Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.

Supporting·inexperienced·users·with·local·expertise

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SDCUCI NEWS

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Meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday at 7.30 pm, in the hall at the rear of St Mary's Catholic Church on the Corner of Bains and Main South Roads, Morphett Vale

Cost $3.00 per person per meeting. This includes a copy of our Newsletter, plus coffee/tea and supper

Visitors are most welcome

After 3 visits, you are requested to become members

Annual Subscription:
Single — $20.00
Family — $30.00

Both Novice and Experienced computer users will be most warmly

President's Annual Report - 2021

It gives me great pleasure to present the President's Report for the year 2020 /2021.

As I have done before, I wish to thank the Committee for all their support and continued outstanding effort during the year.

Due to ill health our secretary, Trevor Francis, found it necessary to retire. Trevor, over the last twelve years, has been a pillar of strength to the Club. His efforts have seen the Club prosper. All the members say, "thank you for your outstanding contribution". We wish you the best for the future.

Our thanks go to the young bloke who at short notice took on the position of Secretary. We must all agree Lindsay Chuck has done a wonderful job. We all thank you Lindsay.

Lionel Leddra took on the task as Minute Secretary . Thank you for giving the Committee very accurate records of our meetings.

After many years as Treasurer, Cheryl McDonald has resigned. Thank you for the dedication you have given and for steering the Club in the right fiscal direction.

News Letter Editor;- We thank David Porteous for his time and effort.

The range of subjects covered by the monthly presentations during the year is quite extensive. The

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subjects included:-

- What can go in what recycling bin (Presentation by Onkaparinga Council)
- Our December meeting 2020 was at the Woodcroft Tavern.
- Cloud Computing.
- Caring for your Laptop or Computer.
- Password Management.
- Be Connected.
- Question and answer night.
- Cancelled due to Covid restrictions would have been "Encrypting Files".
- Web Browsers and Browser Extensions.
- Presentation on "Using Power Point".

I thank the Committee and members of the S.D.C.U.C..Inc. for your support and friendship.

Jim Greenfield

(President)

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Installation of a New Printer

by Cheryl McDonald

I bought a new Canon G4610 printer with the large ink tanks. Following the instructions to set up, we took it out of the box and filled the tanks. I kept following the instructions, including printing a test pattern etc., and everything looked great until I went to connect the printer to my computer.

The instructions showed how to connect to Windows 7 which I was still using but I kept getting a message that it could not connect. It turned out the cord to connect the printer to the computer was not included in the packaging. Having filled the ink tanks I did not want to return the printer to the store. I was given an option to use Wi-fi or a cord. My grandson told me that when he bought his printer it did not come with a cord and that I could buy one. So off to Jaycar to buy a cord. So now the printer is connected to my computer with no problems.

I spoke to Jim Greenfield who told me that I probably needed Service Pack 1 or 2 on my computer and to bring it around and he would fix it. Unfortunately, my computer would not accept either Service Pack. So Jim decided to install Windows 10 on my Dell computer that I had purchased in 2008. Do not believe it when you are told that you need to upgrade your computer every four years. About five years ago, Jim had installed a new hard-drive on my computer as well as all the programs I had been using and, until I purchased the new printer, I had had no problems.

I now have the Windows 10 operating system and Microsoft Office 2010 on my 13 year old computer with only 3 gb of ram. It is now running like a brand new computer.. I also have a 10 inch Lenova computer running Windows 10 that can be used as a tablet with a touch screen. This is what I take with me overseas, so I am not a complete novice concerning Windows 10. Jim has set up my old Dell laptop so that it is very similar to Windows 7 when starting and shutting down and the desktop looks the same as previously. I have also been able to load most of my old programs on it. There are slight differences with Microsoft Office 10 and, having been a touch typist all my working life, it is frustrating that some things require more key strokes. Jim really likes Dell computers because he can fix them and he can easily get parts.

You probably wonder why I did not use the Wi-fi to connect. I am very security conscious with my computer and both TPG and Telstra advised me that the safest way is to use a cord to connect rather than Wi-Fi and to remove the cord when not needing it in order to use the Wi-fi. I did not want to leave the Wi-fi continually connected to my computer. As whilst I am not connected to the internet my computer cannot be hacked. The Wi-fi works throughout the house for other pieces of computer equipment, such as when my grand-daughter comes to stay and wants to do her homework on her tablet.

New Surface Devices for Windows 11 Launched

Recently, Microsoft introduced a slew of new Surface devices designed for Windows 11 and the Android mobile operating system. This appears to have been the most significant update of the Surface portfolio ever, and it has everything to do with the launch of a new operating system.

