

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP September 2021

We are following instructions...

'You must stay home. Only leave your home if you have a reasonable excuse.'



Please hang in there. We are all itching to get back together. There is a light at the end of the tunnel

A day in the life of a digital device trouble-shooter uncovers a few common problems that we would typically cover in a meeting.

1. Has anyone noticed their phone battery running down faster recently? When you 'scan in' QR, you might not have noticed the Camera app stay open thus using power and running the battery down.

Solution is to open running apps and close the camera. *This applies to both Apple and Android.*

2. Pixilation on webcam in many cases is caused by low light unless your webcam specifically says 'good for low light'.

3. "Flubot Malware"

If you have been receiving SMS messages like :
'DHL couriers last chance Pickup ...link' or
'One package pending...link' or
'Missed call jumbled number/symbols...link"

The link will take people to a website that looks like an official brand – in Australia it could be Telstra but in Europe it was parcel delivery companies. The page tells users to install software on the phone to hear the message.

If the user agrees, it then installs malware.

Read more on:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/aug/20/australians-hit-by-flubot-malware-that-arrives-by-text-message>

Beware of the consequences also if you decide to 'Factory reset' phone...that will cause you to lose all pictures, contacts and other data.

Take care

Richard

It's the 27th day of September and we are still confined to quarters; but with the help of several members (not all mentioned) the letter is about to be mailed.



I guess many of you have changing moods during the month. Judy and others have undergone surgery while many of us marvel at the work of frontline workers who are keeping us in reasonably good shape for shape we're in.

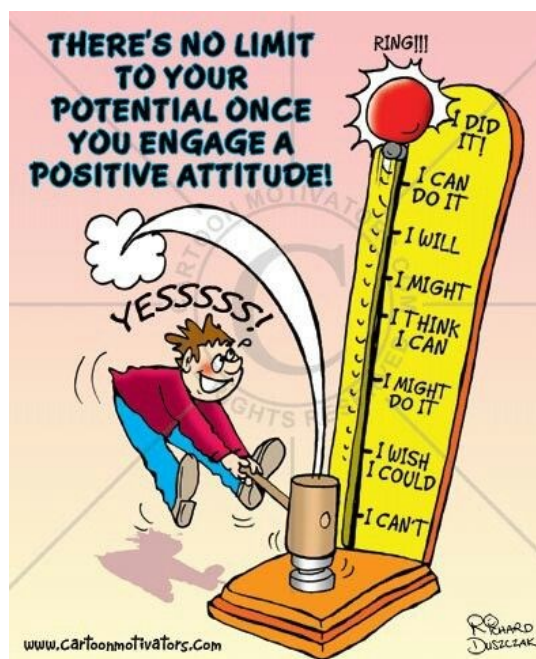
This last year or so have given us a reminder that much of what happens in any community is beyond the control of eloquent leaders alone.

Each crisis challenges the collective wit and wisdom of those who somehow rise to the occasion and give us hope that things will work out OK..

Earlier generations lacked the technology and skills that enable us to live to the ripe old age our generation enjoys.

I'll look for something to fill the rest of this column.

My thoughts are with you. Frank



**September 1..This will be recent history later in the month as you read the September letter.
It is news being reported on day one of Spring 2021...just a memory of what we were told to expect.**

© Getty Images The most perilous place in Australia's COVID outbreak is nowhere near Sydney.



Some who've tested positive have to stay in tents. And as cases grow, plans are in motion to transfer others to a nearby caravan park or a medi-hotel in Broken Hill — the nearest regional centre, some 200km away.

When a COVID-positive local, who is also suffering pneumonia, presented at emergency with breathing difficulties last Wednesday night, she was forced to wait outside in the cold for close to an hour before staff came out to assess her condition.

In videos posted to social media last week, Barkindji woman and Wilcannia local Monica Kerwin said it felt like Wilcannia had largely been ignored by authorities who have coordinated the state's pandemic response

It disturbs me to know this situation exists but SES reports from the area offer a glimmer of hope.



 **NSW SES** ✓
21 September at 12:15 · 🌐

Over the past few weeks, our members have been helping out at the Wilcannia COVID-19 testing and isolation facilities, escorting patients, assisting with swab tests and other logistical support like meals, hygiene and infection control. Members have been working a rotating roster of 12-hour day and night shifts alongside [NSW Health](#) staff. We are proud to do what we can to keep communities safe.

I have modified this page several times since the first day of this month. It was depressing to listen to the talking heads that daily shower us with stuff that does not help communities like Wilcannia.

