

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

March 2021

*Club Meeting scheduled for
Friday, March 19 at 7.30pm*

Special Interest Group Sunday 21 begins at 1.00 pm

Note arrangements for both meetings to comply with current Covid19 protocol.

President's Piece.



Two of our key players are unwell at this time and unlikely to be at our meeting this month.

President Richard and David Wastie are both confined to sick quarters as they deal with, as yet to be diagnosed, health issues.

Covid 19 does not appear to be the cause

A word or two from Jack:

Once again, we received a well prepared and comprehensive report on our General Meeting held on 19 February 2021.

Thank you, Russell.

One of the questions asked during the meeting was whether a Smart TV could listen to conversations. Did anyone experience this?

As a follow-up, I would like to share the following with you:

From time to time, I have a telephonic conversation with my sister-in-law in the Netherlands, using WhatsApp. When she phones, I get prompted to partake in a video call. I press the video icon, only to find that it is an audio call.

I cannot see her, although she tells me that my image is visible on the other side.

It took me a while to find out what was happening. She tells me that her camera has been covered with a piece of black tape for security reasons. To back up her actions, she forwarded a link to AVROTROS, a Dutch broadcaster. Here is their story, translated into English:

Please turn to page 3 for the story...

Editorial Comment

Several generations of characters have gathered like us in the club, to track, and learn how to use emerging technology as personal computing moved from the wire bound, primitive, bulky machines to the digital units we carry in our pocket.



As newer gear came along, members were replaced by the 'digital immigrants' (us) and a new breed of 'digital natives' born into the world of digital technology, constant change and uncertainty, will hopefully take over from us

We now accept the unexpected:

What would you pay for a **Non-fungible token?**

When asked this question yesterday morning, Saint Patrick's Day, I thought it might have something to do with mushrooms and a Leprechaun's breakfast dish. I'm now a little wiser

It is in fact an example of new technology...a half page of text plus and the image on the next page might explain. It is happening now and reflects one of many milestones in life's journey through life.

Take the trouble to read it and maybe talk about it if I finish this letter before the meeting.

A reminder:

Quite a number of our members are under medical care at this time and find it a challenge to stay connected.

My thoughts are with you.

Frank

One way to avoid criticism is to

Do nothing

Say nothing

Be nothing.

Attributed to Aristotle, but not entirely right!

Many people are not seen to do what they do best.

But what they Do... MATTERS

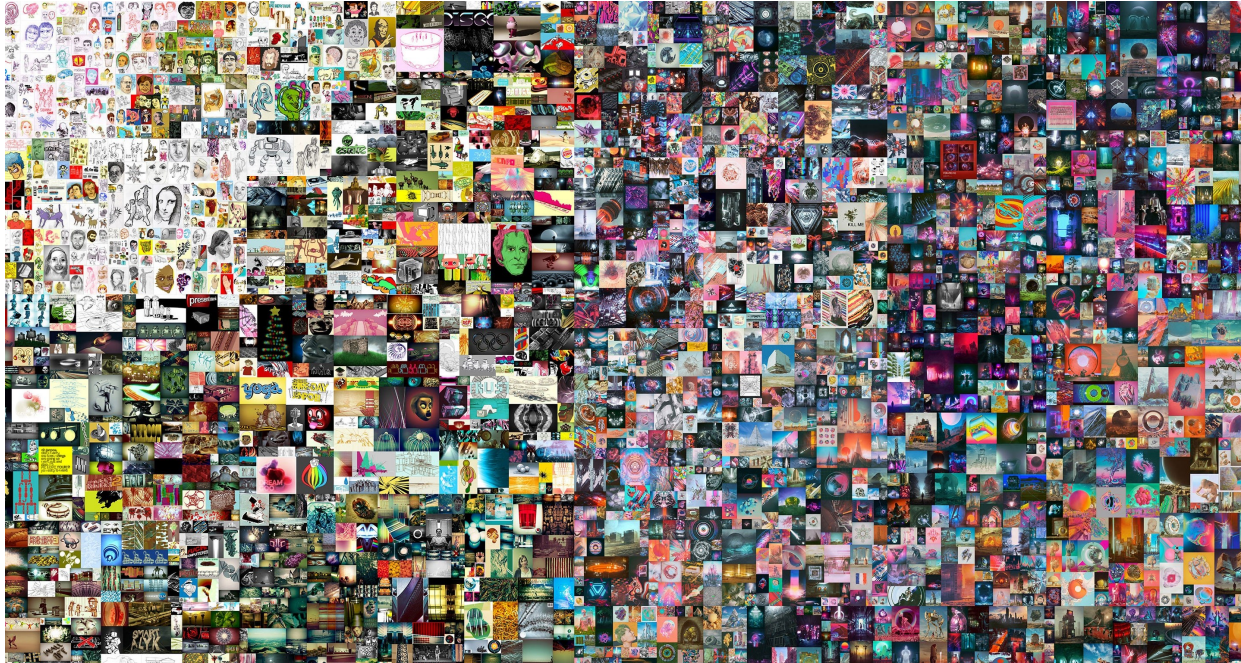
Frank

Non-fungible token



Beeple NFT Sells For \$69.3 Million, Becoming Most-Expensive Ever

A non-fungible token (NFT) is a digital file whose unique identity and ownership are verified on a blockchain (a digital ledger). NFTs are not mutually interchangeable (see fungibility). NFTs are commonly created by uploading files, such as digital artwork, to an auction market. This creates copies of the files, which are recorded as NFTs on the digital ledger. The tokens can then be bought with cryptocurrency and resold.



