

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS COMPUTER USERS CLUB INC.



August 2014

Vol. 14
No. 8

Club Web Site <http://sdcuci.com>

AUGUST

Last month of winter

Birthstone - Peridot



Flower - Poppy and Gladiolus

*Notable Dates - Woman's Equality Day, 26th
International Left-handers Day, 13th
International Friendship Day, 3rd*

Symbol - Happiness ☺ ☺ ☺

Native Plant - Grey Spider Flower



Astrological Signs - Leo & Virgo



Editors: Bib and Bub

MEETINGS are held on
the third Wednesday
of the month at 7.30
pm, in the Hall at the
rear of
St Mary's Catholic
Church
Morphett Vale.
(Corner Bains Road
and Main South Road)

Visitors most welcome.

After three visits,
visitors will be
requested to become
members.

Cost \$2 per person,
which includes the
Newsletter, plus coffee/
tea and biscuits.
Subscriptions for twelve
months
Single \$18
Family membership \$24

Novice and experienced
computer users will be
warmly welcomed



Our next meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday 17th September 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Topic: Restoring old photographs

The Committee in 2013 / 2014

PRESIDENT:	Lionel Leddra	lleddra@bigpond.net.au
VICE PRESIDENT:	John Kirby	john.kirby@adam.com.au
SECRETARY:	Trevor Francis	tjfrancis@adam.com.au
TREASURER:	Cheryl McDonald	cherylm@cobweb.com.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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Jim Greenfield	jamesg@esc.net.au
Anne Leddra	lleddra@bigpond.net.au
Lorraine Loader	lorian23@bigpond.com
Wanda McDonald	rmcd3779@bigpond.net.au
Robert Zeugofsge	Zogs22@bigpond.com
Ann Zeugofsge	Zogs22@bigpond.com



2013-14 Committee Members

Southern Districts Computer Users Club

L_R: Peter Janmaat: Cheryl McDonald (Treasurer)
Lionel Leddra (President) Bob Zeugofsge: Lindsay Chuck
Emma Boss: Trevor Francis (Secretary): Anne Zeugofsge
Wanda McDonald: Ann Leddra: Lorraine Loader
John Kirby (Vice President) Jim Greenfield (Past President)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Lorraine Loader (Bub)
lorian23@bigpond.com

Wanda McDonald (Bib)
rmcd3779@bigpond.net.au

Last month's meeting - Excel & ChromeCast

We had a very good turnout again last month with 3 visitors, Mary, Hazel & Robert.



John Kirby was wished a very happy birthday.

Cheryl McDonald gave us a talk on the basic uses of Excel and how she utilises this program into her everyday life. Some pointers made were:

- ① Excel is made up of workbooks, sheets and cells.

- ① She showed us how to:

- ① Widen columns
- ① Format cells
- ① Merge cells
- ① Create a diary
- ① Insert graphs



- ① Cheryl demonstrated how she uses Excel for holidays, eg planning expenditure, cost of fuel and kms per litre used and cost of caravan parks per night.

Lindsay Chuck then talked about ChromeCast

This is a wireless display adapter which displays on your TV screen what is being shown on the screen of your smartphone, tablet/android or PC.

- ① Been available in US for a year and in the UK for a shorter time.
- ① Not the same as Apple TV or Western Digital TV live streaming media players.
- ① Apps/programs - YouTube, Google Play movies & TV, Plex Pocket Casts, Ezyflix TV video streaming and Pandora.

Continued on page 4

Last month's meeting, cont'd

🔊 Three steps to setup :

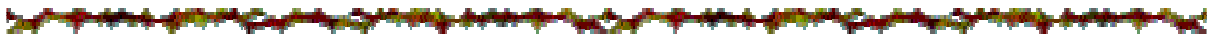
1. Plug dongle into HDMI port on TV
2. Plug power cord into dongle and power point
3. Download Chromecast app onto your smartphone / tablet / PC and follow the wizard to connect to your WiFi network

Lindsay found he could display photos in his Cloud storage (OneDrive) on his TV, display his calendar app, skype and any app on his tablet. The TV is like a big monitor.

ChromeCast is available at JB HiFi for around \$49.

A word of caution - it uses data!

As there have been reports of problems, ensure you know the store's refund policy before purchasing this device.

