

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

December 2021

Club Meeting scheduled for
Friday, December 17 at 7.30pm

Special Interest Group **Sunday 19** at 1.00 pm

Note arrangements for both meetings to comply with Covid19 protocol below!



It has been a remarkable year for us and the various communities we share on a family or friendship basis.

Virus protection was a subject commonly discussed in pre-Covid19 times as a threat to the digital world we inhabit. You will note in minutes from our last meeting that, the 'scam' is a constant threat in many new forms that can even steal our identity and shatter trust we might have had in those around us.

Just be careful. If something seems to be 'too good to be true' it probably is. Resist the temptation.

Have a Safe, Contented Christmas with Family and Friends and spare a thought for those unable to share it with us.

Richard

Update on December meetings from Russell

I'd like to advise you of the following two upcoming meetings:

The next General Meeting which will be held on Friday, 17-Dec-21 in the Blue Gum Room of the Bomaderry Bowling Club. Meet from 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. Please note that, although this is the last meeting for the year, it has been decided that **we will not have food so don't bring a plate!**

The SunSIG meeting this month which will be held on Sunday, 19-Dec-21. Meet in the Blue Gum Room in the Bomaderry Bowling Club at 1:00pm.

I'd also like to apologise for my absence at Friday week's General meeting as I will be away. Gail has kindly agreed to take the minutes in my absence.

Regards,
Russell Field
Secretary

Thanks Russell; must get you to sit still for a photo.

I wish each of you, your family and friends a Happy, Holy and Safe Christmas.



My ability to think and do things in a timely fashion is beginning to taper off with the result that many deadlines are missed, including this letter.

I'm easily distracted while following up on specific ideas for each issue as I come across stuff I did not know I did not know. Sometimes (and again this month) the hours pass as I follow the writings of various educated characters who sometimes challenge by own perception of a subject.

On reflection I realise this is not much of a change in my behaviour although it eases a sense of guilt.

What difference would it have made to what I've said and done over the last sixty or seventy years?

Day to day decisions are based on assumptions, together with what we think are facts and a desire to satisfy sometimes vague and short term 'needs', only to find more important and useful matters needed attention.

I guess that's what family and friends are about.

It's comforting to be with people who forgive and tolerate less than perfect performance.

On that note, I hope you forgive yet another late issue. If you read between the lines, you will find good intentions.

I haven't seen these characters or several other old friends for some time. My thoughts are with you.



Take care,

Frank

Minutes of November Meeting have been circulated by Russell.

This extract is for the benefit of non-members who might wonder what we do at Friday meetings.

General Business:

New member Jamie Nobes was welcomed Into the Club.

Questions and Answers:

Richard told the members of a new scam using a technique called 'Deep Fake' where an existing image or video of a person is replaced with someone else's likeness to manipulate or generate visual and audio content with a high potential to deceive. Thus it is possible to have someone well respected to appear to recommend a product about which they have no knowledge. As part of the discussion the meeting discussed the information stored on the Internet about individuals – it was suggested that people type their own name into Google to see what information was held on the Internet about themselves.

Max Hunt mentioned he had lost all his emails on his Android device and asked how he could retrieve them. Richard said he would look at the device during the break to see if he could identify the problem.

Mick Rigg told of the trouble he has in trying to delete scam emails from his Gmail account. Richard suggested accessing his account through a browser rather than an email application.

As a result of Mick's question about spam Lester Oehm and Richard discussed the use of aliases which are available to users of iCloud (an Apple cloud based product). An iCloud account allows the account holder to send an email through an alias and still receive emails to their primary address. However, if the account holder wants to stop emails from source's using that alias they need only to delete the alias and no further emails will be received from those using the alias to send messages.

Barbara Baker advised she had been receiving a considerable amount of spam through her email account with the Internet provider Shoalnet, but that in the last week or so it has virtually stopped. Richard said that there was a good possibility the Internet provider had updated their spam filter.

Russell Field mentioned that he had successfully loaded a copy of Microsoft Office sourced for him by David Wastie. He noted he had been concerned about the installation following Richard's comments during the last meeting about adding a new version of Office if the Windows Registry still held references to the older version. However, he found he had no such problems with his Apple computer due to the fact the deletion of the earlier version did not involve a Registry.

Other:

David Wastie gave a presentation about the use of his 'Mavic II Pro Zoom' drone's camera. It was an in-depth presentation and demonstrated the complexity now achieved in domestic products such as the camera in this drone.

