

Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc

Penrith Valley Seniors Centre
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Newsletter - No. 8 - May 2005

Dear Club Members,

This is the Club's 8th Newsletter and it is an update on the previous Newsletters. It advises about 'past and up coming' events, indicates the current position of the Club, the courses that are being run and our aspirations for the future.

Newsletters are e-mailed to members who have recorded their e-mail addresses with the club and copies are available on the club notice board and from the club's Computer Room. If you cannot find one, ask a Tutor or Mentor to print one for you. All our Newsletters can be viewed on our club's website www.users.on.net/pvscc

The latest ASSCA Newsletter can also be viewed on the ASSCA website www.seniorscomputing.org

Past Events

We now have:

A much larger room (Approx. 11m x 7m) **and a better layout with:**

New computer desks including an adjustable desk suitable for a wheelchair (donated by Penrith Panthers).

9 new comfortable adjustable chairs.

A Data Projector (donated by Penrith City Council) **and Screen.**

9 Pentium 4 (2.8GHz) PCs each with 512MB RAM, 80GB H/disk, 17" Monitor (big, bright clear display), Sound (need to use your own –inexpensive-headphones – check with club before purchasing) and very fast '**Broadband**' access to the **Internet**. These computers use a **wireless network system**. The wireless network system was donated by Leonay Golf Club.

8 older computers.

A New OKI C5200 Colour Printer.

1 Laser Printer (Mono-colour).

2 Scanners

A Web Site Interest Group

Tom Lehane has been showing members how to set up their own web sites. If you would like to know more, please contact:

Tom Lehane At club on Wednesday mornings Tel: 4721 5375 Email: tommax@internode.on.net

Future Events

The club is hosting a **free information workshop** given by **Ability Technology** to show the latest in computer access technology for seniors and people with a disability. The workshop will be held **at the Centre at 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Thursday 19 May 2005**. This will be a great opportunity for seniors, therapists, health workers, carers and people with a disability to see what alternative keyboard/mouse options, special software and other equipment are available. We would like as many members as possible to publicise and attend this workshop in order to make our visitors welcome and promote the club.

Topics to be covered are:

Typing

Large keyboards, compact keyboards, adjustable keyboards, programmable keyboards, separate numeric pads, keyboards with built-in pointing devices, software (onscreen) keyboards, customisable (overlay) keyboards, laser keyboards, speech recognition.

Mouse Options

Trackballs, joysticks, touch pads, switch-adapted mouse, pointing systems based on head or mouth control, controlling the mouse by voice or switch.

Special Software

Word prediction, automatic clicking software, literacy software, memory training software, single switch software, cause and effect software, text to speech software, outlining software (to develop ideas) simple budgeting ideas, simplified email, numeracy software, phonetic spelling software.

Portable Note-Takers

Lightweight alternatives to a notebook computer. The AlphaSmart Neo runs on batteries that last 700 hours! It weighs less than 1 kilogram. Other options also discussed.

Ability Technology is a not-for-profit organisation that helps people with special needs to access a computer. For more information about **Ability Technology** visit their website www.ability.org.au

Current position of the Club

Since the club started in March 2003, 306 members have joined. There have been no recruitment drives this year mainly as we have been waiting for the enlargement of the computer area. But we now have much improved facilities and equipment and we will now start recruiting for the 2005/2006 year. By the way, **Members' subscriptions - \$20 - for the 2005/2006 year are due by 1st July.**

We have currently 154 paid members. 92 Ladies (60%) and 62 Gentlemen (40%). Our youngest member is 50 and our oldest member is 90. 99 members (64%) have indicated that they have computers at home. 72 members (47%) have correct E-mail addresses recorded with the club. If you have not received this Newsletter by e-mail, it means that we do not have your **correct** e-mail address.

The club's Committee is responsible for administration.

Club Committee for 2004 to 2005:

E-mail: pvscc@internode.on.net

President	Bob Ryan	Tel: 4739 3542	E-mail: bobryan@exemail.com.au
Vice-President	Alan Lees	Tel: 4736 5541	E-mail: lbrown40@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer	Bert Foster	Tel: 4754 3008	E-mail: bertfoster@exemail.com.au
Secretary	Zillah Warner	Tel: 4732 4248	E-mail: susiezil@tpg.com.au
Purchasing Officer	Syd Bousfield	Tel: 4733 3473	E-mail: jbous@optusnet.com.au
Assistant Treasurer	Pat Mitchell	Tel: 9623 4358	E-mail: patmitch@exemail.com.au
Member	Yvonne Doyle	Tel: 4733 7332	E-mail: ydoyle@bigpond.com
Member	George Bell	Tel: 4721 3681	E-mail: geoj@optusnet.com.au
Member	Rob Dickie	Tel: 4733 4004	E-mail: robsyl@zip.com.au

Social Committee: Pat Mitchell Zillah Warner Yvonne Doyle

Please contact any committee member, if you wish to discuss club matters, or if you have any suggestions on how to improve the club.

Club Committee Nominations for 2005 to 2006 should be forwarded to the Secretary by 30th June 2005.

Computing Courses for 2005 are attached at the end of this Newsletter.

Computing Tips

Some members now have experience in choosing Internet providers, connecting to Dial-up and Broadband, installing firewalls and getting rid of viruses. If you want help with any of these things, come into the club or send the club an email and someone will try and help you.