SES and other volunteers are doing a wonderful job to assist the front line health and social workers who never seem to rest.

Much appreciated!

In April 2020, children in the north-western NSW town of Wilcannia erected handmade signs along the Barrier Highway, urging travellers and truck drivers not to risk bringing COVID-19 into their tiny community.

"Please don't stop. You're dangerous to us," one read. "It's too dangerous to stop in Wilcannia," read another.

Nearly 18 months later, Wilcannia's fears are being realised. This small town on the banks of the Darling River, has 70 active cases of COVID-19, which roughly equates to one in every 10 residents battling the virus.

That is the highest rate of COVID-19 transmission anywhere in Australia.

The outbreak has been traced back to a funeral on August 13 when no public health orders were in place prohibiting such gatherings in regional NSW. It is now in lockdown, along with the rest of the state, but the damage is already being done.

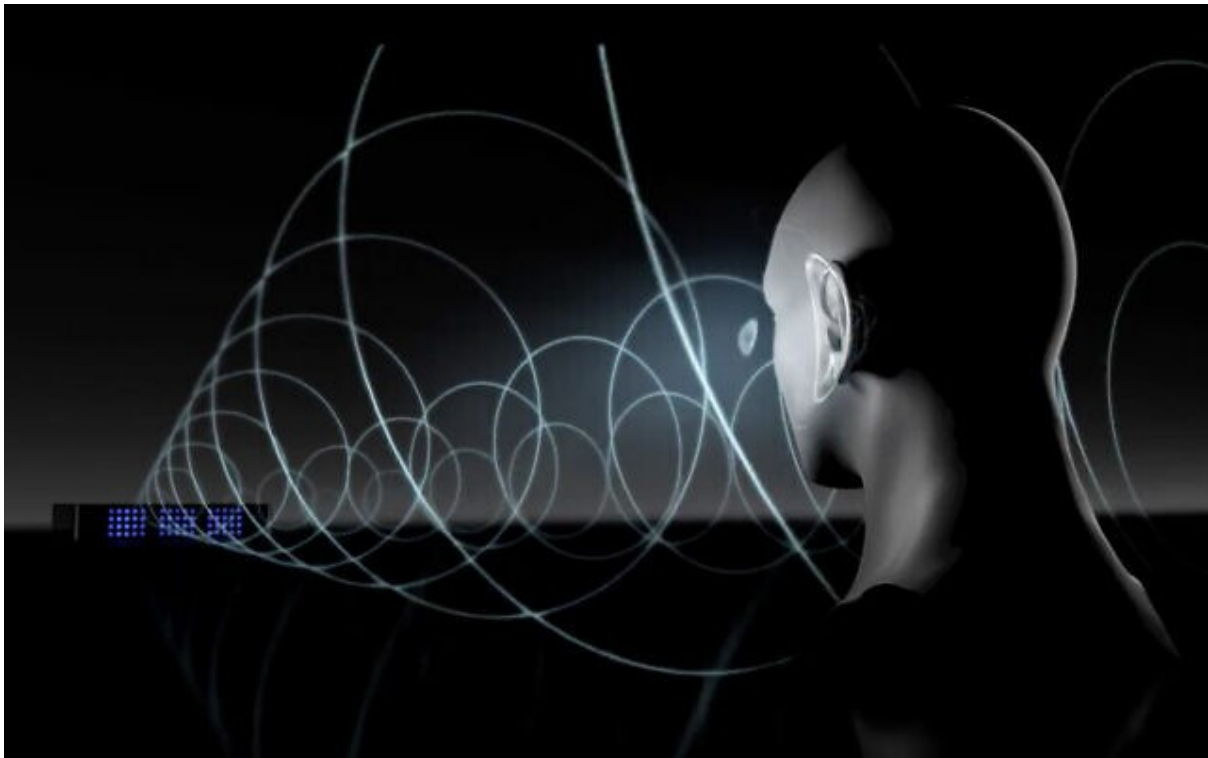
Roughly 60 per cent of its residents are Indigenous; a population identified as more vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19. And many large family groups live together under one roof — ripe conditions for transmission of the highly virulent Delta variant of COVID-19. This also makes isolating incredibly difficult.

Some who've tested positive have to stay in tents. And as cases grow, plans are in motion to transfer others to a nearby caravan park or a medi-hotel in Broken Hill — the nearest regional centre, some 200km away.

