



Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc

P.O.Box 4063
Penrith
N.S.W. 2751
Tel. 47210609
Fax 47215224

Penrith Valley Seniors Centre
86 Station Street Penrith N.S.W.2750
Email pvscc@internode.on.net

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President: George Bell	Tel: 4721 3681	Assistant Treasurer: Pat Mitchell	Tel: 9623 4358
Vice-President: Alan Lees	Tel: 4736 5541	Purchasing Officer: Syd Bousfield	Tel: 4733 3473
Secretary: Zillah Warner	Tel: 4732 4248	Member: Anne Roddick	Tel: 4721 4343
Treasurer: Bert Foster	Tel: 4754 3008	Member: Lorraine Brown	Tel: 4736 5541
Social Committee: Pat Mitchell, 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

<i>Weekly Schedule for Computer Courses</i>	
Mondays 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor: Alan Lees 11.00 am to 12.30 pm Graphics (Digital Editing). Tutor: Zillah Warner	Tuesdays 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing 11.00 am to 12.30 pm Graphics (Digital Editing). Tutor Bert Foster
Wednesdays 9.30am to 11am Using the Software. Tutor: Tom Lehane 1pm to 2.30pm Beginners, Internet/Email, and Genealogy Tutor: George Bell	Thursdays: 9.30am to 11am Beginners, Card Making and Do your own thing. Tutors Pat Mitchell & Zillah Warner
Fridays: 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor Alan Lees	

First we have a new newsletter heading designed by our Thursday Card making tutor, Zillah Warner. You can join this class on Thursday morning from 9.30am.



The Christmas hamper donation box is on display at the club and members are encouraged to contribute to its contents.

The clubs Christmas party will be held on the Thursday 15th of December at 11am to 1.30pm.

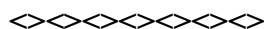
Members are reminded they need to sign the Christmas Party participant list so the organizers can cater for the number attending.

Participant list is beside the Christmas hamper donation box.



The Christmas Party is **free**.

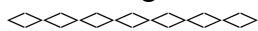
Raffle will be sold and drawn on the day to add to the fun.



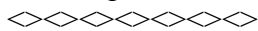
Some members have expressed concern that their newsletter when viewed in their word processor splits the last page, especially the Coffee Break page of the document. This is due to the author of the

newsletter using a different version of Microsoft Word than the one you are viewing the document in. Microsoft Word 2003 formats the page of a document differently to Word 2000, 98 and so on down the line of versions. Word 2003 on the other hand will display any previous version of a word document the way the author intended the page to look. This incompatibility is a method used by Microsoft to force large corporations to upgrade their Office Suite. Many web pages with documents to down load use the PDF (Portable Document Format) *see Coffee Break page. With a PDF document all the fonts, formatting, graphics and colour planned by the author are retained. The only trouble with a PDF type document you need a separate program to open the file and read the contents. * See Coffee Break page. Microsoft wasn't a big fan of PDF. In recent times, the Redmond giant (Microsoft) has released various technologies that have been tagged as "PDF killers." That may now be set to change, as the next version of Office is to have native PDF support. It is said that PDF (Portable Document Format) will be a version of XML. This is a web page format that displays the document the way the author intended the page to look and the page can be locked so the contents can't be changed. No need for a special reader and will load into a web browser.

Like all previous versions of Windows the release always runs over time, so it's a wait and see if Microsoft goes with the PDF or XML.



Alan Lees our Vice-President has requested that the Coffee Break tips be added to the clubs' web page. Work on the web page is in progress and the Coffee Break tips will be in a PDF format for compatibility.



Vinyl to CD

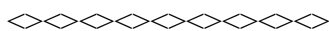
On Wednesday November the 23rd at 9.30am Michael Davis our guest speaker will demonstrate the procedure to transfer Vinyl (LP records) to a CD using the computer.

Michael will demonstrate software to edit the captured sound tracks and how to remove unwanted noise, scratches or clicks from the captured tracks. Save the repaired sound track and burn an audio CD.

Note: All are invited to this well presented talk and class. Visitors are welcome and can be friends of members. This is an open morning session that could run close to two hours.

Michael is quite knowledgeable in this field and it's a subject many have asked about.

Make a note of the date: it's a talk too good to miss.



Digital Camera



Christmas is not far off and you may be in the market for a digital camera. The market is flooded with many brands and types. Specification on mega pixels and zoom can

be a deciding factor when parting with your money. So what should you look for?

Price is another thing that will establish your needs. It's easy for someone to say this is the best camera to buy. But the price may be in the thousands and you are not into taking a photo of a racehorse leaving the barrier at 1000 meters away. So what can you expect from a low end camera costing up to \$700.

Resolution: If you intend to take pictures like you normally did with your roll film camera then a 2-mega pixel camera can usually produce a pretty good (4x6 inch) print. This is the normal size you get when you had your roll film developed. A 3-mega pixel camera, an 8-by-10; and a 4-mega pixel (or greater) model, an 11-by-17 inch print.

Shutter lag. Though this is rarely a problem anymore with higher end cameras, some digital cameras still have minor problems with shutter lag. When testing a camera, make sure that there's no time between when you depress the shutter button and when it actually shoots a picture. Even a small lag can be enough to cause you to miss a "moment." This could be your granddaughter or grandson just touching the ribbon in a close race. By the time you press the shutter and the time the image is captured to the memory card they would be three paces past the ribbon. All you get is the runners coming 3rd and 4th. So check this out in the shop, take a snap shot of someone walking past and check the results. Some makes of cameras have the option of taking three photos in quick succession to over come this draw back with digital cameras.

