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Visit the clubs web page for training courses www.users.on.net/pvscc/training.htm

Visit the clubs web site www.users.on.net/~pvscc/pc_index.html

Weekly Schedule for Computer Courses

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 the Software. Tutor: Tom Lehane	Thursdays: 9.30am to 11am Card Making, Beginners and Do your own thing. Tutors Pat Mitchell , Clare Dixon & Zillah Warner
Fridays: 9.30am to 11am Memories to TV. Tutors John Windle, Norm Cobban: Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor Alan Lees	'Do your own thing' means learn Word, Publisher and Excel or browse the Internet.



Digital Camera club: Last Tuesday of the month. Start Time 12.00 noon to 1.30pm.

The new digital camera club got off to a good start. Some information on what to expect in the coming months was spoken about. With the emphasis on starting with the very basics on digital cameras. The first topic was the choice of the best type of batteries for your camera. A Power Point slide show illustrated what to use and what not to use, the benefits on using rechargeable of two different types. Because digital cameras need a lot of electrical power to perform their multiple functions, auto focus, LCD and storage. The best choices are the rechargeable. The once most common rechargeable was the 'Nickel Cadmium' (NiCad). The favored rechargeable are the Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH). Mainly due to NiMH been more powerful and don't suffer from the memory effect of the NiCad batteries, if they are recharged before they have been fully discharged. The apparent symptom is that the battery "remembers" the point in its charge cycle where recharging began, so after multi top-ups the battery only half charges. Nickel Metal Hydride don't have that problem. It was mentioned that it's a good idea to carry a spare set of Alkaline batteries for emergency use or another type of non rechargeable battery the "Lithium", Energizer lithium cells can be used as a replacement for alkaline batteries. The Energizer lithium cells have 2.5 times higher lifetime for high current discharge devices. Energizer claims, 800 photos from their lithium batteries. They have a low self-discharge, 10 years storage time. The down side is their cost is high \$18.00 a set of four and are non rechargeable. Next months topic is about the Megapixels of your camera and memory cards. Hands on, with some settings used on your camera. Next meeting the 26th of February bring along your camera.

Short History of Windows.

You use your computer every day and your Windows operating system is always there to help you get your software running. Well, Windows started doing that in November of 1983 and it sold for \$100.00 back then. It was a basic menu system. On down through the 80s, Microsoft kept coming out with different versions. Windows 1.0 in 1985 and 2.0 in 1987 and they both sold for \$100.00 as well.

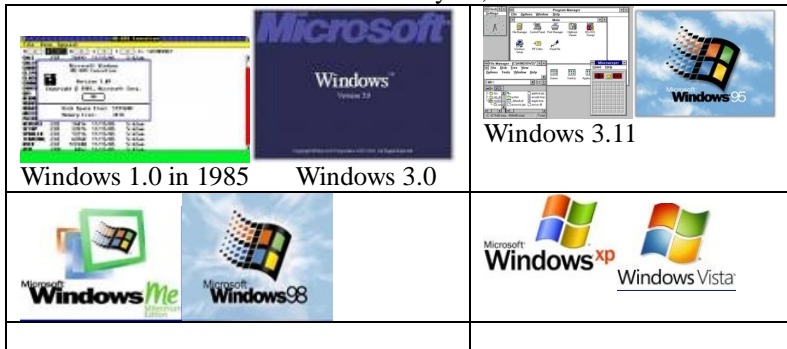
Next, there was Windows 386 and 286 which was programmed for the 386 and 286 computers, and in 1990, Microsoft announced Windows 3.0, with the full version being sold for \$149.95. Much better than Windows menu system in 1985 and 1987. They even had an upgrade version for \$79.95. Version 3.1 came in April of 1992 and there were more than one million

copies of it sold in the first two months of its release. This introduced drag & drop. In August of 1993, Windows NT 3.1 was released and there was record of over 25 million licensed users by the end of 1993.

There was a couple more years of Windows NT (3.5 and 3.51) and then finally in 1995, Windows 95 was featured and it sold more than one million copies in only four days. This was the year people lined up at Harvey Norman to be first to purchase a copy.