Everydays: the First 5000 Days is a JPEG created by Mike Winkelmann, known professionally as Beeple. The work is a collage of 5000 images created by Winkelmann for his "Everydays" series. A non-fungible token representing Everydays was sold for \$69.3 million at Christie's in 2021, the highest price paid for an NFT and the third-most expensive work by a living artist.

Mike Winkelmann is an American graphic designer. In May 2007 he drew an image of his Uncle Joe and shared it online. The next day he made another image and once again posted it online. He did the same thing the next day, and then the next day.

In fact, every day for the past 13 years Mike has uploaded a new image. You can see them on his Instagram feed 'beple_crap': Beeple being his nom de plume.

His Instagram following grew like Jack's beanstalk, reaching the heady heights of 1.9 million today.

His piece of digital art sold for \$69.3 million at Christie's, a record amount money paid for a new but booming category of art called nonfungible tokens or NFTs. It quickly places the artist known as Beeple in a rarified world previously occupied only by artists creating physical work.

The composite's sale is not just a standout in the NFT world but in the broader art market, too. It is the third-most expensive work from a living artist ever sold at auction—behind only \$90.3 million spent on a David Hockney painting in 2018 and the \$91.1 million for Jeff Koons' stainless-steel Rabbit sculpture in 2019.

"5,000 Days" was the first completely digital NFT sold by Christie's, and the first-time the centuries-old auction house agreed to accept payment in Ethereum, a popular cryptocurrency. The auction house will collect some portion of the \$69.3 million, likely more than 10% with the majority of the proceeds going to Beeple.

Beeple, whose real name is Mike Winkelmann was little known until 2020, though he had done collaborations with large brands like Louis Vuitton, Nike and Coca-Cola.

Led by Beeple, the NFT market has now exceeded more than \$400 million in transactions during 2021.

...from page 1

Do you have to cover the camera of your device to prevent digital peeps?

Over the past year, we have used the cameras on our devices more than ever before, to talk to friends or family and to hold online meetings. But when you're not video chatting, are you sure no one is watching? Most devices have a light on when the camera is in use, but can you rely on that?

Ever since external webcams were created, it has been known that hackers can take over your camera remotely. They install hacking software on your computer unnoticed, called Remote Access Tool / Trojan (RAT).

This also allows them to check the indicator light that indicates whether your camera is on. So yes, covering your camera is a good idea, and no, you can't rely on the light.

There are also those digital peepers who take sensitive images to trade them on the black market or to blackmail their unknowingly filmed victims.

How do you protect yourself?

So pay attention and prevent hackers from gaining access to your device. Now it is true that most hacks happen on desktops and laptops, so we focus on that.

If you don't take it from us, know that Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg is also masking his webcam. And FBI director James Comey also recommends it to everyone.

The European investigation service Europol has been warning for years against the necessary masking of your webcam.

If you think that you are not an interesting target for hackers, or that there is no sensitive information on your device, then it is better to be safe than sorry.

The idea that someone can just sit and watch you is just plain awful.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Jack Korten.

Thanks Jack

You need to be so careful

A school teacher was arrested recently at John F Kennedy International Airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, an ancient wooden device called a 'slide rule' as well as a code device known as an 'abacus' that he claimed was a calculator.

At a morning press conference, the Attorney General said he believes the man is a member of the notorious al-gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of math instruction.

'Al-gebra is a problem for us' the Attorney General said. 'al-gebra has terrorised many young people for years. They derive solutions by means and extremes and sometimes go off on tangents in search of "absolute values". They use secret code names like 'X' and 'Y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns' but we've determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with co-ordinates in every country.'

As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, 'there three sides to every triangle'.

When asked to comment on the arrest, the president said, 'If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, he would have given us more fingers and toes'.

Thanks Gail for this update and the chicken investigation below.



Gail's report dated March 4 2021

Do we really need to know more?

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.



As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5- year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c".. Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up konfursion, and keyboards kan have one less letter.

There will be growing public enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f".. This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expected to reach the stage where more complicated changes are possible.

Governments will encourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to accurate spelling.

Also, al will agree that the horrible mess of the silent "e" in the language is disgraceful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people will be receptive to steps such as replacing "the" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During zed fizz yer, zed unnecessary "o" kan be drop from voids containing "our" and after zizz fizz yer, vee vile have a real sense lb rite style.

Zero vile be no moor treble or difficulties and Erivan vile find it eSig TU understand echo oza. Zed dram of a united uroo vile finale chum true.

Und after zed fizz yer, vee vile al be spiking German like zed vented in zed forts pals.

pleas pas on to oza pepl



Bomaderry Bowling Club
Worth Going Out
Of Your Way For

Math Education History and Future

1. Teaching Math In 1950's

A logger sells a truckload of timber for \$100
His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price.
What is his profit?

2. Teaching Math In 1970's

A logger sells a truckload of timber for \$100.
His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price, or \$80.
What is his profit?

3. Teaching Math In 1990's

A logger sells a truckload of timber for \$100.
His cost of production is \$80. Did he make a profit?
Yes or No

4. Teaching Math In 2000's

A logger sells a truckload of timber for \$100.
His cost of production is \$80 and his profit is \$20.
Your assignment: Underline the number 20.

5. Teaching Math In 2021

A logger cuts down a beautiful forest because he is selfish and inconsiderate and cares nothing for the habitat of animals or preservation of our woodlands. He does this so he can make a profit of \$20. What do you think of this way of making a living?

Topic for class participation after answering the question: How did the birds and squirrels feel as the logger cut down their homes? (There are no wrong answers, feel free to express your feelings e.g., anger, anxiety, inadequacy, helplessness etc.)

Should you require debriefing at conclusion of exam there are counsellors available to assist you adjust back into the real world.

6. Teaching Math In 2025

What do you reckon?

That's about it for this month.

Stay safe

Frank



Richard Findsen
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