

# SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

## NEWS September 2019

***NOTE: Special Interest Group Sunday, September 15, 1.00 pm***

***Our next Friday meeting is September, 20  
It begins at 7.30 pm and Visitors are welcome***



### **A few words from the President**

Have you wondered why our meetings have been so informative and useful in recent times?

We have shifted from the passive 'entertain me' mode to a group of confident users who are keen to share a new trick or two. There is more than one way to achieve a best result and someone keen to know how it's done.

Our August meeting was very entertaining as Jack picked up on the Indian travel discussion in July and went on to share work done with an early 8mm film shot in Germany circa 1969. He was young once.

I think David might have a story to share at our next meeting on his search for the 'wind-blown drone'. Our typical digital devices are less likely give this trouble.

SES, Fire Services and other emergency groups have been constantly challenged. As this brief note is written, many fires and gale force winds threaten homes and livestock in coastal and drought affected areas.

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### **Roads, Rates 'n Rubbish**

In 1919 a local government act was passed in NSW. It outlined the responsibilities of councils. It was the beginning of the idea that councils are responsible for 'roads, rates 'n rubbish. Councils had the power to raise rates using a formula included in the Act.

One consequence of our increased consumption is the increase of waste. For a time, it appeared that recycling or converting waste into reusable material could be profitable and provide employment.

Consumption now exceeds our ability to convert or dispose of the waste we now produce. Health, Cost and Safety requirements make this stage of product life cycle a challenge for conventional methods.

Shoalhaven City is about to use high-tech processes to convert waste that is rapidly engulfing us.

### **Waste and the Werribee duck:**



This is not a local duck; it's a rare visitor from the northern hemisphere but in the same situation as the locals. Our resident bird watcher can tell us more about the bird but a few comments about 'the situation' are in order.

When we consume, we produce waste. It seems that the task of collecting, sorting and disposing has been the duty of lower classes in all societies.

On August 27, City Council proudly hosted a brief overview of the move to apply process control systems used in original production to recovery of material and raw material for reuse.

A new resource recovery plant in the Shoalhaven will see 90% of red bin waste recycled when it is built by 2021.

Shoalhaven City Council has heralded the new facility as the solution to a mounting problem – if it continues to dump all household waste into landfill, a new tip site will be required in 12 year's time. The facility would extend the life of the West Nowra tip by decades, lasting another 50 years.

Bioelektra is working with local authorities on the project and assures residents the technology used at the plant has been tested rigorously.

It will even make use of hand-held digital devices not envisioned by original members of our group.

A few words about our President and his  
HOME TEAM.



If you want a job done, give it to the busiest person in the group. In addition to computer-related work, Richard seems to find a way to help many members of the community.

He was officially recognised a couple of days ago with this Award by State and Federal Members, City Mayor, Commissioner Kyle Stewart and his close supporter pictured above.

Well done?



"You teach me, I forget.  
You show me, I remember.  
You involve me, I understand."  
— Edward O. Wilson

## September Sunsig meeting report:

A relaxed gathering of members, each with a personal project ranging from converting old slides to digital format, fine tuning movies for another group session and a couple becoming more familiar with new hardware or software. There was one working slowly on this issue of the monthly letter.

It was also, as usual, an opportunity to talk with fiends about various aspects of gadgets that have morphed from crude, bulky desktop machines into the incredible devices we carry with us at all times.

The next Sunsig meeting will be 1pm Sunday October 20; you are welcome to join us.

*'As mad as a two bob watch'* do you remember the expression? At a time when the fob watch was the portable timepiece in common use, the expression would have been used if we suggested that in the 1980s and 1990s people would be using a "Smart watch" with rows of buttons with basic digital game and calculator functionality.



What if it was this line-up for 2019?

A smartwatch now seems the ultimate phone accessory. It can tell the time, of course, but it can also beam important notifications straight to your wrist, track your fitness stats and pay for your morning coffee.

Today's best smartwatch models can perform a ton of tricks, such as enabling you to search the internet with your voice, track your location with GPS or even monitor your heart rate to protect your health.

