



**Penrith Valley Seniors Computer Club Inc.**

# Club Newsletter

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**September 2011**

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President: George Bell	Tel: 4721 3681	Member	Norm Cobban	Tel: 4736 3513
Vice-President: Bryan Blake	Tel: 47218876	Member:	Graham Haddock	
Secretary: Lorraine Brown	Tel: 4736 5541	Member:	Alan Lees	Tel: 4736 5541
Treasurer: Bert Foster	Tel: 4754 3008	Member	Jim Tiberi	Tel: 4735 1981
Members	Zillah Warner, Anne Roddick	Webmaster	Tom Lehane	Tel: 4721 5375

Visit the clubs' web page for training courses, [www.users.on.net/pvscc/training.htm](http://www.users.on.net/pvscc/training.htm)  
Visit the clubs' web site, [www.users.on.net/~pvscc/index.html](http://www.users.on.net/~pvscc/index.html)

### Weekly Schedule for Computer Courses

<b>Mondays: 9.30am to 11am</b> Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor: Zillah Warner 11.00 am to 12.30 pm Making a 'Scrapbook' using software., Tutor: Zillah Warner	<b>Tuesdays: 9.30am to 11am</b> Beginners & Do your own thing Tutor Bert Foster  <b>Windows Live Movie Maker.</b> 11.30am- 1.30pm Tutor Bryan Blake
<b>Wednesdays: 9.30am to 11am</b> Using the Software ( <b>Gimp</b> ) Tutor Tom Lehane.	<b>Thursdays: 9.30am to 11am</b> <b>Card Making, Beginners and Do your own thing.</b> Tutors Clare Dixon & Zillah Warner.
<b>Fridays: 9.30am to 11am</b> <b>Memories to TV.</b> Tutors Norm Cobban: Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor Alan Lees	<b>Fridays: Tutor Jim Tiberi</b> Class time 11.00 am to 12.30 pm Using <b>Microsoft Office suite</b>

The club's annual general meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2011. The President George Bell welcomed members and guest.

Our election committee officer for 2011/ 2012 was Grace Selway of the Penrith Seniors Centre. Grace Selway read the nominees for 2011/2012, those nominated were elected unopposed.

Grace Selway congratulated all elected committee members. President George Bell welcomed our new members to the committee, Lorraine Brown who now takes the position of secretary, Anne Roddick returns to the committee and Bryan Blake takes on the Vice-President position. Alan Lees our previous Vice-President has moved to the position of a committee member. Zillah Warner our previous secretary is also taking a well earned rest from the secretary position. Both Alan and Zillah's input was greatly appreciated.

A recommendation was raised concerning increasing the club's joining and annual membership fee. A one off entry joining fee of \$20 as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. The annual membership fee from 1<sup>st</sup> July to the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year to be \$20. The recommendation was put to the members and passed. Class fees of \$3 per class attendance will remain.

Another issue raised was that if any member casually uses the club's equipment is required to pay the usual class fee of \$3. This takes in checking Email accounts or another use of the club's equipment. All new membership joining during the month of May or June of that financial year be exempt from the annual fee for the present financial year. All recommendations were passed by the members. At the conclusion of the meeting members and guests enjoyed morning tea and coffee, organized by our Social Committee: Light refreshments were also available.



*What are those funny-looking bar-codes ?*

They're called QR codes. You will see them in newspapers, (Sydney Morning Herald (page 2)) also 'The Daily Telegraph' will feature them in ads and in a number of other places. **QR is an abbreviation for Quick Response** and are a more sophisticated and complex version of the bar codes to which we've become so familiar. They appear as an arrangement of black squares against a white background, and contain encoded information (URLs, text, etc.), designed to be read—and sometimes generated—by QR readers and smartphones. Created in Japan in 1994 as a parts tracking method for the Toyota auto industry, their use is currently more widespread in Asian countries than in Australia. However, the expanding use of smartphones is creating more interest around the world.

While QR Codes are often directed towards mobile phone users, they can also be generated and read online with a PC. The one above is a code for the Club's web site.

I used this web address for the code generator .....

<http://qrcode.kaywa.com/>

Some American companies are making T-shirts with QR bar codes printed on them but you need a smartphone to read what they say. An old fashion sandwich board in a modern technical era.