The idea behind these products is not just to be a stage for Windows but also to push the platform and the overall ecosystem forward in a huge way. That is what Microsoft is hoping for, and after extensive research, they can probably achieve this. All of the newly announced products are 2 in1 (Laptop/Tablet combination) computers in some shape or form. This seems to signify the slow decline of the traditional laptop computer as touch becomes more meaningful outside the smartphone. Going deeper, it can be seen what these devices are all about. From there, you can decide if they are worth your time.

The **Surface Laptop Studio** is the most potent Surface the software giant has ever built. It is a culmination of years of innovation into a single device. The display is better, and the same can be said for the silicon and hinges. Clearly, Microsoft built this product with developers and creators in mind. It comes packed with a 14.4″ PixelSense touchscreen display, Surface Slim Pen 2, 11th Gen Intel® Core™ H35 processors, and NVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ GPUs. Its price begins at a whopping $1599.99. No surprise there!

The **Surface Pro 8** is more than twice as fast as the Surface Pro 7. Largely due to the 11th Gen Intel® Core™ processors, two Thunderbolt 4 ports, and built on the Intel® Evo™ platform. Battery life is about 16 hours, making it one of the most powerful 2-1 laptops on the market today. The screen is a 13″ PixelSense touchscreen that is virtually edge to edge. It comes packed with a 5MP front-facing camera and a 10MP-4K rear-facing camera. All this for a starting price of just $1099.99.

The **Surface Pro X** is powered by Microsoft SQ2 ARM silicon, and with 64-bit emulation built-in, users should be able to run most apps with few problems. MS Office and Teams are optimized for ARM, and the same can be said for Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. The price of the Surface Pro X begins at $899.99.

The **Surface Go 3**, has Windows as the core of the experience and a 60 per cent faster (than its predecessor) Intel Core i3 processor. It has optional LTA (Long Term Advanced) Microsoft security built-in, all-day battery life, and a 10.5″ touch display. It weighs in at around 1.2 pounds, making it perfect for carrying around. The cost for the Surface Go 3 begins at $399, so go ahead and pre-order one right now.

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(continued from page 4) Finally, the **Surface Duo 2**, the second Android-based smartphone from Microsoft follows in the same steps as the original dual 8.3″ PixelSense Fusion displays. It is faster due to the addition of the Qualcomm Snapdragon® 888 5G Mobile Platform, not to mention the triple camera system designed to deliver better photos than ever before. Coming packed with two giant screens, multitasking is unparalleled, according to Microsoft. There is also NFC* for contactless payments and an array of new accessories that add unique features and extra protection. Be prepared to spend $1499.99 or more on the Surface Duo Pro for the privilege.

**NFC (short for Near Field Communication) is a way for your phone to interact with something in close proximity. It operates within a radius of about 4 cm providing a wireless connection between your device and another. This allows for two-way communication, with both devices involved being able to send and receive information.*

Browsers — Your Privacy and Security

by Lindsay Chuck

Why should you be thinking about the browser(s) you use?

Our August meeting presentation on browsers covered what a browser is, search engines and browser extensions. We looked at the pros and cons of five browsers. Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Brave and Safari, and how to clear browsing history. Is your browser putting your privacy first? Secure browsers protect you from privacy and security threats.

Should you use browser extensions and are they safe? The answer is yes, and no. Browser extensions are a piece of software that adds a unique or performs a personalised function during your browsing experience. As with apps, consider the permission(s) you give when you are about to install them. In other words, allow access to contacts, etc. The types of extensions you may be prompted to install occur when you purchase programs like a VPN (virtual private network), Internet security programs, Zoom, and others. There are thousands of extensions in the Google web store and Microsoft store, including extensions for photo editing, games, sport results, etc. Look at the number of users and read the reviews to help you make a decision.

Some pros and cons of browsers not covered in the August presentation

The browsers are mentioned in an article titled "8 of the most secure web browsers" by Sarah Brennan. **TOR** which clears your cookies (continued on page 6)

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cookies after each session, masks your identity and transfers your internet traffic through multiple TOR nodes. The downside of this browser is that not all websites work with it. **Epic Privacy Browser** uses an encrypted proxy server to hide your IP address and encrypt your browsing. It has built in protection against ad-tracking scripts, cookies, cryptocurrency mining scripts and third party widgets. This browser does not offer plugins and therefore may not work with password managers. **Opera** has a built-in ad-blocker enabling web pages to load faster, a VPN and other features including a battery saver. It allows you to sync devices across multiple devices. Extensions are difficult to find. **Vivaldi** blocks sites from tracking you, has a built-in ad-blocker and secure sync with end to end encryption. It also has extensions, and does not store web history, cookies or temporary files when you browse in a private window. Unfortunately, while there is an Android version, no iOS version is available.