Futuristic device from Israeli firm puts music in your head, without headphones

‘Sound beaming’ 3-D technology from Noveto Systems tracks ear and sends it audio using ultrasonic waves, creating personal listening pockets

By LOUISE DIXON



Illustrative image of Noveto Systems' SoundBeamer technology, which beams audio straight to your head, without the need for headphones. (Screenshot/Noveto Systems)

Imagine a world where you move around in your own personal sound bubble. You listen to your favourite tunes, play loud computer games, watch a movie or get navigation directions in your car — all without disturbing those around you.

That's the possibility presented by “sound beaming,” a new futuristic audio technology from Noveto Systems, an Israeli company.

The listening sensation is straight out of a sci-fi movie. The 3-D sound is so close it feels like it's inside your ears while also in front, above and behind them.

Noveto expects the device will have plenty of practical uses, from allowing office workers to listen to music or conference calls without interrupting colleagues to letting someone play a game, movie or music without disturbing their significant others.

The lack of headphones means it's possible to hear other sounds in the room clearly.

The technology uses a 3-D sensing module and locates and tracks the ear position sending audio via ultrasonic waves to create sound pockets by the user's ears.

Sound can be heard in stereo or a spatial 3-D mode that creates 360-degree sound around the listener, the company said.

The demo includes nature video clips of swans on a lake, bees buzzing and a babbling brook, where the listener feels completely transported into the scene.



This product image released by Israel's Noveto Systems shows the SoundBeamer which beams music and sounds straight into your head, without the need for headphones.

But even CEO Christophe Ramstein finds it hard to put the concept into words. *“The brain doesn’t understand what it doesn’t know,”* he said.

In a Noveto demonstration conducted via Zoom from Tel Aviv, SoundBeamer Product Manager Ayana Wallwater was unable to hear the sound of gunshots on a gaming demo.

That’s the point. But she does get to enjoy the reactions of people trying the software for the first time.

“Most people just say, ‘Wow, I really don’t believe it,’ she said. “You don’t believe it because it sounds like a speaker, but no one else can hear it... it’s supporting you and you’re in the middle of everything. It’s happening around you.”

By changing a setting, the sound can follow a listener around when they move their head. It’s also possible to move out of the beam’s path and hear nothing at all, which creates a surreal experience.

“You don’t need to tell the device where you are. It’s not streaming to one exact place,” Wallwater said.

“It follows you wherever you go. So it’s personally for you — follows you, plays what you want inside your head.”

“This is what we dream of,” she added. “A world where we get the sound you want. You don’t need to disturb others and others don’t get disturbed by your sound. But you can still interact with them.”

After his first listening experience Ramstein asked himself how it was different from other audio devices.

“I was thinking, ‘Yeah, but is it the same with headphones?’ No, because I have the freedom and it’s like I have the freedom of doing what I want to do. And I have these sounds playing in my head as there would be something happening here, which is difficult to explain because we have no reference for that.”

While the concept of sound beaming is not new, Noveto was the first to launch the technology and their SoundBeamer 1.0 desktop device will be the first branded consumer product.

“You know, I was trying to think how we compare sound beaming with any other inventions in history. And I think the only one that came to mind is... the first time I tried the iPod I was like, ‘Oh, my God. What’s that?’ I think sound beaming is something that is as disruptive as that. Visit this site for more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pf3QePhKqg8>

If you find this stuff a bit hard to understand, think a few years back to the time when a digital timepiece was yet to be invented.



David Tynan O'Mahony, known professionally as Dave Allen, was an Irish comedian, satirist, and actor. He was best known for his observational comedy.

Initially becoming known in Australia in 1963 and 1964, Allen made regular television appearances in the United Kingdom from the late 1960s until the mid-1980s. Wikipedia

Born: 6 July 1936, Firhouse, Ireland
Died: 10 March 2005, Kensington, London, United Kingdom

His patient approach might awaken memories of those wonderful moments spent learning or teaching how to tell the time.

Take a minute or two for simple instruction...

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

Did any of you see this cartoon recently? It set me thinking about the present form of the primitive device and what prompted Alexander Graham Bell and his colleagues to research and eventually come to understand how such a thing might work.



“Now that I’ve invented it, I have this odd compulsion to hold it in my hand wherever I go and glance at it incessantly.”

Few of us can spend a day without a digital version of that same invention as a tool for contacting people in any part of the world, to take a photograph and send it to distant parts, or use it to find answers to any question we might ask.

His motivation for research into sound and related technologies is worth reading if you have time:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Graham_Bell

Thanks to Dave Page for additional information on the Nowra Bridge . He also asks two questions you might be able to answer .

