

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

October 2021

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



We are due to meet again this week.

I look forward to seeing those of you who can make it OK. Our thoughts are with those unable to attend evening or any sessions for reasons beyond your control

Beware Of This Scam

Beware there is a malicious scam doing the rounds. A friend received a call from **912250041117** asking him to press 1 if he had been vaccinated.

He pressed 1. Immediately the phone was blocked and his phone has been hacked. So be careful when you get similar calls. Be alert. Also, inform all senior citizens and friends. **91** is a call from India.

Richard



My virtual travels have been so absorbing, I lost track of time this month.

Some of the places I've been and things I've seen might not interest all of you. To keep long stories short (not always easy) links have been listed so you have the option to select time, place and topic for a few minutes..

You will have noticed this letter has been delayed.

Living in a world of my own has generated a sense of timing not synchronised to 'real world' time. If all goes well, you should receive it sometime on Sunday 17th .

Frank

The upgrade advice is offered to fill the page but happens to be relevant to a story in the letter.

The Nowra Bridge project will provide a new four-lane bridge over the Shoalhaven River, upgraded intersections and additional lanes on the Princes Highway. These works are being undertaken by the NSW Government.

Upcoming night work night work will continue to be carried out on the Princes Highway, Scenic Drive, and Bolong, Illaroo and Bridge roads for the safety of workers and road users and to avoid extended traffic delays during the day. Work will take place across the project from Tuesday 5 October to Sunday 31 October between 6pm and 7am, weather permitting.

During this work, we will be using machinery and equipment that generate light, noise and vibration.

We will make every effort to minimise disruption



Hi Frank,

Attached a slightly edited article which I copied from the October issue of 'The Voice'

You may already be familiar with the content. Nevertheless a worthwhile read.



Regards,
Jack.



The Voice, October 2021

Windows 11, the eleventh version of the most used operating system for PCs and laptops. First the good news. Windows 11 will be free and downloadable from 5 October 2021 in a staged roll-out.

Not everyone is getting Windows 11 at the same time. If you buy a new computer, it will most likely be on there. Everyone else has to wait until they get a Windows update notice on their computer.

Windows 10 will continue to be supported until 14 October 2025. After that, you can keep using Windows 10, but without support the security risk will increase dramatically.

Now the bad news. Any computer without internet security applications is already at great risk from malware applications. These allow programs to steal data such as passwords, personal photos, emails, and instant messages.

Windows 11 is designed to proof your device against this data theft. Unless you upgrade to Windows 11, you will remain at risk. With just about every computer user on the planet upgrading, these malware applications will be fishing in a much-reduced pond of users.

In other words, the risk will not only stay, but it will also increase. Some older computers won't have the power to handle Windows 11. Microsoft has promised an online device compatibility check, but this was not yet available at the time of writing.

For Windows 11 you will need a minimum processing speed of 1 GHz on a compatible 64-bit processor. You will also need a minimum of 4 GB RAM and 64 GB of data storage capacity.

Continue next column...

Continued...

To check your device's specifications, click on the Windows icon in the left bottom corner of your start-up screen.

Then click on *Settings*, which is the icon that looks like a sprocket. Then click on *System*. Then click on *About* at the bottom of the list on the left-hand side.

According to some estimates there are still 100 million people worldwide who use Windows 7. Windows 7 is no longer supported.

Even if it works well and does everything you want it to do, be aware that your computer's security is seriously compromised. At a minimum, don't do your banking on your computer if you use Windows 7.



“Bluetooth”... Choosing the name

The history of the Bluetooth name begins with a collaboration between the designers of the Bluetooth wireless communication device. In 1998, the “Bluetooth Special Interest Group” came to life, with investments from Nokia, Intel, Ericsson, Toshiba, and IBM. Before the “SIG” group was formed, each of these technology groups was working on their own short-range radio technologies. Ericsson was building something called the “MC-Link”, while Intel was working on something called “Business-RF”. After a while, they decided that it would be better to work on a single short-range standard together, instead of creating several competing options.