The August meeting presentation is available by contacting the author of this article. Happy browsing.

Personal Story

by Anne Leddra

What young Kids got up to 130 years ago

Perhaps we should not complain about games on phones and computers these days as they seem quite tame in comparison to the early 1890's

My Grandmother lived in Porth until 1897 when the family moved to South Africa. Her father was a Baptist Minister the Rev. Owen Owens. The Owens children must have been quite a handful when they were young. My Grandmother used to tell us stories of what they got up to.

Stuffing a stocking and then tying a string to it and in the dark pulling it across the path and frightening people who thought it was a snake! One elderly gentleman broke his walking stick on it!

There was also the story of removing the weights from the Baptismal gowns so that when her father baptised people by full immersion their gowns floated on top of the water instead of decorously staying down round their ankles.

The old woman who used to clean the bachelor's quarters next door used to take a drink from any bottle of alcohol she could find. Very drunk, she used to find her way home by feeling for the top of the Owens' fence. The children took great delight in opening the gate causing her to get lost in their garden!

At the bottom of the road was a Chinese vegetable garden. In the evening the Chinese would sit round a fire and the Owens children used to sneak down and try to tie their long pigtails together and then sit back to watch the fun!

Tips for When You Use a Mobile Phone

A friend of one of one of our members was having problems using a mobile phone. No doubt, many of us could benefit from the advice that was given to alleviate the problem, so it is reproduced below.

Most of these tips are for calls from a mobile device — like a smartphone or tablet — but some of them apply whatever you are using.

Tip number one – don't cover the microphone with your thumb!

This one sounds obvious, but it has caught my Tim out a few times when he has been on the phone to his Mum and Dad. Most smartphones (and tablets actually) have the microphone somewhere along the bottom edge. It makes sense if you are using them as a normal voice phone that you hold the top bit of the phone to your ear and your mouth down near the microphone, and your hand well out of the way.

When you are making a video call, however, you need to hold the phone a little differently. It is very easy to end up covering the little microphone hole on the bottom (especially if your phone is in a case). Just something to watch out for — particularly if the person on the other end of the call is struggling to hear you! Naturally, you also need to make sure you are not covering the camera with your thumb. but it becomes a bit more obvious if you've done that

Tip number two – don't sit with a bright light just behind you

The camera on your device is pretty clever. It adjusts for the amount of light, so you can actually get away with making a video call in quite a dark room. Your picture will most likely look a bit grainy, but you do not need to be brightly lit.

The problem comes when there is a big contrast between the brightness of different things in the room — particularly if there is a bright light (like a lamp or a window) that is partly covered by your head or body. Your camera will try to compensate, but every time you move the light level will change.

There have been a few occasions with video calls for work when we have ended up having to swivel laptops around or get up and close blinds. Every few seconds the screen was flashing between way too dark or way too light as the camera failed to keep up. You are best off facing towards the light if you can when you make a call – you will get a much steadier picture that way.

Tip number three – avoid making a call when the microwave is on

Microwave ovens, baby monitors and similar things can cause interference that plays havoc with your wi-fi. If you try to make a call when your microwave is going, you might find the picture freezes, the sound goes funny, *(continued on page 8)*

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or you just lose the connection altogether. Personally, I just do not try to do anything too intensive on the internet while the microwave is going. This saves a lot of frustration!

Tip number four – do not have more than one device on the same call in the same room

On a call to a family with three of them sitting in the same room, all on their own individual devices, the feedback was horrendous! I can well believe it. With more than one person in the same room, it is much better either to sit round the same device, or if you want to make a different call, go into a different room. or you just lose the connection altogether. Personally, I just do no try to do anything too intensive on the internet while the microwave is going. This saves a lot of frustration!

Tip number five – don't hold the phone or tablet in your lap

This one is not so crucial – but it can be a bit off-putting for whoever you are talking to! If you hold the phone in your lap, the angle of the picture means that rather than seeing your face, they'll be looking straight up your nose!

It can also make you "loom" into the camera, which is a bit alarming for the person on the other end of the call :)

If it makes your arms ache to hold your phone or tablet up, try leaning it against something (a wall, or a pile of books). A lot of phone and tablet cases fold round to turn into a stand.

