. To set it up you have to download the Google Home App on your Smart Phone or iPad and with that you are guided step by step. Once set up you just plug it into a power Point and it stands alone.

It is really designed to stay in one room but its probably not constrained. It plays much on demand, uses your broadband to access Google, Netflix, YouTube, Spotify, Pandora even make telephone calls.

Fall on the floor and can't get up? Tell Home mini to call 000!

Continues next page...

From previous page... Google Home Mini

It uses google for general knowledge, to get information like weather forecasts specific to your location or anywhere else you specify.

It can provide local current traffic conditions, sport information, finance, can set up and add to you shopping list, set up a daily calendar and provide appointment reminders.

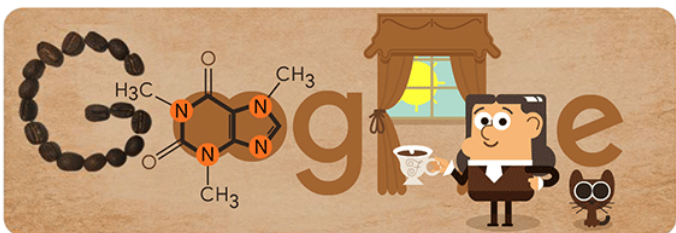
The options seem to be endless. It can even pair with Chromecast for accessing videos.

When setting up the first step it has to employ voice recognition software to learn your voice but it can also be instructed to respond to additional voices.

During the demonstration it actually responded also to David even though it hadn't been instructed to do so. Another such device is Tichome Mini which is more portable being Battery Powered but it has major drawbacks, particularly in respect to battery charge level. If the battery goes flat you have to go through the whole set up again.

I enjoyed the meeting and it finished at a respectable hour which for a senior citizen like me is a good thing.

Geoff



Did you happen to check out this Google Doodle a few days ago? If you enjoy caffeine, thank chemist Friedlieb Ferdinand Runge.

Not only did the German scientist isolate the active ingredient from coffee beans, he was one of the first to isolate a drug used in treating malaria. In honour of Runge's contributions to health—and your morning routine—Google is honouring the scientist on his 225th birthday with a coffee-drinking Doodle.

Runge was born on Feb. 8, 1795. He was the son of a Lutheran pastor and began his experiments in his teens. But Runge's career really got started thanks to writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a cat, and a bag of coffee beans.

After discovering that belladonna extract could cause the pupils to dilate, after a chance splash in his eye, his professor asked him to replicate the results on a cat. He did. That impressed von Goethe, who handed the 25-year-old Runge some rare coffee beans to analyse. From these beans, Runge isolated caffeine. **The rest is history.**

The new year is into full swing with our AGM on Friday, a necessary formality but brief and then we move into another sharing mode when we can discuss those things that interest us most.



I was unable to attend the last meeting but Geoff has provided a comprehensive report for the few people who missed it.

I apologise to a couple of members who somehow dropped off the mailing list. Please let me know if you hear of anyone missing the monthly letter.

Once again, the stuff that appears is prompted by what I come across in casual reading or listening and mail from you folks.

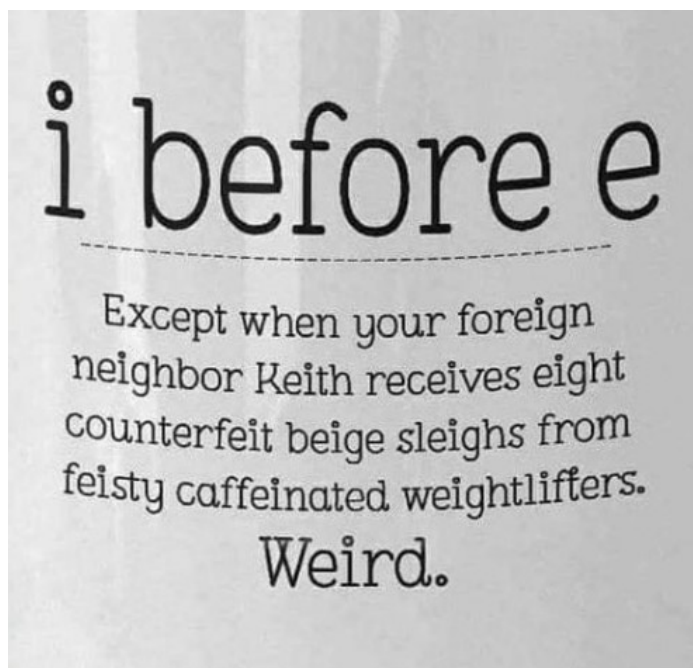
I've had a modest formal education but have been refreshed by interaction with people who draw attention to and prompt thinking about some of the things we learn outside a classroom.