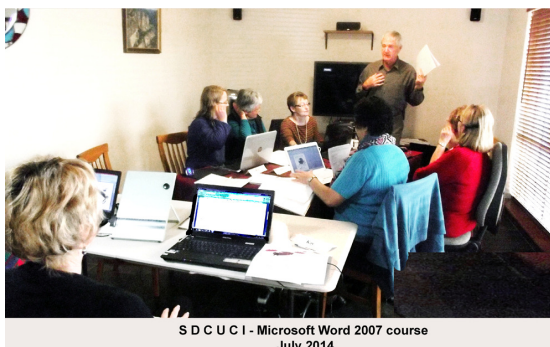


OUR JULY COURSES

We had a successful time during July with running both a Computing Basics 1 Course as well as a Microsoft Word Course. The photo was taken at the Word Course.

The **Computer Basics 1 Course** was held for 3 participants and we were able to provide individual instruction to each student. This was a 3 week, 6 hour course covering areas on how to look after your computer (and yourself at the same time) and structuring files and folders in an easy to use format. Besides this group participation, we also covered specific areas and tasks that folk wished to be more familiar with.

The **Microsoft Word Course** was a 2 week, 4 hour Course held for 6 people.



The course ranged from the basic layout of the Word 2007 ribbon to working with tabs and indents to more advanced techniques of managing tables, working with photos and texts.

We hope that people enjoyed the challenge of looking more closely at some of Word's capabilities.

TONIGHT'S MEETING - RESTORING OLD PHOTOS

Presented by Anne Leddra and Trevor Francis with June Harman

Scanning Photos

Getting a good digital image of an old photo is a bit of an art.

- 👁️ Use the scanner to scan, not to tweak
- 👁️ Scan the photos at high resolution, in an uncompressed format
- 👁️ Always scan in colour, even with black and white photos
- 👁️ If possible crop your photo when scanning



Tips for better results

- 👁️ Use a tripod.
- 👁️ Use a backing of white paper or poster board
- 👁️ Turn off the flash.
- 👁️ Get as much ambient light as you can.
- 👁️ Shoot in colour.
- 👁️ Shoot in as high a resolution setting as feasible
- 👁️ If you need to tweak the image, do it afterwards, in a digital image software application like Photoshop.

Trevor and June will then show us how to restore old photographs using Adobe Photoshop.

BRAINS OF THE ELDERLY

Older people do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe.

Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full up, so too do humans take longer to access information, it has been suggested.

Researchers say this slowing down is not the same as cognitive decline.

“The human brain works slower in old age,” said Dr Michael Ramscar, “but only because we have stored more information over time.”



“The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more”.

THE YARDBROOM REPORT NO 8

REPORT FROM OUR PRESIDENT



The reaction to last month's excellent presentation on Excel by Cheryl McDonald was such that she will be conducting a workshop on Excel just before the August Club meeting.

The last few weeks have been extremely busy for the Club. We conducted a popular Microsoft Word course over two weeks. Feedback on the course suggests that we achieved our training goals. This was followed by a Basic Computing course over three weeks which allowed a handful of participants to become more familiar with their laptops.

You may be pleased to note that the committee is reviewing the suitability of the present PA system. With a bit of luck, the ongoing frustrations with the system may soon be behind us.

In addition, the committee is considering ways of responding to the growing interest in tablets and their applications. Courses and/or workshops? Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Enjoy your evening!



Lionel Leddra
(The Yardbroom President)

From the Editors:

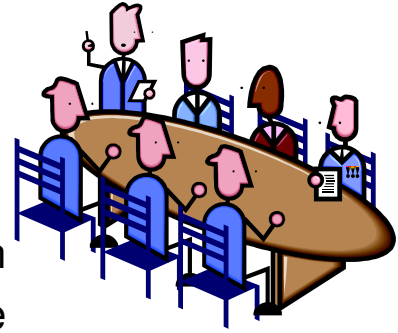


Any suggestions regarding topics for future meetings would be greatly appreciated. Please see a committee member or email your suggestion.

DISCLAIMER -

The information contained in this newsletter is of a general nature. You should do your own research and seek advice before proceeding on the information provided.

Committee Capers.



The committee meeting was held on Monday August 11th. At the ringing of the red cowbell, our meeting commenced and the following discussions made .

- Our **pocket WiFi** has now been prepaid until August 2015 with 15gb available. Suitable cables and connectors to be purchased to operate tablet through our 2 projectors.
- As our old PA system is too costly to repair, it was agreed to purchase a new **PA system** more suitable to our needs.
- Jim to follow up the **power cord checking** of our equipment and the cost incurred.
- Due to external, third party legal issues, the **Secretary Course** has been deferred til early 2015
- We have three students booked into the **Excel course** to be held over 2 days - Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th August.
- Preparations for this year's **AGM** are underway. Notification forms to be sent to members via email in September.
- Our **Christmas function** will be held in the hall on **December 3rd**. We received an email from Peter Janmaat offering his assistance again this year.