Harvey Norman and Harris Technology stores offer Senior Computer Club members Microsoft software at academic prices. Members would have to show their Membership Badges. If you need a badge, tell Alan Lees or leave a message in the computer room or on the notice board.

Our club web site: www.users.on.net/pvscc list many useful search engines and it is also linked to a site that shows the weather conditions all over NSW.

In the May edition of **The Australian Senior** newspaper, there is an interesting article entitled **Connecting with Computers: It's easy**. It says that 'The Connecting with Computers project complements the Australian Government's new seniors portal – www.seniors.gov.au - which contains information from almost 300 government and non-government agencies about services and benefits available for older Australians'.

Club Fees and Charges:

The Club's current schedule of fees and charges are unchanged and are available on our website. A copy is also on the Club's notice board.

Notice Board

There is a notice board outside the club Computer Room. This shows the courses that are being run, meeting dates, equipment availability etc. From time to time we receive notices of various computer events for seniors that you might be interested in attending, these are also placed on the notice board for your information. Members can use it for anything that may be of interest to other members.

Volunteers

Our present tutors and mentors are:

Tutors: Bob Ryan, Alan Lees, Bert Foster, George Bell,
Zillah Warner, Pat Mitchell and Tom Lehane.

Mentors: Rob Dickie, Des Jenkins, Yvonne Byers, Heather Brown and Nita Ross.

We still need volunteers who are prepared to give 2 hours of their time each week to act as Tutors, Mentors, Interest Group Facilitators and Computer Room Supervisors.

We also need a Publicity Officer and a Newsletter Editor for the club. Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to the committee for publishing in the Newsletter. If you wish to become a volunteer, please advise any of the Committee, Tutors or Mentors.

We are looking for good inexpensive training material for all courses. If you have any recommendations or suggestions, please contact any of the Committee, Tutors or Mentors.

If you or your friends have surplus **computer** books or magazines that will make a great addition to our modest reference library. Please advise any of the Committee, Tutors or Mentors if assistance is needed in transporting them to the club.

PVSCCI Committee

Disclaimer: - Neither the PVSCCI Committee, nor the editor of this newsletter, takes responsibility for the views expressed nor the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter.

PVSCC Computing Courses for 2005

Beginners:

For members having no previous PC experience (or very little) and any who want to refresh their basic **MS Windows** knowledge.

Do your own thing:

Members can –

- buy and work through a training book for either **Beginners, Word, Internet & E-mail, Publisher or Excel.**
- browse the internet.
- send and receive e-mails.
- do Internet Banking & Shopping.
- write your family history or prepare your family tree
- learn to touch type.

NOTE: Tutors and mentors will be present to assist and help if needed.

Microsoft Word:

for writing letters, stories etc.

Internet & E-mail:

- Using MS Internet Explorer to browse the Internet.
- Searching for websites of interest using Internet search facilities such as Google etc.
- Using MS Outlook Express to prepare and send/receive emails, organizing storage of the e-mails and any attachments you receive, includes scanning photographs and documents for attachment to emails you send.

Microsoft Publisher:

for doing artwork, making cards, calendars, letterheads, notices and family trees.

Microsoft Excel:

using spreadsheets for budgeting, keeping records of investments, inventories etc.

Graphics (Digital Editing):

using **Paint Shop Pro** to modify and edit photographs, pictures etc.

Using the Software:

for non-beginners who want to learn about –

- managing the storage of files on their PC and how to copy files from the PC to other storage media such as CD-ROM's, 3.5" disks etc.
- installing and uninstalling programs (software) on your PC.
- purpose and use of "utility" type programs.

Card Making:

for creating and printing personalised Birthday and Christmas Cards etc.

PVSCC Computing Courses 2005 Weekly Schedule

Mondays:

9.30am to 11am - Beginners & Do your own thing
Tutor: Alan Lees
E-mail: lbrown40@bigpond.net.au
Tel: 4736 5541

11am to 12.30pm - Graphics (Digital Editing) (*not for beginners*)
Tutor: Zillah Warner & Friends

Tuesdays:

9.30am to 11am - Beginners & Do your own thing
Tutor: Bert Foster

11am to 12.30pm - Graphics (Digital Editing) (*not for beginners*)
Tutor: Bert Foster

Wednesdays:

9.30am to 11am - Using the Software (*not for beginners*)
Tutor: Tom Lehane

1pm to 2.30pm - Beginners, Internet & E-mail
(Except 2nd Wed of Month) Tutor: George Bell
E-mail: geoj@optusnet.com.au
Tel: 4721 3681

Thursdays:

9.30am to 11am - Card Making (*not for beginners*)
Tutors: Pat Mitchell & Zillah Warner
E-mail: susiezil@tpg.com.au

Tel: 4732 4248

11am to 12.30pm - Beginners & Do your own thing

Tutor: Bob Ryan

Fridays:

9.30am to 11am - Beginners & Do your own thing,

Tutor: Alan Lees

E-mail: lbrown40@bigpond.net.au

Tel: 4736 5541

To enrol or make enquiries for any of the above courses, please contact the course tutor directly.

The Computer Room is available for internet, e-mail and practicing computer skills when classes or meetings are **not** being held and a club member is available and willing to take responsibility for the room.

Email: Members may send and receive e-mails on the club's PCs using their own Web mail accounts with an organisation such as **Hotmail** or **Yahoo**. Web mail accounts are usually free (from Hotmail and Yahoo) and if needed members can be assisted by a tutor or mentor in establishing one for their personal use.