## Wednesday Coffee Break

Like last month a question can up before the regular class begun, and once again over a cup of coffee.

We were disguising Email accounts when the question was asked, “how often should you change your password”?

When I worked at DuPont (they took over the old Fibremakers factory in Penrith) on their network they recommend a password changes every 90 days. This can become a problem as passwords are often forgotten, so many of the workers choose an easy to remember password.

This is were the vast majority of password-based hacks get in to an account due to weak passwords. If you have a strong password which is made up of at least 6 or 9 characters including one or more numerical digits then there is little chance of a hacker guessing your password.

If someone is opening a account, on say, Facebook and are prompted for a password then they may just look around their computer set-up for a word. They may choose the name of their printer 'canon' or the brand of their keyboard “StarKey”. At least they won't forget their password but this is an easy one for a hacker to guess.

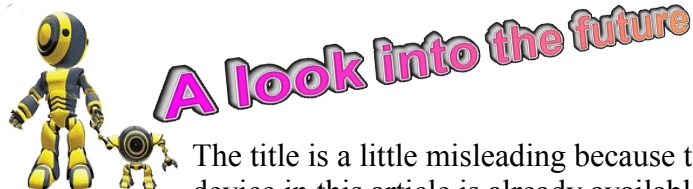
So if you have a strong password there is little to gain by changing it frequently.

Making up a password that is easy to remember can be difficult. The easiest method is to..... Choose a sentence that is easy to remember. An example could be a title of a poem you remember ' **The Man From Snowy River**'. Using the first letter of each word your password would be **tmfsr**. As you can see this would be hard to crack and easy to remember. Another example is ' **My Cars Colour Is Alpine White**'. Password **mcciaaw**. Don't forget to add a numerical digit or two.

Back to the question, “how often”?

Once a year if you feel you have a strong password. The computer club has not changed their Internode service provider password since day one.

Well they did once, and you guessed it they forgot what the password word was.



The title is a little misleading because the device in this article is already available.

Harvey Norman is selling USB 3.0 hard drives.

USB 3.0 is ten times faster than your USB 2 flash drives and other USB 2 devices.

The only trouble is that Windows 7, Microsoft's latest operating system doesn't support USB 3.0.

The good news is that USB 3.0 is backward compatible with USB 2. Owning one of these super fast drives and connecting to a XP, Vista or Win 7 computer the drive runs at the USB 2 speed.

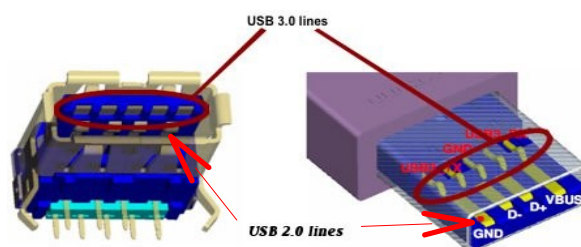
**Windows 8 Operating System** will support devices based on the USB 3.0 interconnect. Microsoft is anticipating that the public will adopt the USB 3.0 format as Intel has developed it's own super fast data transfer format, named “Thunderbolt” which is been built into their Processor chips.

USB 3.0 transfers data at speeds of up to 5 gigabites per second.

Thunderbolt can transfer data between host computers and external devices such as displays and storage at up to 10 gigabits per second.

Thunderbolt was introduced commercially on **Apple's MacBook Pro** lineup on February 24, 2011.

So Apple got the jump on Microsoft again, the trouble is Apple builds their own computers and software, where Microsoft produces an operating system and they have to anticipate which format the computer manufacturers will be adopting, the latest prediction by computer



manufacturers is by 2015, all new PCs are expected to offer USB 3.0 ports.

Since the new interface has been carefully planned from the start to peacefully co-exist with its predecessor, the connector itself remains mostly the same with the four USB 2.0 contacts in the exact same location as before. Extra pins for the new lanes dedicated to transmit and receive Super-Speed data are located on the back and only come into contact when mated with a proper USB 3.0 port.

So you will need a new adapter card to except the new USB 3.0 plug and Windows 8 operating system.