



# Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc

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Editor Tom Lehane

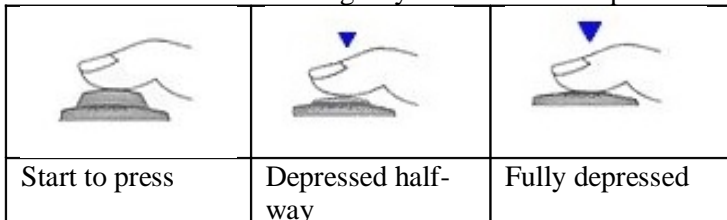
May 2008

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	Webmaster: Tom Lehane Tel: 4721 5375
<b>Visit the clubs' web page for training courses</b> <a href="http://www.users.on.net/pvsc/training.htm">www.users.on.net/pvsc/training.htm</a> <b>Visit the clubs' web site</b> <a href="http://www.users.on.net/~pvsc/index.html">www.users.on.net/~pvsc/index.html</a>	

Weekly Schedule for Computer Courses	
<b>Mondays 9.30am to 11am Beginners &amp; Do your own thing.</b> <b>Tutor: Zillah Warner</b> <b>11.00 am to 12.30 pm Graphics. Tutor: Zillah Warner</b>	<b>Tuesdays 9.30am to 11am Beginners &amp; Do your own thing</b> <b>Tutor Bert Foster</b>
<b>Wednesdays 9.30am to 11am Using the Software.</b> <b>Tutor: Tom Lehane</b>	<b>Thursdays: 9.30am to 11am Card Making, Beginners and Do your own thing.</b> <b>Tutors Pat Mitchell , Clare Dixon &amp; Zillah Warner</b>
<b>Fridays: 9.30am to 11am Memories to TV.</b> Tutors John Windle, Norm Cobban: Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor Alan Lees	<b>'Do your own thing' means learn Word, Publisher and Excel or browse the Internet.</b>
<b>Digital Camera club: Last Tuesday of the month. Start 12.00 noon to 1.30pm.</b>	Genealogy class Wednesday 1.00 pm. Starts May 7 <sup>th</sup> . Using Microsoft Word Mondays 11.00pm starts May 9 <sup>th</sup>

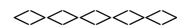
*Aprils Digital Camera class covered two subjects on the features of digital cameras. The class tutors felt that it covered a feature that some members may not know about and was suggested that a condensed version of the talk be featured in the clubs newsletter.*

The topic was using the **Shutter-release button**. With a film camera, the shutter-release button is pressed down in a single step to take the photo. Using the shutter-release button on a digital camera is quite different than using one on a film camera. The difference is vital to understand especially with most compact digital still cameras. To days trend is they don't come with a view finder and rely on the Liquid Crystal Display for lining up your photo. Holding the camera, sometimes at 30 cm from your body will generate movement during the record time of a shot and can result in blurred images. With a digital camera there is a two step process when using the shutter button. When the shutter-release button is depressed half-way, exposure and focus are locked as long as you hold it in that position.



An indicator on the Liquid Crystal Display or electronic viewfinder glows steadily to confirm the lock. Once the camera confirms focus and exposure, then fully depress the shutter button to take the shot. This technique eliminates a lot of camera movement.

This two-step process is an important technique with digital cameras. You should take time to learn it. All digital camera manuals contain instructions about the technique. Check them out, then practice until you get the rhythm of the sequence and using it becomes second nature.



Note: Holding modern compact cameras, sometimes at 30 cm from your body when taking a photo will generate movement. Manufacturers of digital still cameras are now featuring image stabilization.

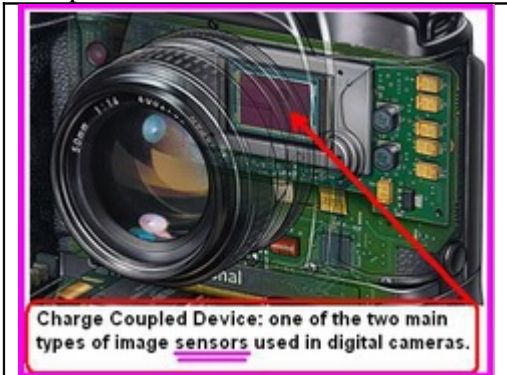
Canon was the first to introduce the system for still cameras back in 1995, Nikon followed suit with their image stabilization.

Image stabilization helps to steady the image projected back into the camera by using floating optical elements, which serve to compensate for vibration caused by the user.

The system features gyro sensors which correct jerky hand movements that would normally lead to camera shake.

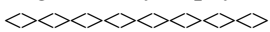
The above image stabilization is used on more expensive and professional cameras.

The method used on most compact digital cameras is quite different. The camera selects a higher ISO setting when you switch to **Anti Shake**, increase the shutter speed is another method, not true Anti Shake or image stabilization. The latest innovation is Sensor-Shift Image Stabilization that keeps images sharp by adjusting the CCD image sensor to compensate for camera movement.