If we can't learn something from our friends, and people we meet we are probably not listening.

Frank

I'm reminded of this advice from a young bloke with whom I had the pleasure of working a few years ago, and the spelling of his name...**Anthony Friedli**

Fluent in several languages he does occasionally remind us with examples such as this, that rules are made to be broken and given that no one has figured a better system, we should just live with it.



Not sure who sent this . I apologise and thank you

A new supermarket opened near my house. It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain.

When you approach the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and experience the scent of fresh hay.

When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying.

The veggie department features the smell of fresh buttered corn.

I don't buy toilet paper there any more.

...and from Gail. We talk this way and somehow use the context of a conversation to interpret what is intended. Sometimes we misinterpret, even without this complication.

**MINUTE AND MINUTE
SHOULDN'T BE SPELLED THE SAME.**

I'M NOT CONTENT WITH THIS CONTENT.

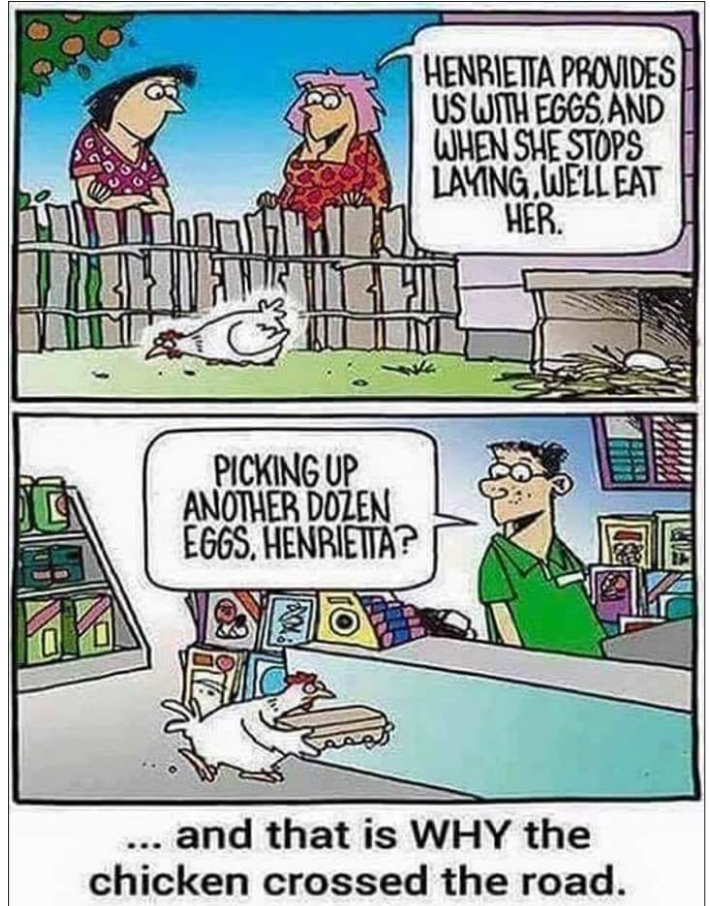
I OBJECT TO THAT OBJECT.

I NEED TO READ WHAT I READ AGAIN.

EXCUSE ME BUT THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THIS.

**SOMEONE SHOULD WIND THIS POST UP
AND THROW IT IN THE WIND.**

There is always the risk that we take ourselves too seriously but it's an exciting journey to sometimes follow the path when we ask ourselves...*why?*



That might be enough for now!


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