

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

November 2022

Club Meetings Friday 18 at 7.30pm

Special Interest Group Sunday 20 at 1.00 pm



Medibank and Optus have been in the news since our last meeting. They are just two of the many victims dealing with the consequences of a cyber attack and demand for ransom.

You might recall our serious discussion during the October meeting and my earnest request that you pause and consider the risk when asked to provide personal information in ANY form on your digital devices.

We might be well advised to re-visit the subject when next we meet.

Richard



A few words from one of the early and respected members of our group arrived while I was in Perth.

Jack read it to those present at the October meeting.

They are worth sharing with those not able to attend our meeting and non-members who might wonder what we are about.

Six weeks travelling and spending time with our extended family has been remarkable.

A few of the great-great grandchildren who knew me as 'IPad-grandad' and a couple of youngsters in-arms might now know me as an old bloke who knew their parents when they were young.

Thanks to the various friends and family who keep an eye on us as we grow a little older. We should spare a thought or two for those with diminishing mobility and health related issues. Let us know if you're not OK.

Frank

From: Ben CAUCHI
<bacauchi@outlook.com>
Subject: SPCUG Newsletter

*Many thanks for the Newsletter.
I always enjoy reading it and glad to learn the group continues to be active and useful.*

The article on photography in the October issue was of particular interest to me .

It included an old photo of members with a dear friend, Jim Houselander, at the centre. I also recognise another good friend, Mick Rigg, sitting beside him. Other faces are familiar but regrettably I cannot remember their names.

The caption above the photo was most appropriate, I felt.

"Camera technology provides a reminder of friends we met on life's journey" it said.

Jim was a very active member and drew several people into the group. He passed away on 14 September 2012 and is fondly remembered.

I have taken the liberty of printing a copy of the newsletter to send to Jim's wife, Joyce.

I am sure she will appreciate it, especially if she had not previously seen the photo.

Meanwhile, I send my warmest regards to all the members, old and new.

Continue the good work.

I wish I could be there for Geoff's presentation on string. It will typically be interesting, informative and entertaining. Unfortunately I am no longer mobile and do not travel well.

Best wishes

Ben Cauchi
Life Member
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PS. The jokes at the end of the newsletter are much appreciated, also.

October 19, 2022

**Notes from September General Meeting
for the benefit of readers unable to attend**



Questions and Answers:

President Richard opened up a discussion about the hacking of entities that hold our personal data such as has occurred with Optus and Medibank. He noted that although we hear about the hacking of the big corporations the hacking is not exclusive to corporations; he mentioned that he has had clients that have been hacked in Nowra. One of the problems is that the hacker can encrypt the files on the hacked computer and then demand a ransom to decrypt the files. Richard also pointed out that the hacker demands the ransom before decrypting the files and even if the ransom is paid there is no guarantee that the files will be decrypted.

Richard went on to say that the best protection measure is to back-up one's files to an external drive periodically and to store the external drive in a safe location away from the computer. Then, if one's computer is compromised one can at least get uncorrupted files from the last back-up. He pointed out that the simplest way to make the back-up is to click on one's user folder, hit Ctrl_A which will collect all the user files, pictures, etc. and then hit Ctrl-C which will copy the folder and its contents to the clipboard allowing the copy to be uploaded to an external drive. Once the files have been copied from the clipboard to the external drive the drive should be disconnected from the computer and stored in a safe place. By being disciplined in making the back-ups one can at least have a copy of all files on the computer at the time the last back-up was made.

Richard went on to reinforce the fact that there is a heightened risk of scams these days and one should be forever vigilant.

A question was asked as to whether one should turn a computer off when not in use to improve security. Richard said most problems occur when one clicks on something to acknowledge something which allows the potential scammer to enter the computer. He also said that even turning off the browser did not prevent access as the computer is connected to the Internet as long as the modem connection is switched on. He went on to say that he leaves his computer on all the time and that he can log into his computer at any time, even when he is not at home. He said that the best practical protection is to have strong passwords containing upper & lower case letters, numerals and symbols.

Other:

Geoff Spencer told us that string was probably one of the first inventions of the human race, possibly going back 120,000 years from the present day. He then showed a video of how the use of string has been used in different ways to produce music over the years. He included in the video musical pieces played by (talented) people using specific instruments, many of which would seldom be heard in our society. The instruments were quite amazing and interesting and demonstrated the imagination and creativity of humans in the diverse cultures around the World.