Hi Frank,

Good newsletter at a very dull time.

From memory, bubonic plague was transmitted by fleas being carried by rats.

Corona virus is no different. Still being carried by the rats who are fleeing lockdowns in Sydney.

A couple of questions arose about your bridge picture. ***What happened to the decorative ironwork at the top?*** My guess is it disappeared in 1981 ☹️. There used to be a plaque there too.

Secondly how far apart are the current two bridges?

Wikipedia says:

The bridge was completed in 1881 and is built from wrought iron with a steel approach span. The bridge had a timber deck for 100 years until in 1981 reinforced concrete was laid over steel Armco decking.

The pairs of cast iron piers are original and were supplied locally by the Atlas Foundry, Sydney.

It was the largest bridge project in New South Wales prior to the 1889 [Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge](#). Its full length is 342 metres (1,122 ft).^[1]

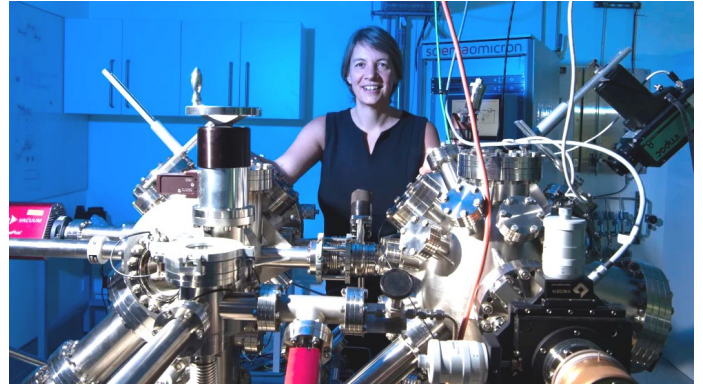
The two-lane bridge currently carries southbound traffic only. A newer concrete three-lane bridge opened in 1981 carries northbound traffic on the Princes Highway.^[2]

So, how far apart are they?



The answer, provided by Dave, can be found on the last page.

And now, back to the future...our grandchildren will one day take this technology for granted .



Britain's Royal Society, first established in the 1600s, has named Michelle Simmons the 2022 Bakerian Medal and Lecture winner for "seminal contributions to our understanding of nature at the atomic-scale by creating a sequence of world-first quantum electronic devices in which individual atoms control device behaviour".

Growing up in England, Michelle felt a weird kinship to a man born in the late 1700s – Michael Faraday, a scientist whose work established the principles of the electromagnetic field in physics, making him her personal hero.

But it would take an Australian journey to catapult Simmons, Sciential Professor of Quantum Physics at the University of New South Wales, into the same league as her idol.

Simmons, a physicist, is racing to build the world's first quantum computer with atoms.

I do not pretend to understand how they will do this but perhaps one of your grandchildren...or one of their children might discuss it with you.

Read this before you talk with them...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-07-19/quantum-computing-silicon-two-qubit-gate/11325424>

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.....

The answer, provided by Jack , is on the last page.

Yep ...
We were 'Home Schooled' whether we realized it at the time or not...



Most of us over 65 were Home Schooled in many ways...

My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

My mother taught me RELIGION.

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My father taught me LOGIC

"Because I said so, that's why"

My mother taught me MORE LOGIC

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT

Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My father taught me IRONY

"Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM

"Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION

"Stop acting like your father!"


So, how far apart are the bridges?

They are 100 years apart, now being 140 and 40 years old.

Keep warm, keep well & keep dry.

*Regards,
Dave Page*



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

While staying overnight in a hotel, David — a friend of mine — took his computer down to the bar to do some work.



Sitting down at the bar he asked the barman: What's the WiFi password?

Barman: You need to buy a drink first.

David: OK, I'll have a beer.

Barman: We have Old Peculiar on tap.

David: OK. How much is that?

Barman: £8.00.

David: Ok. Here you are. Now, what's the WiFi password?

Barman: youneedtobuyadrinkfirst -- no spaces and all lowercase.

How do court stenographers keep a straight face? These are things people actually said in court, word for word.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20. Very close to your IQ.

*And now, the question bottom of page 5...
How many times did the letter F appear?
Did you find 6?*



Richard Findsen
SouthCoast
PC+Doctor

Computer Consultant

Phone: 02 4403 0709 Onsite repairs, troubleshooting.
Mob: 0405 707 879 Best possible prices

* Upgrades * Repairs * Networking * Parts * Accessories * Virus
& Spyware Removal * Internet Application Specialist * Training