

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

November 2021

*Meeting scheduled for Friday at 7.30pm
Special Interest Group Sunday at 1.00 pm
Covid Club access protocol to be observed*



We've survived restrictions and changes over the last couple of years. In spite of social distancing, covering our faces and virtual meetings, we have a solid core of enthusiastic members.

Some have noted subtle and occasional major changes in many of the commonly used apps such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other favourites.

Brief tutorial sessions could help us to refresh our fluency with some of this stuff so we can make better use of the refined apps...and help us navigate once-familiar screens.

Remember, there are no stupid questions. Let us know your interest in brief refresher sessions that would help in hands-on how-to fashion. Some newcomers find much of our discussion does not address basic 'how do I do it' skills.

Jack and David educate and refresh us each month. Discussion and practical ideas are up to you.

See you at the meeting

Richard

For those who don't bother to read the Banner at the top of the page,, Russel reminds us...

The next General Meeting which will be held on Friday, 19-Nov-21 in the Blue Gum Room of the Bomaderry Bowling Club. Meet from 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start.

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

Extracts from October meeting appear on page 2.

Regards,
Russell Field
Secretary

Geoff Spencer kept us up to date for many years with workshops, newsletter and website before health issues forced him to step aside.



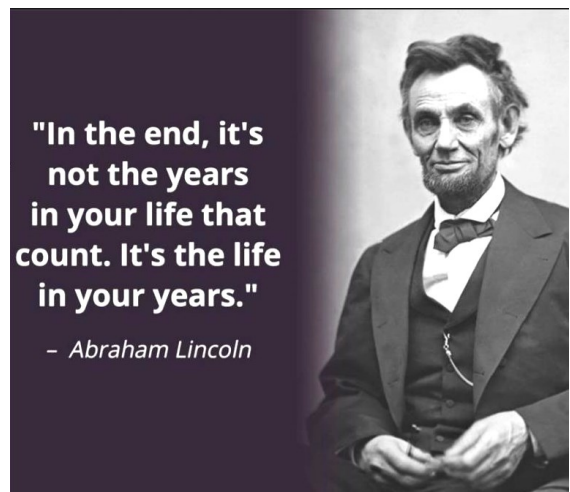
Many will remember presentations reflecting his deep interest in all creatures native to Australia. His recent comment on Facebook a couple of days back is worth sharing for those who might have missed it.

Frank

Few things are more precious or uplifting than the trust of a wild creature



...and in January 2020, he reminded us on Facebook aka Meta





Once upon a time in 2013 Users Helping Users at SUNSIG ..November, I think.

No picture available from our October 2021 meeting but Russell has provided these notes for reference:

There was no General Business but good participation from all as these issues were discussed

Questions and Answers:

There was considerable discussion about the receipt of unsolicited text messages from unknown callers which encourage the recipient to click on a link. Richard mentioned that there had been legislation passed requiring communication providers to stop sending messages that appeared to come from overseas but that had, in fact, been generated in Australia. However nothing has been done about the unwanted texts that have embedded links.

Richard's advice is to delete them immediately and to NEVER click on any of the links.

Richard also discussed the donating of money over the telephone – his advice is 'don't do it' as the person who rings you doesn't know where your name came from and your contact details can be passed on to other organisations. He also said don't accept any offer they may make to send out raffle tickets to you as you cannot be sure where the money will be spent.

Russell Field asked about the various versions of Microsoft Office that are available and the best way to purchase a copy as he wants to put it on his MacBook Air which is now running the 'Big Sur' operating system. After considerable discussion David Wastie suggested that anyone wanting to buy a copy should give him a call and he will do his best to help them get the best option. He noted that the latest version is due out this month and is called 'Office 21'.

Other:

David Wastie gave a demonstration on the use of the application 'ZOOM' to run meetings online. He connected three members in the room and showed how the various features are used. Following the demonstration of 'ZOOM' David gave a demonstration of the use of the 'Calendar app' that is available on phones, tablets and computers and how they are linked so that an entry on one device almost immediately shows up on the other linked devices.

After David's presentations Jack Korten showed various images and video clips, some serious and some humorous, but all interesting. Some showed how artificial intelligence can be used to have well known people singing songs even though they obviously wouldn't be doing it in real life. As Jack said 'You don't know what to believe anymore!'

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45pm

Russell

Warnings as scam losses up almost 90 per cent



"In August, the new Flubot malware scams masquerading as fake voicemail and parcel delivery scams exploded, which have resulted in more than 13,000 reports in just eight weeks."



"These scams are particularly concerning in our current climate, as many people are turning to online shopping because of the COVID-19 lockdowns," Ms Rickard said.

Scamwatch has noticed a significant increase in losses to phishing scams (261 per cent), remote access scams (144 per cent) and identity theft (234 per cent). Losses to investment scams have also risen dramatically (172 per cent) in 2021.