Recipe Corner

Easy chocolate cake / dessert

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 packet chocolate cake mix
- 1 packet chocolate instant pudding
- 2 eggs
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup oil
- 1 cup lemonade



METHOD:

1. Beat eggs and oil together.
2. Add all ingredients.
3. Bake in greased tin in moderate oven for approx 50 minutes or until cooked.
4. OR microwave for 9 minutes.
5. OR camp oven til cooked - good luck!

Topping - to be poured over warm cake when served as a dessert.

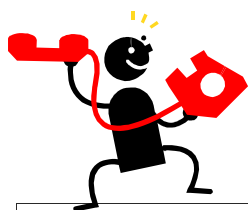
Mix together:

1. 100g cooking chocolate, melted.
2. $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cream
3. 2 tsp brandy
4. 1 tbs honey



If you want easy to read instructions for most aspects of computing, eg word documents, excel, tablets, internet, facebook etc, then check out this site. It is well worth the look: -

➡ www.forwardit.sa.gov.au ⬅



Expert Assist List.

Keep this Contact list handy and phone these people first if you have a problem with any one of the subjects mentioned below.

Email, Windows Live Mail	Lionel Leddra	8381 2821
Email, Thunderbird	Trevor Francis	8327 6061
E-readers	Lionel & Anne Leddra	8381 2821
Hardware & operating systems, re-loads, CD DVD fix	Jim Greenfield	8382 4912
Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Publisher	Trevor Francis	8327 6061
Microsoft Movie Maker	Lorraine Loader	8382 7243
Photographic, Windows Photo Gallery, Paint Shop Pro	Anne & Lionel Leddra	8381 2821
Photographic, Photoshop	Trevor Francis	8327 6061
Tablets	John Kirby	7007 4819
Video programming to CD/DVD	Cheryl McDonald	8382 3660
Wi-Fi connections & Tablets	Emma Boss	8386 2723

Computer Courses for 2014.

- Computer Basics I to be scheduled for a later date.
- Microsoft Word to be scheduled for a later date
- Photos: Camera to Computer Image Management Course
- Excel course was run over two weeks in August

If you wish to attend any Course, please contact a Committee Member

If you have a special request regarding a program, eg Word, Publisher, Excel etc, please let a committee member know. We may be able to schedule a course to suit, sometime in the future.

South Australian Quiz

1. Where is the Dig Tree made famous by the explorers, Burke, Wills and King?
2. Ardrossan was the base for the development of a landmark invention for Australian agriculture. What was this invention?
3. What stones were used to build Adelaide Parliament House?
4. Clipsal 500 V8 motor race began in Adelaide in which year?
5. Which cricketer considered Adelaide Oval to be the most scenic Test Oval?
6. What was used in the 1800s to keep wagons afloat while crossing the river at Murray Bridge?
7. What does the name Adelaide mean?
8. What is the aboriginal meaning of Coober Pedy?
9. Which famous Australian country singer was born in Mt Gambier in 1977?
10. Approximately how many islands are there off the coast of South Australia?

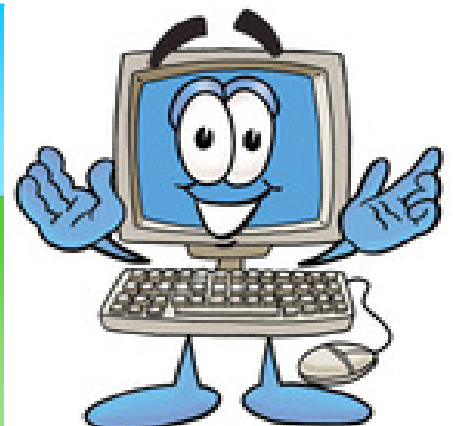


Answers on page 13

*If you can't beat your computer at chess,
try kickboxing !*

SANDS COMPUTER GROUP

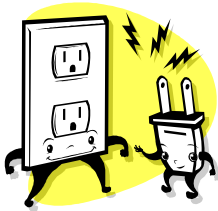
Coordinator: Lindsay Chuck ■
Email: Lindsay.chuck@gmail.com
Website: <http://lindsaychuck.wix.com/scg>



WHY DOES REBOOTING A COMPUTER FIX SO MANY PROBLEMS?

Written by Jim Greenfield

I had a call from a friend last week. “*Jim, I am having problems with my computer*”. My response “*have you tried rebooting it?*” This seems like a flippant response but rebooting a computer can actually solve many problems.