During the summer of 1997, Jim Kardach of Intel met with Sven Mattisson of Ericsson for a drink at a local pub. While they were together, the two started talking about history, and Mattisson brought up a book called “The Longships” in which he had learned about King Harald. After this meeting, Kardach went home and learned more about king Bluetooth, and how he had been able to unite various parts of Scandinavia together – building connections between dispersed groups.

When the title of “Bluetooth” was suggested by the Special Interest Group, it was intended only as a place-holder. The term was such an instant hit, that the organisation decided that they wouldn't change it after all.

The Bluetooth brand has a [global recognition rate of 92%](#). That means that almost the entire world can recognise the Bluetooth logo. When it comes to great branding, there's no other company out there quite like Bluetooth.



Bluetooth communication



Devices connected in a Bluetooth network communicate with each other using ultra-high frequency (UHF) radio waves. These are electromagnetic waves with frequencies around 2.4 gigahertz (2.4 billion waves per second). A Bluetooth device works by using radio waves instead of wires or cables to connect with your phone or computer. So when Bluetooth-enabled products, such as a cell phone and headphones, are in close proximity to each other, they connect, or pair. Connecting the devices is called 'pairing'.

The Bluetooth standard was originally conceived by Dr. Jaap Haartsen at Ericsson back in 1994. At the time, it was designed to replace RS-232 telecommunication cables, a much older standard conceived in 1960, by using short range UHF radio waves between 2.4 and 2.485 GHz. Although this occupies very similar frequencies to Wi-Fi, Bluetooth has always been designed as a much shorter range and lower power alternative. Although Bluetooth was invented back in 1994, the first Bluetooth phone didn't reach the consumer until 2001.

The Ericsson website states that the technology is named after Harald Bluetooth, a 10th-century Scandinavian king. Harald "Blåtand" Gormsson, a Viking king who ruled Denmark and Norway from the year 958 until 985. ... He was known for his unification of previously warring tribes from Denmark (including now Swedish Scania). The Bluetooth wireless specification design was named after the king in 1997, based on an analogy that the technology would unite devices the way Harald Bluetooth united the tribes of Denmark into a single kingdom. There is a statue of him outside Ericsson HQ!



Frequency

Bluetooth only does its work on a 2.4GHz frequency, whereas many WiFi networks these days will run on both 2.4GHz and 5GHz frequencies. You'll find many of today's newest wireless devices taking advantage of WiFi's 5GHz frequency, which isn't nearly as congested as the 2.4GHz frequency and helps to reduce any potential interference between WiFi and Bluetooth networks.

Range

The range on a Bluetooth network gets cut off at about 30 meters, whereas the latest versions of WiFi can reach out beyond 100 meters.

Bluetooth and WiFi are different standards for wireless communication.

Bluetooth technology is useful when transferring information between two or more devices that are near each other when speed is not an issue, such as telephones, printers, modems and headsets. It is best suited to low-bandwidth applications like transferring sound data with telephones (i.e. with a Bluetooth headset) or byte data with hand-held computers (transferring files) or keyboard and mice.

Wi-Fi is better suited for operating full-scale networks because it enables a faster connection, better range from the base station, and better wireless security than Bluetooth.

Bluetooth is used more frequently now than infrared communication as infrared relies on line-of-sight to communicate with another device, whereas Bluetooth relies on radio waves.

The mind wanders as we isolate, meditate and ruminate. Predictions of new energy sources trigger memories of my early life when the horse-drawn vehicle was being replaced by Model T Ford and early primitive versions of the cars we now drive .

Henry Ford's focus on mass production enabled the average worker to buy and operate a simple vehicle at a time when the steam car which had enjoyed popularity circa 1900 to about 1917, required a level of skill that the 'upper class' could afford to employ.

The world land speed record of 127 MPH was achieved in 1907 by Les Marriot, driving a Stanley Steamer.

Our family car about 1940 was a steam-driven 1928 Dodge in which my father installed a 1906 White steam engine, together with a steam generator and other equipment, at a time when fuel for private motoring was unavailable. We used wood and coke.

What does this have to do with new technology? Petrol and diesel vehicles are being phased out as we adapt to Electricity as our power source.