Next, Microsoft released NT 4.0 and then a couple versions of CE until the grand feature of Windows 98 in June of 1998. The second edition (98 SE) then came out in May of 1999. Windows 2000 came in February of that year, closely followed by Windows ME (Millennium) in June of 2000. In 2001, Microsoft introduced Windows XP (codenamed "Whistler").

The current version of Windows (codenamed Longhorn), Windows Vista was released on January 30, 2007.



Windows Vista successor scheduled for the second half of 2009.

The very early version of Windows 7, previously code-named "Milestone 1" (M1) coded for validation purposes. Is now ready for testing by selective customers and should be introduced in the second half of 2009.

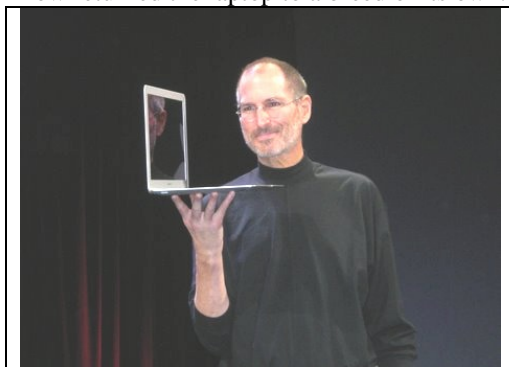
What's in a name, is it a laptop or a notebook?



Excellent question! Laptop and notebook computers are not much different from each other. Back in the early years of manufacturing, laptops used to be a little less than 4.5 kg and notebooks were known for being even a little more lighter in weight and size (2.5 kg). But, over time, the sizes

have worked themselves out and now, laptops and notebooks are just about the same weight. So, with that being the only difference there really is not much between the two types of computers, they are very similar these days.

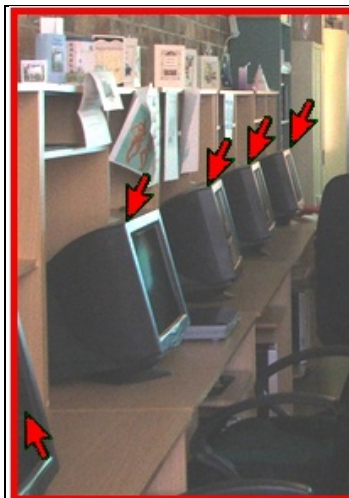
Apple computers have just released their new notebook which has now returned the laptop to a breed of its own.



Steve Jobs displaying the 'MacBook Air' computer, calling it the world's thinnest notebook.

The new 'MacBook Air' weighs just 1.3 kilograms. The computer is 1.9 cm thick; at its thinnest, 0.4 cm. It comes standard with an 80 gigabyte hard drive. Has a full-size 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen display with 1280x800 resolution.

World-leading computer chip maker Intel shrunk one of its fast dual-core processors by 60 per cent to fit inside the new notebook. The MacBook Air will be available in Australia in February at a recommended retail price of \$2499. This is a very high price for a notebook that lacks a CD/DVD. The only method to read/write to a portable device is via the USB ports.



The Black monitors along the back wall have now been replaced by new CRT (Cathode-Ray-Tube) models. These new monitors will cause less eyestrain, produce high-quality pictures and takes up less desk space than CRT models.
The Cathode-Ray-Tube monitors are being offered to members for \$20.00 each.
There are still a few left at this price.



Microsoft announced last week that with its February 12, 2008 Windows updates, an upgrade for Internet Explorer 7 will be included. And yes, that's whether you like it or not. So, basically, if you've been putting off the upgrade, you will soon be forced to install the new version of the IE Web browser. Microsoft is going to be pushing this on just about everyone (businesses included) who has not yet installed IE 7. First of all, Microsoft said they are doing this mostly for security reasons. IE 7 is much more secure and it has a lot more features to offer the average user. The layout of IE 7 is very simple and it's much easier to work with and manage. So, if you're still using Internet Explorer version 6, you can see why Microsoft is pushing the upgrade so much. It means you'll have to get used to something new, but this type of change is for the better according to Microsoft. When the update comes through to your computer on February 12, 2008, it will be marked as an Update Rollup package. If your computer is set to approve Rollup packages, the update from IE 6 to IE 7 will automatically be installed for you. You can turn your automatic updates off. (See attached Coffee Break)

The comments on batteries for use in cameras mentioned 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.