So what’s going on here? Why does resetting a device or restarting a program fix so many problems? And why not try to identify and fix problems rather than use the blunt hammer of “reset it” ?

Bear in mind that this solution isn’t just limited to Windows computers, but applies to all types of computing devices. You will find the advice “try resetting it” applied to wireless routers, iPads, Android phones and more. This same advice even applies to software - is Firefox acting slow and consuming a lot of memory? Try closing and reopening it!

Some problems require a restart

To illustrate why rebooting can fix so many problems, let’s take a look at the ultimate software problem a Windows computer can face: Windows halts, showing a blue screen of death. The blue screen was caused by a low-level error, likely a problem with a hardware driver or malfunction . Windows reaches a state where it doesn’t know how to recover, so it halts, shows a blue-screen of death, gathers information about the problem, and automatically restarts the computer for you. This restart fixes the blue screen of death.

Windows has gotten better at dealing with errors - for example, if your graphics driver crashes, Windows **XP** would have frozen. In Windows **Vista** and newer versions, the Windows desktop will lose its fancy graphical effects for a few moments before regaining them. Behind the scenes, Windows is restarting the malfunctioning graphics driver.

👉 👉 👉 to be continued in September newsletter. Ed

Southern Districts Computer Users Club

wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the Council
of the City of Onkaparinga for their generous support.



ONKAPARINGA



*** Items For Sale ***

Brother printers—two @ \$20 each. Both in good order and run perfectly.

Android tablets—two. Best Offer

Dyson upright vacuum cleaner—\$25.00

Gazebo, complete with 2 solid side walls and 2 mesh side walls—\$200.00

For further information about the above items for sale, please contact
Emma. Phone 8386 2723, mobile 0411 673 178

Jim Greenfield has a **desktop** and a **laptop computer** for sale.

If you are interested, please contact him for further information.

If you have something for sale, please let us know. Fill in the sheet at the front desk, or email:

Lorraine at **lorian23@bigpond.com**
Or Wanda at **rmcd3779@bigpond.net.au**

We will keep running your ad until you advise the item is either sold or “taken off the market”.

Advertising on this page is FREE!!

MEETING RULES

We are allowed to use the facilities at the Hall at the rear of St Mary's Catholic Church Morphett Vale. (Corner Bains Road and Main South Road) in return of a small fee plus respect for their property. We ask for your co-operation in respect to the above. While we can not control what our members do away from our club meetings, Piracy of copyright material can not be condoned at our meetings.

What is Spam / Junk Mail ?

Spam/Junk mail refers to unsolicited email that you don't want. The most obvious examples of spam are unsolicited *commercial* emails such as ads for porn, drugs or body enhancement products.



There are two significant qualifications to spam:

- 🗨️ **You didn't ask for it.** An email that offers college degrees or cheaper mortgages from a person or a business that you have never communicated with would probably qualify as spam.
- 🗨️ **You don't want it.** When you receive it, you are likely to delete it unread based on the subject line.

Spam is tricky. Some email programs will automatically filter spam based on common key words, the number of people the message is being sent to, or the sender's reputation. Some also allow you to flag messages as spam.

Unfortunately, *any* email that people don't want runs the risk of being marked as spam. If an email newsletter that you signed up for that changes its focus into something you don't want, it might legitimately be considered spam.

If you wish to block these unwanted emails in the future, it is recommended to send their domain to your blocked list by **right clicking the unwanted email**, click '**junk email**', then click on the '**add senders domain to blocked senders list**'.

A big thankyou.



I would like to thank the committee and members of the SDCUC for their condolences on the passing of my mother. It was great to know friends were thinking of us at this time. Thankyou again. (Wanda McDonald)

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Coopers Creek

2. The stump-jump plough

3. Locally quarried granite & marble

4. 1999

5. Don Bradman

6. Beer kegs

7. Noble birth

8. *White fella's hole in the ground*

9. Kasey Chambers

10. 100

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NOTES

Onkaparinga VIEW Club are organising a trip to the **Melbourne Flower Show** in March next year.

Interested? Watch this space or ask Jo Berkin !!!

IT & COMPUTERS

Shop 6, 76 Beach Road
Christies Beach 8186 2736

(Same block as Woolies on Beach Road)

Contact: Jamle or Ash

For all your computing needs
available locally

Need help with your computer?

Looking to purchase a new one?

Need additional peripherals?

Home site visits available !

**Looking for excellent customer
and after sales service?**

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