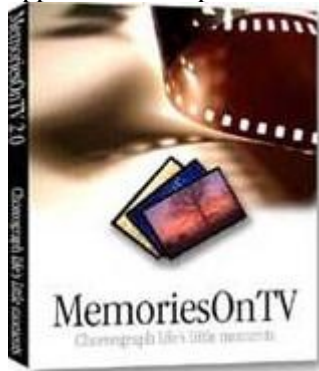


CCD (Charge Coupled Device).

A much cheaper method than the complex Canon and Nikon image stabilization. This feature is on more expensive compact cameras, you get what you pay for.



The computer club has purchased the latest version of Memories\_on\_TV. The new version has many more special features to make your slideshow more professional in appearance and performance.



One of the exciting features in MemoriesOnTV 4 is the availability of automatic face detection when doing pan/zoom. With this, it pans to each individual face in a group shot.

Mask and overlay your photos and video clips to decorate them with frames and borders. Add special visual effects like giving them burnt edges. Use the pre-

built masks and overlays that comes with MemoriesOnTV.

#### Motion Menu.

Wow the viewers of your DVD slideshow with motion menus. Set video clips to the menu thumbnails and/or background and let the menus come to life. You can also harness the power of masking and overlaying to your menus to create a cool-looking theme.

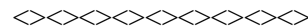
Give your slides and menus a 3-D feel by adding realistic looking shadows. Combine shadowing and masking/overlaying to give your project texture and depth.

John Windle (Fridays' tutor for Memories on TV) has benched tested MemoriesOnTV version 4 and is very impressed with its features.

John has also download the demo version which has no expiree date but places a watermark across each image.

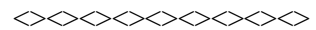
If you work with this demo version at home and save your file as a **Archiving project** which saves it as a zip file and bring it to the club and load into MemoriesOnTV 4 registered version, all watermarks are ignored and you can burn to a DVD for viewing on a DVD player.

John and Norm Cobban can assist you to make a slide show out of your digital photos. Bring them along on a CD or USB flash drive. Using MemoriesOnTV is very easy, the class is held on **Fridays: 9.30am to 11am Memories on TV**. Tutors John Windle, Norm Cobban:



With Windows Vista's popularity still on the low side, Microsoft is trying anything they can think of to boost their new operating system's sales. Unfortunately, they have found one method that most of us will have a hard time accepting. On June 31, 2008, Microsoft will basically "kill off" their famous operating system of Windows XP, taking it off the market all together.

Windows XP users can still continue to run the operating system for as long as they want, but product support from Microsoft will end on April 14, 2009. That's also when it will become even harder to buy the XP operating system



#### Genealogy Class.



The Genealogy class will begin on the first Wednesday in May, 7/5/2008 at 1.00 pm. Bring pen & paper plus any information (notes) you have on your immediate family to assist with your research.



#### Microsoft Word 2007.

Microsoft has also created a new file format for Word 2007, Word XML. The new format dramatically reduces file sizes and, because it conforms to XML standards, makes it easier to integrate Word files with other information systems and external data sources. **It cannot, however, be read by earlier versions of Word.**

(Well done Microsoft)... There is a converter you can download, its called Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack.

Go to this link <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word/HA100444731033.aspx#1> to download the Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2007 File Formats. A word of warning the file is 27 meg in size and will take 1 hour to download.



The new Windows Microsoft Word class will begin on the Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May at 11.00 am. Bring pen & paper to take notes on steps using the software. Microsoft Word is the standard word-processing software in use to-day.

The teaching method is designed to aid beginners and give tips to experienced users in the most popular functions of MS Word.

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The comments are from the editor's research on Microsoft products and are not associated with The Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc.



## Coffee Break

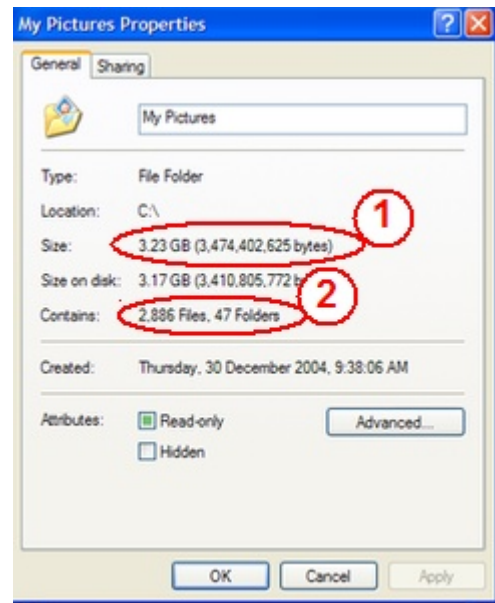
Question on Software or Operating system.

*How much space does My Pictures folder use on my computer?*

- (1) Open Windows Explorer, Right click [**My Pictures**] folder.
- (2) Left click [**Properties**].



- (1) Shows the number of bytes your images are using.
- (2) The number of pictures, plus how many folders are in **My Pictures** folder.



Images take up a lot of hard drive space. It's a good plan to back them up onto a CD or DVD.