"If you see a scam, please report it to Scamwatch, even if you haven't lost any money. These reports are extremely important to us as they provide key information about any emerging scams or trends."

Information from these reports allows Scamwatch to work with a number of private and public organisations including government agencies and law enforcement to help disrupt scams and provide the best possible advice about how people can protect themselves.

For example, the ACCC has been sharing alleged scammer phone numbers with telecommunications providers for investigation and potential blocking, and has been working with the banks to raise awareness with their customers who may have been compromised by Flubot.

"Do not click on any links in messages that come to you out of the blue, and never provide any of your personal or banking details to someone you don't personally know and trust," Ms Rickard said.

"If you think something might be legitimate, call the organisation or government agency back using details you find in an independent search, rather than the details provided."

Anyone who has provided their banking details to a scammer should contact their bank or financial institution as soon as possible.

People who suspect they may be a victim of identity theft should contact IDCARE on 1800 595 160 or via www.idcare.org (link is external). IDCARE is a free government-funded service that works with individuals to develop a specific response plan to their situation and support them throughout the process.

TEXTS about "failed parcel deliveries", pretend voicemails prompting you to download the message, fake security alerts -it seems we're being bombarded with scams.

So far this year, a record \$211 million has been lost to scams. It's an 89 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, according to new data from Scamwatch.

The losses, reported between 1 January and 19 September, have already surpassed the \$175.6 million reported to Scamwatch across all of last year.

"It's very concerning to see these scams evolving and becoming more sophisticated to steal even more money from unsuspecting people," said the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) deputy chair Delia Rickard.

"While the proportion of reports involving a financial loss has dropped this year, the people who do lose money are losing bigger amounts. The average loss so far this year is about \$11,000 compared to \$7,000 for the same period in 2020."

Many of these losses are from phone based scams, which accounted for over \$63.6 million (31 per cent) of the losses. Additionally, of the 213,000 reports that Scamwatch received so far this year, 113,000 were about phone scams.

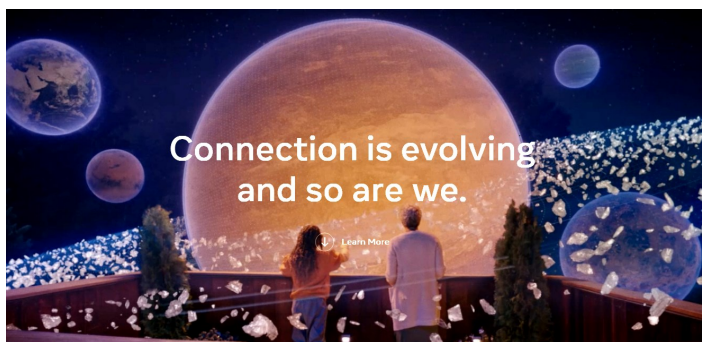
Scammers call or text people and claim to be from well-known businesses or government to steal people's personal information

"Scammers are pretending to be from companies such as Amazon or eBay and claiming large purchases have been made on the victim's credit card. When they pretend to help you process a refund, they actually gain remote access to your computer and steal your personal and banking details," Ms Rickard said.



As the month of October drew to a close, one word was introduced to millions of people that will take on yet another meaning.

An old word, adopted to reflect the ever-changing vision of an enterprise shaping the digital world.



A glimpse of the future can be viewed on their website.

We might then pause to think how those before us would think of the world we now inhabit.

One advantage these characters have, is their ability to think of and implement in a world where the bureaucrat is too slow to delay or prevent.

Strangely, this mechanical device, so effective in days gone by would not be allowed in in 2021. They had the need and ability to do it in 1963.

For Helen and Pat Scott, getting to school in Nowra in 1963 was a 28km trip that started on horseback and featured a trip high over the Shoalhaven River in a flying fox built to transport milk to town!



Show this to your kids!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PyWfvdvpNE

Nowra Flying Fox To School In 1963

Nowra Historical Society would be worth a visit !

SMILE
By Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu.

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.

When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile
then realised it's worth.

A single smile just like mine
could travel around the Earth.

So if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.

Let's start an epidemic quick
and get the world infected!

Filing pictures and documents is a challenge for me and so, I welcomed the chance to pick up a few clues from this brief Utube clip.



The Unique Librarian.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYxmPHLU9oA>



"DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT THE TEACHER SAYS. SHE'S BEEN IN KINDERGARTEN FOR 15 YEARS."



Worldwide Telephone Survey ...



Last month, a world-wide telephone survey was conducted by the UN.
The only question asked was:

"Would you please give your honest opinion about possible solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?"

The survey was a complete failure because:

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.

And in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Great Britain everyone hung up as soon as they heard the Indian accent.


That's about it for this month folks.

Getting used to freedom might be harder than you think.

Take care,

Frank



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Of Your Way For



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