After David's presentations Jack Korten gave a Power Point presentation of the many planes he had flown in over the many years he has been traveling since the early 1960's. He followed it with another Power Point presentation titled 'Around the World in 80 Slides' which showed pictures he had taken in the many countries he has visited since the start of his travels when he was a young man.

We thank both David and Jack for their interesting presentations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm

Thanks to Russell for providing a concise summary of the meeting.

Platform-accelerated cultural influence

This might be a bit heavy for a Christmas letter, but the phrase ‘platform-accelerated corrosion’, with a totally different meaning, caused me to search for answers about cultural effects.

A brief extract from research on this site might be worth a visit if the subject is of any interest to you.

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-29544-2_1

“The role of technology in a society shows the indissolubility of the relationships that bind technology, society and the individual as shown by this analysis which identifies the numerous cultural changes caused by the use of information technology (IT).

Technology is not only the machine itself but is the whole set of relationships between human beings, utensils and fields of knowledge.

Another important feature of anthropological theory is that it enables us to define culture as a set of communicative acts. Communication is what allows groups and individuals to represent themselves and interact with the world through norms and values.

One final general observation: new technologies modify space, time, relationships and types of communication that still continue to co-exist with the other fields of knowledge inherent in a culture.

The different pace of development of different societies in the world has been overwhelmed by this innovation, which has caught everyone unaware.

The greater our awareness of living in a global world, the more strenuous our defence of local identity is.

There is a gap between the speed at which digital technology is developing and the slow pace at which cultural models and their inherent values are changing. For example, time and space are perceived in different ways on the net and in real life, although the perception of the web is slowly influencing the perception in real life. “

Social Media gives voice to those with conflicting moral and ethical standards with apparently no effective constraint. I need to do more reading.

Worth sharing. Faye passed this on to some of us, ‘Very important, and new to me...a Hacker's subtle trick that few would notice.’

Spot the Difference?

maybank2u.com is not the same as maybank2u.com

citibank.com is not the same as citibank.com

(the first one is correct, the second one is from hackers)

The "a" in the later url is a cyrillic alphabet.

An average internet user can easily fall for this. Be careful for every mail requiring you to click on a link.

Please Stay Alert

You really have to look closely!

Take your time to notice the difference in these examples.

Changing the "a" in this case to a different font gives the same address, but actually makes it a different address and opens up your computer and your personal details to hackers.

Worth discussing at our meetings. Think before you click.

On a lighter note...

From Gail



**What did the drummer call his two daughters?
Anna one, Anna two.**

From a teacher friend in distant parts...

My wife just stopped and said, "You weren't even listening, were you?"

I thought to myself... "That's a pretty strange way to start off a conversation."



A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!' After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up. The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Larry?' 'No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!'

I am responsible for what I say.
Am I responsible for what you understand?



Sometimes, we have to be serious.
Pause for a moment and think about this...

An elderly physician, Doctor Geezer, became very bored in retirement and decided to re-open a medical clinic. He put a sign up outside that said: "Dr. Geezer's clinic. Get your treatment for \$500 -- if not cured, get back \$1,000."

Doctor Young, who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1000. So he went to Dr. Geezer's clinic.

Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?"
Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box #22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth."
Dr. Young: "Aaagh! -- This is gasoline!"
Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young, very annoyed, goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.
Dr. Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything."
Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box #22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."
Dr. Young: "Oh, no you don't -- that's gasoline!"
Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young, having lost \$1,000, leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.
Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak --- I can hardly see anything!"
Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so here's your \$1,000 back" (giving him a \$10 bill).
Dr. Young: "But this is only \$10!"
Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."

Moral of story --
Just because you're "Young" doesn't mean that you can outsmart an old Geezer.
Remember: Don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to tick us off.

ENJOY YOUR DAY!!!

P.S. Available in large print for Old Geezers!

A letter to the editor from Jack



Good day,

Quite some time ago, when Geoff Spencer was taking care of producing our newsletters, he asked me to write something about myself. This article was published in our newsletter in May 2017.

Some months back, I was asked by a journalist in the Netherlands if I would be prepared to contribute to one of their topics in a publication called "Weert Magazine." The topic: "Away From Here" is all about people who hail from the place where I grew up and who have settled in another part of the world. I volunteered to partake and it was published a few months ago. I have sent a copy to Geoff and I thought that you may be interested to read it as well. See the attached.

Reading my story, you will notice that I underwent a name change since I left the Netherlands.

Regards,
Jack


I tried without success to attach the story but on each occasion the attachment opened. I'm sure he will share with the Aussie audience.



You might also remember Jack's example of action to prevent firehose damage
Take care,

Frank



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