Wikipedia tells us:

What is likely the first human-carrying electric vehicle with its own power source was tested along a Paris street in April 1881 by French inventor Gustave Trouvé.[20]



In 1880 Trouvé improved the efficiency of a small electric motor developed by Siemens (from a design purchased from Johann Kravogl in 1867) and using the recently developed rechargeable battery, fitted it to an English James Starley tricycle, so inventing the world's first electric vehicle. Although this was successfully tested on 19 April 1881 along the Rue Valois in central Paris, he was unable to patent it.

I wish I had known this years ago when working with a colleague circa 1960. he was a descendant of James Starley and proud of his family connection with development of the pedal-powered bicycle.

English inventor Thomas Parker, who was responsible for innovations such as electrifying the London Underground, overhead tramways in Liverpool and Birmingham, and the smokeless fuel coalite, built the first production electric car in Wolverhampton in 1884, although the only documentation is a photograph from 1895.[24]



France and the United Kingdom were the first nations to support the widespread development of electric vehicles.[8]



German engineer Andreas Flocken built the first real electric car in 1888. This image Elektrowagen, (reconstruction, 2011)

You can follow the history on:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_electric_vehicle

France is again prominent in 2021 as we look at a new approach to an all-terrain vehicle in action.



New engineering technology from a creative group.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zWpyiL0utk>

Wilcannia locals are celebrating the news there have been no new Covid cases for two weeks, but say they are now on the long path to recovery after the virus hit “like a cyclone” in August.



▲ Wilcannia has had no new Covid cases for 15 consecutive days but in the Hunter-New England region, cases among Aboriginal people have increased by more than 400%. Photograph: Jenny Evans/Getty Images

Wednesday was the 15th consecutive day of no new cases, an “incredible” outcome according to Brendon Adams, who runs Wilcannia River radio and who worked on the frontline during the crisis

“It was like a cyclone, we were just overwhelmed by the impact,” Adams said. “There was a lot of depression, there was isolation but our community came together, and to see an outcome such as this is unbelievable.”

As NSW lifts restrictions, one Aboriginal health expert warned that “we are still in the thick of it”, with new cases appearing in other Aboriginal communities every day.

...A story worth following on

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-13/wilcannia-records-zero-covid-cases-after-major-outbreak/100534558>

Eighty Five is the magic number in NSW if you drive a car or motor cycle and want to keep driving.

A number of our members line up for medical and practical driving tests with memories of the good old days when we took this sort of stuff in our stride.

One interesting test for a B-Double driver caught my eye a week or so back. Your need to watch it to the end to appreciate the skill needed to pass.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qmybbVBD40>

How many of us would be able to match the skill of the old bloke in this video?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6HWtcYXblw>

When did you last take a train ride from this area to Sydney?

It was not possible before June 1893 when travel by rail was possible beyond Kiama on the South Coast.

Central Station and the Sydney rail system was at a primitive stage of development as can be seen in this image date 1856.



The bridge, originally intended to carry rail passengers further south at Bomaderry in 1881, provided the first link for horse drawn and pedestrian traffic across the Shoalhaven River.

Access to Sydney relied on Shipping companies who recognised the threat to their future and influenced those in power to not bring the railway south of the River.

Those travelling Bomaderry to Sydney by Rail from June 1893 would have encountered a swift journey and improved infrastructure such as this load of passengers at Redfern station 1893.



Emerging technology in all areas of our lives, political manoeuvring, occasional incremental changes and the ever-present promise of better things to come, persist.

Perhaps your grandparents may have discussed some of this stuff with you...maybe gave you a picture.

You can take a short, enlightening journey if inclined, on

<https://www.vintag.es/2019/09/horse-drawn-omnibus-in-australia.html>

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:



- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats..
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always Catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food..
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair..
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

Faye and Henry have been married 54 years today, October 14 according to their dear Daughter Chris. Congratulations, you are great parents and trusted friends.

Had to find a tall sign to fill the page...



GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food.. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.



It's been a long few weeks but great to be here. That's about it for a while. Frank



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