



Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc

Penrith Valley Seniors Centre
86 Station Street Penrith N.S.W.2750



P.O. Box
4063
Penrith
N.S.W. 2751
Tel. 47210609

Email pvscc@internode.on.net

Editor Tom Lehane

December 2008

President: George Bell	Tel: 4721 3681	Member: Pat Mitchell	Tel: 4735 3344
Vice-President: Alan Lees	Tel: 4736 5541	Member: Anne Roddick	Tel: 4721 4343
Secretary: John Windle	Tel: 4731 2149	Member: Zillah Warner	Tel: 4732 4248
Treasurer: Bert Foster	Tel: 4754 3008	Member: Norm Cobban	Tel: 4736 3513
Social Committee: Pat Mitchell, Zillah Warner, Anne Roddick		Member: Jim Tiberi	
Visit the clubs' web page for training courses www.users.on.net/pvscc/training.htm		Webmaster: Tom Lehane	Tel: 4721 5375
Visit the clubs' web site www.users.on.net/~pvscc/index.html			

<i>Weekly Schedule for Computer Courses</i>	
Mondays 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor: Zillah Warner 11.00 am to 12.30 pm Graphics. Tutor: Zillah Warner	Tuesdays 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing Tutor Bert Foster
Wednesdays 9.30am to 11am Using Vista Tutor David Burns	Thursdays: 9.30am to 11am Card Making, Beginners and Do your own thing. Tutors Pat Mitchell , Clare Dixon & Zillah Warner 'Do your own thing' means learn Word, Publisher and Excel or browse the Internet.
Fridays: 9.30am to 11am Memories to TV. Tutors John Windle, Norm Cobban: Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor Alan Lees	Using Microsoft Power Point Fridays Class time 11.00 am to 12.30 pm

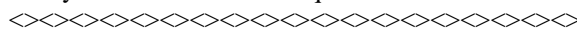
Seniors Centre will be closing from 12th December 2008 and will reopen 21st January 2009.
The last computer club class will be Friday 12th December 2008.
Computer club classes will resume on February 2nd 2009.



The clubs Christmas party will be held on **Monday 15th of December** in the Activities Room, 11am to 1.30pm. You will need to place your name on the participant list at the class attendance table so organizers can cater for the numbers attending...

The Christmas Party is free.

Christmas hamper donation box is at the entrance to the computer room, please make a contribution.
Raffle tickets will be sold and prizes drawn on the day to add to the fun.
This year the menu is Barbeque and side salad.



The President, George Bell and members of the committee wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

Picasa 3, free photo management software is now available for downloading from Google. This update version is much like the earlier versions. It finds all photos on your PC. Picasa 3 automatically locates all your photos (even ones you forgot you had) and sorts them into visual folders organized by name, size, or date. You can drag and drop to arrange your folders and make albums to create new groups. Picasa makes sure your photos are always organized. Picasa also makes advanced editing simple by putting one-click fixes and powerful effects at your fingertips.

One of the smart editing feature is remove red-eye. Load the image and click **Redeye**. The program automatically finds the red-eye high lights them, waiting your command to fix the red-eye.

Picasa 3 now supports the RAW format of most popular digital cameras.

Picasa loads RAW images by the following manufacturers:

- Canon (.CRW, .CR2)
- Nikon (.NEF)
- Olympus (.ORF)
- Pentax (.PEF)
- Kodak (.DCR, .KDC)
- Sony (.SRF, .SR2)
- Minolta (.MRW)
- Fuji (.RAF)
- Adobe (.DNG)

Another new feature is 'Face Recognition'. Can't find that photo of uncle Jack. Click the 'Face Recognition' button and all photos with faces are searched and displayed in a thumb nail file.



'Face Recognition' button

Picasa 3 can make videos out of your pictures. The effects are pretty simple, and there are not a bunch of options for editing and text effects. But for making a simple slide show, video with a music track, customized timing, and text caption is quite simple to do.

Collages: Now there is a lot more control over the collages you create. The previous click-and-hope-everything-turns-out-the-best approach is gone. Now you can rotate, change, mix and match and do a bunch of things to the picture pile you just created. Have fun with your background people.



A Collage of September Morning tea on the Nepean Belle.

Another feature found in the "Tools" in the experimental folder is, find all duplicated photos and show each photo side by side. It works by checking the 'EXIF' information file created by your cameras software. This file has the date and time each photo was taken. If the image was altered by Photoshop or Paint Shop Pro that EXIF file maybe absent and the duplicated find feature won't find it.

So as the folder states it's at an experimental stage.

You can download Picasa 3 from this location...

<http://picasa.google.com/thanks.html>



Spam: unwanted email.

If you have noticed a decline in the spam email arriving in your inbox over the past week, you are not alone.