We thank Geoff for his informative and interesting presentation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:20pm



Three Eras of Photography:

JIM MATHIS

The Digital Era

In the mid-1970s, a small group of scientists at Eastman Kodak began experimenting with electronics-based photography. Not just video, but a new method of storing images using digital technology. The camera used a special back on a standard Nikon and stored the files on a separate hard drive. By the 1990s Kodak was offering digital backs for well-known 35mm cameras such as Nikons and Canons. Since Kodak was a chemical company, management didn't see any future in digital photography and if they did, it was considered a threat to the core business of film, paper, and chemicals.

One of the first digital cameras created by Kodak.



The threat was real. The digital era left Eastman Kodak in the dust and eventually bankrupted the company.

Kodak's failure to make the shift to digital will be textbook case studies in business schools for years to come.

Eastman Kodak's lack of vision left the advances in digital photography to the companies that had been making precision cameras all along and were anxious to distance themselves from the whims of the "Yellow Father" in Rochester. Even more prepared were the giant electronics companies such as Sony and Panasonic which were accustomed to rapid technology changes and were not tied to the legacy technology of film.

Digital technology improved rapidly, and prices continued to drop until digital photography had a clear advantage over film. It hit the tipping point at the turn of the 21st century, the year 2000.



By 2002, most major camera manufacturers had 5-megapixel cameras in the \$1,000 to \$1,500 range. This put them within the budget of serious photographers who were anxious to take full advantage of software such as Adobe Photoshop and were ready for all of the conveniences of digital photography.

Early in the development stages of digital, some people predicted that digital cameras would have to have 30-megapixels to be equal to even 35mm film, much less larger formats. At the time it appeared that even 1-megapixel cameras were a distant dream. It turns out that since digital cameras use one chip for all three colours, the total needed was only 10-megapixels.

Also, that prediction missed the fact that film is always at least a second-generation image – negative to print. Even a projected slide is degraded by a projection lens. A digital image is always first-generation by definition, even if copied, so 5MP cameras equal 35mm in resolution. Cameras in the 12-15 megapixel range can easily surpass medium format film quality.


From the 19th-century plate era to the 20th-century film era, to the 21st-century digital era, almost to the date, the history of photography fits into the calendar perfectly. Anyone living to witness the 22nd century and what that might be like for the imaging world will certainly be amazed at what that future will hold. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwWAVS4frI>



Without our digital, pocket-sized device, the memory of this special moment from 2017 would not have been captured at a Sunday afternoon meeting.



While travelling memory lanes for this letter, I decided to copy a couple of images from days gone by. Modern technology allow us to add a page and share some of the stuff that might be of interest...even to a younger reader.

 Historic Photographs
11 h · 🌐

Jeanne Bauer walks with a DynaTAC mobile phone on 6th Avenue in New York, accompanied by John Mitchell, the Motorola engineer behind the phone. (1973)



You might recognise the bridge as this steam-hauled train arrives from Sydney. The photograph, probably by Samuel Cox in June 1893...80 years earlier.

WHY TEACHERS DRINK



The following questions were set in last year's AGED examination These are genuine answers (from 16-year-olds)

AGED test is for a US High School Diploma
Continuing from last month...

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby

Q. What is the most common form of birth control

A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium. **(That would work)**

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor.

(Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit)

Q. What is a terminal illness

A. When you are sick at the airport. **(Irrefutable)**

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight **(brilliant)**

AND THE BEST IS LAST:::

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Sheik wears on his head. Once a Arab boy reaches puberty, he removes his diaper and wraps it around his head **(now we're getting somewhere)**

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.



Bomaderry Bowling Club
Worth Going Out
Of Your Way For

Seniors' Friday Thoughts

The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us." – Bill Watterson



As I've grown older, I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible, but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake.

I'm responsible for what I say, not what you understand. Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.

My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously there's a new strain out there.

It's not my age that bothers me, it's the side effects.

I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of .. it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Me, sobbing: "I'm not coming back here anymore ... I'm not going to let you hurt me again." My Trainer: "It was one sit-up."

As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy efficient.

I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.

Apparently, RSVP-ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.

That's about it folks, Frank



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