Zoom: Get at least 2X optical zoom. Nearly all cameras offer digital zoom, but it results in photos that aren't nearly as good as those produced with an optical zoom.

Batteries: Look for rechargeable batteries and a charger. The cost of disposable batteries adds up over the long run. Some cameras can use AA batteries of any type--disposable or rechargeable. That capability can be helpful if your rechargeable batteries run out of juice and you don't want to wait while they replenish.

Display: Insist on a camera with an LCD display. It allows you to review your photos on the spot--and delete the ones where your cousin kept blinking when the flash went off.

Memory Card: Make sure you can use removable storage media. While the camera may have on-board memory, a memory card allows you to expand the storage capacity. Most digital cameras come with a 16 Meg card. This is enough for 16 snap shots at 4 mega pixels. 25 at 2 mega pixels and 33 at 1 mega pixels. With larger cards you can take 100's of photos then delete the ones that are not suitable. Not like the roll film days where you were stuck with the good and the bad shots.

This is one of the nice things about digital cameras. You can snap away at a wedding then remove the bad shots before printing.

Video: some cameras have video capability. Any still camera's ability to take moving pictures is extremely limited. If you want to shoot video, invest in a camera dedicated to the job. Most video shots are but seconds long. A 16 Meg card will give you 13 seconds of video. Might be OK to catch an action shot and delete all other frames.

Exposure settings: All digital cameras let you shoot in fully automatic mode--just press the shutter

release and you get a picture. If you are moving from a SLR roll film camera to digital then you will be accustomed to film speeds, aperture and shutter speed. Digital cameras \$450 to \$700 price range will have these features. Some cameras have pre-selected modes where you can choose from Auto, Portrait, Landscape, Sports (fast action), night scene, red eye flash reduction and macro (close up).

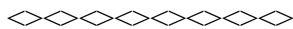
Sensitivity (ISO): The upper price range cameras have an ISO selection.

ISO 64 - for taking photos in bright light; excellent for close-ups, landscape, and portraits. Produces fine detail and image quality.

ISO 100 - for extra sensitivity without degrading image quality.

ISO 200 - cloudy and overcast days. Acceptable image quality, with some visible noise.

ISO 400 - good for fast "stop-action" and sports photographs. Likelihood of high noise. OK, I have spent your money but armed with these recommendations you should know what to look for.



Do you have one of these USB Flash Drives?

USB stands for **U**niversal **S**erial **B**us. It was developed in 1995 and is fast replacing the floppy drive. Your computer will need a USB port to connect this read and write device.

Windows 2000 or XP provides full hot-swap support to USB devices. For earlier Windows version such as 95/98/Me/NT drivers are required. Note above that the device was developed in 1995 but it took Microsoft 5 years before they provided for it.

Windows 95 released: ---- August of 1995

Windows 98 released: ---- June 25, 1998

Windows 2000 released: - February 17, 2000.

At present there are three read and write speeds.

DATA TRANSFER SPEED

USB 1.1 at low speed

1.5 Mbps

USB 1.1 at high speed

12 Mbps

USB 2.0 at full speed

360 - 480 Mbps

It's important to remember that these memory cards draw power from the computer to function.

For that reason care should be exercised when removing your Flash Drive.

You should not just pull out the USB flash drive when you have finished with it - doing so can corrupt your data on it. Instead, you should look for the little icon at the bottom right of your Windows toolbar.



Put your mouse over the icon and click the right hand mouse button. Click on 'Safely Remove Hardware'. A window will now appear.



Click to highlight USB Mass Storage Device and click Stop. Another window now appears.



Again, click to highlight USB Mass Storage Device and click OK.



A message now pops up to say it is safe to remove your drive. You may remove the drive. This also applies when using your digital camera to transfer images to the computer through the USB port.



Coffee Break

Question on Software or Operating system.

What is a PDF file?

PDF (Portable Document Format) is the industry standard for sharing electronic documents.



With PDF, all the fonts, formatting, graphics and colour of any source document are retained, so PDF documents can be opened, viewed and printed by anyone, anywhere in the world, regardless of their computer type or operating system.

You require a special program to open a PDF file on your computer. Due to the code been copyrighted by Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft XP or earlier version of Windows don't have a PDF reader. Adobe Acrobat provided one free for Windows File size: 8.9 Meg.

A small PDF reader that is 1.0 Meg in size and also free 'FoxIt'. This is available from

www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/rd_intro.php

To install FoxIt PDF Reader, just UNZIP the downloaded "pdfrd.zip" package into a folder or any place you want, and then run **PDFReader.exe**. You can set FoxIt PDF Reader as your default PDF reader, so you can double click on PDF files to open it with FoxIt PDF Reader.

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Both have similar features for text copy, Image capture and printing but Adobe is more powerful which accounts for its size. But for normal file viewing, printing or text copy then FoxIt is the better choice for program size and speed when opening a document.

How to compile a PDF document.

No Microsoft products will save in PDF (Portable Document Format) mainly due to the code been copyrighted by Adobe Acrobat and for Microsoft to provide a save function for a PDF file, Microsoft would need to pay royalties. (Bill Gates won't part with any cash).

OpenOffice document suite program will save in a PDF format.

OpenOffice is a free office suite similar to Microsoft Office, contains word processor, spreadsheet, presentation creator, (similar to PowerPoint) and other features. The software is found at ...

www.mrbass.org/freeware/openoffice/

It is 64 Meg in size and is not suitable for dial-up Internet download.

The software can be found on many computer magazine cover CD discs.

If you can't find a copy ask at any Wednesday tutorial session for a copy.