World wide junk mail levels have dropped by as much as 70% after a company accused of providing servers for criminal activity was shut down.

Internet service providers Global Crossing and Hurricane Electric removed McColo.com access to the net on the 4th November. It found McColo.com was responsible for thousands of unwanted emails from

companies marketing produces connected to criminal activities.

AVG update deletes critical Windows file.

A recent update from antivirus firm AVG has caused havoc with some users by deleting a critical file in non-English versions of Windows XP after incorrectly detecting it as a virus.

Many users of AVG 7.5 and AVG 8.0 reported seeing a warning that the Windows system file 'user32.dll' was infected with the PSW.Banker4.APSA or Generic9TBN Trojans, with a recommendation that the file be moved to the program's vault and deleted.

However, this rendered the PC useless as it could no longer boot without the system file.

The problem only affects users of the Dutch, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish language versions of Windows XP, AVG said in a statement released late this month (November).

Using your digital camera over the Christmas break.

Don't get caught with flat batteries in your digital camera. You may have fully recharged them last month. Remember one of the disadvantage of rechargeable batteries, is that - if not used for some time - they will discharge by about 40% per month.

The one feature on a digital camera that drains the most battery power is the LCD. This feature is required by almost all compact digital cameras as the view finder is used for positioning your subject, also lets you preview images or set different camera functions, this accounts for most of the power used. Switch off your camera when not in use will let you capture up to 5 times more images on a single charge.

Remember check those batteries before going to the family Christmas party.

The articles and comments on Picasa, Spam Email and digital camera batteries are not associated with The Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc or the Camera Club. Articles are intended as opinions and items of debate only.



Coffee Break

Question on Software or Operating system.

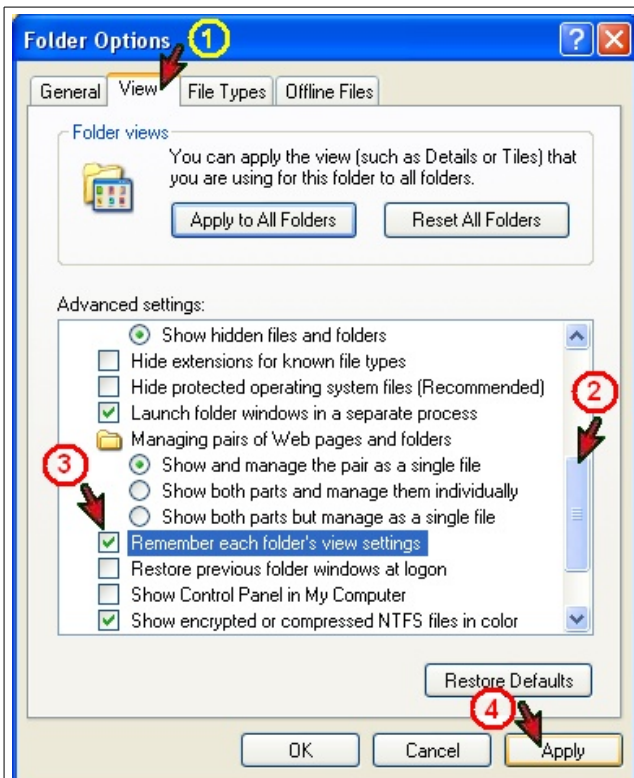
Set Windows Explorer to your viewing preference.

Windows XP has a lot of default settings and many users liked the settings of past versions. Windows XP came with many new features with its Windows Explorer. One is the tiles folder display when looking for files or programs. Very little details are shown whether the file is an application or text file. There is some information but if there are many files in that folder it can be hard to find the one you want. There is a option to set the viewing the way you want each folder to display its contents. This is a handy option as you may want an image folder to display thumbnails instead of details.

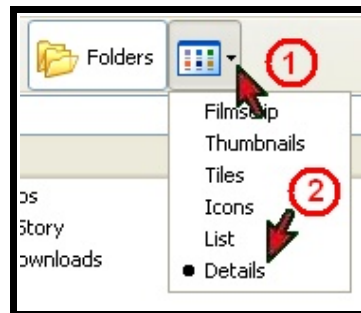


There are a few ways to change these settings. One is from the Control Panel the other is from within Windows Explorer. The method shown here is from within Windows Explorer. Open Explorer.

1. Click on [Tools]
2. Click [Folder Options]



1. Click on [View] tab.
2. Move the side slider down until you come to [Remember each folder's view settings].
3. Click the check box (place a tick in box).
4. Click on [Apply] then [OK] button.



When you open Windows Explorer and you choose [Details] that folder will then always open in [Details]. You will need to apply this to each new folder you open. The options of Thumbnails may be your preference for an image folder.