Many of you might consider the one on your wrist to be obsolete and are searching for the latest. Are we ever satisfied with technology as it is?

Our cultural expectation is of short life cycles for things we consume and longer life cycles for us to enjoy what's coming down the track.

## About this time, six years ago Jack warned us about phone surveys

### 2013 WORLD SURVEY BY PHONE

A world-wide phone one-question survey was conducted by the UN.

The only question asked was:

*"Could you give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?"*

The survey was a massive failure!

- ◇ In Eastern Europe they didn't know what "honest" meant.
- ◇ In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant.
- ◇ In Africa they didn't know what "food" meant.
- ◇ In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant.
- ◇ In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant.
- ◇ In South America they didn't know what "please" meant.
- ◇ In the USA they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.
- ◇ In Australia they hung up as soon as they heard the Indian accent

Perhaps this one-question survey from Korten Inc. might be more successful.

*This is a memory test and an eye test.*

Test Your Brain  
This is really cool.

Count every "F" in the following text:

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.....

If your memory is good, you might remember from last time we did it.

OR  
You could figure it out

Deciding to talk about rubbish this month seemed like a reasonable idea at the time.



There is a link with computer technology but given the shift from a penal Colony to one of the most desirables places to live in about 230 years, it proved difficult to say in a few words.

I offer this as one of the reasons for late mailing.

'The Internet of Things' is now a familiar phrase and reflects the reality that digital devices are an integral part of our lives.

Whatever issues we have to deal with are caused by or hopefully resolved by some computer application with diminishing human intervention.

When scanning club newsletters such as this one, looking for reminders or reports, we seldom pause and ask ourselves "what is this bloke trying to say"?

I hope, on this occasion, we can pause at our meeting and have you discuss what you would prefer to see each month. I enjoy writing it, but feel obliged to include a computer-related element in some of the space occupied by images or text.

This month, I've spent time 'down memory lane' to see how waste has been handled or ignored globally and in this fair land we call home.

At the risk of overdoing the slowly shifting focus, I'll share a couple images on the next page of how it was...just a couple generations back.

One of my neighbours mentioned she and her sisters lived the early part of her life in the Rocks area of Sydney which suffered severely from poor hygiene and rat infestations in the 1900's.

Early images of Sussex Street and Balmain circa 1880 remind me that Waste in its many forms has been with us since day one. The infrastructure to deal with it is emerging as a high priority.

*I look forward to hearing from you,*

*Frank*

*Thanks Faye for this gem:*

AT AN OPTOMETRIST'S OFFICE:

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."



Some might remember the odour when travelling from the city to Airport and the inner suburbs as recently as the 1950s.

Tanneries and similar industries produced toxic and often odourless by-products into open stormwater drains such as the Balmain channel below.

These and many other reminders of our recent past remind me of personal situations when we know something has to be done but figuring out to do it and pay for it without upsetting the neighbourhood is beyond us.

View taken during Cleansing Operations, Quarantine Area, Sydney, 1900, Vol. I, under the supervision of Mr George McCredie, F.I.A., N.S.W - No.27 Sussex Street, Sydney (NSW) .17/07/1900



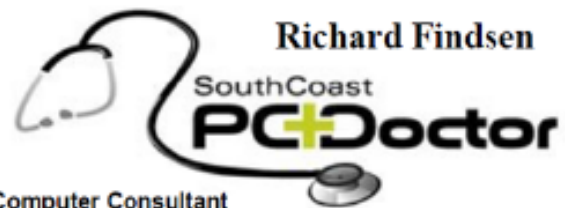
Balmain has come a long way since the horse and cart, the storm drains and occasional heavy rain that swept the accumulated waste into the harbour; out of site perhaps, but adding to the stench and serious illness that eventually forced a focus on this ongoing problem.

Memory lane reminds me that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

**I drew you a picture on the wall**



**... found the paint in my diaper!**



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**Bomaderry Bowling Club**  
**Worth Going Out**  
**Of Your Way For**

We meet at Bomaderry  
 Bowling Club  
 each month  
 on the third Friday at 7.30 pm  
 and  
 the third Sunday at 1.00pm  
**Visitors welcome**