Why not register for

Be Connected

https://

A New Scam

Committee Member John Kirby submitted the article below as a warning to be super careful before entering ANY information on to a website. Scammers are well able to almost exactly reproduce a replica of almost any website in order to get you to divulge to them your personal details. Not only does this allow them to access your bank accounts etc to purloin your hard earned money, but they can on-sell this information to other criminals so they can have a bite of whatever, may be left of the "cherry". Stealing your money is bad enough, but now with your all the details of you identity, they can do incredible harm to you by undertaking crimes in you name. TRY UNPROVING THAT! You may not be aware that, at the very least, your driving licence number is yours for life and can not ever be changed! —— and you no longer own it! When you go to Court, the scammers may even accuse you of stealing their identity. Just think on the possible ramifications of trying to prove whom you are. If that does not give you nightmares, then you really are a tuff one and I take my hat off to you!

Australian Government

Derek Robinson

Scammers have set up a clone of the myGov web site to trick you to share your login and bank account details, stay smart, online says.

The scam starts with a phishing email that looks like it is from Medicare, asking you to update your Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Details, so you can start receiving payments for Medicare benefits and claims.

If you click on the link in the email, you are taken to a replica of the real myGov website . You will note that the URL includes ".net" instead of ".gov.au", which is an indication the website is not a legitimate Australian Government domain.

If you input your login details, you are directed to also enter your secret security question and answer, before you are taken to the fake Medicare website to input your bank account details. These emails and web pages feature myGov and Medicare design and branding, making them appear legitimate. Remember, clicking on the link and sharing your details gives these scammers access to your personal information, which they can then use to steal your money and identity!

PLEASE BE CAREFUL AND ALWAYS CHECK THE WEBSITE ADDRESS of any website seeking for you to provide them with you ID information. Remember the genuine website already has your information. Get them to prove their legitimacy.

Editorial

I have been producing various magazines for different organisations for well over twenty years. Some of these have been quarterly and some have been monthly like ours. The monthly ones have all been a single or, at most a double A3 sized booklet report on the monthly board meeting and happenings of the organisation during the month. Most articles are subjected to a reality test both to ensure that what is reported is accurate and to produce the graphics — a time-consuming process.

PowerPoint by John Kirby

With my presentation on PowerPoint, I tried to put across some of the things that you can do with the application. PowerPoint is an application developed by Forethought, Inc. by Robert Gaskins and Dennis Austin. It was released on April 20, 1987, and after 3 months of its creation, it was acquired by Microsoft, where PowerPoint then became an integral part of the Microsoft Office Suite.

PowerPoint allows users to create media-rich presentations constituted by a series of slides which should tell a story. It is important to have consistent theme throughout the presentation so that the story does not get diverted by a variety of inconsistent slides.

There are over 44,000 different templates that can be used as a Master slide both from within the application and from the general search. Images can be superimposed onto sides and the background and foreground and be interchanged if needed.

The main advantages of PowerPoint include:

It is made specifically for Telling a Story
It creates a cohesive theme
It has great visual impact
It is easy to navigate
It is easy to arrange data and images graphically
Able to import from MS Excel
It has multimedia capabilities
It has good options for charts
It can be viewed as a video

PowerPoint has many uses, a few of them are listed below, but its all about telling a Story in a cohesive manner via a slide show:

Special event – Wedding (lives of the couple)
Special anniversary/birthday
Funerals a Eulogy with photos
Monthly calendar
Birthday/Christmas cards
Creating a Calendar
Flyers for various functions
Award certificates
Photograph album-holidays etc
Applying audio and video to a presentation

These are just some of the things that PowerPoint is able to do, and the various uses to which it can be used.

Notes from a Basic and Intermediate workshop can be obtained from myself or Lindsay. Just have fun with it.

~ MONTH's Topic ~

"RAA PRESENTATION"

Presenter: TONY

— For Your Notes —

Our November Members' Meeting will feature a presentation by the NBN. The presentation will cover the technologies that provide internet to Australian consumers and businesses, and look at smart devices that use the internet.

MEETING RULES

We are allowed to use the facilities at the Hall at the rear of St Mary's Catholic Church, on the corner of Bains and Main South Roads, Morphett Vale in return for a small fee plus respect for their property. We ask for your co-operation in respect to the above.

Whilst we have no control over what our members do away from our Club meetings, piracy of copyright material cannot be condoned at our meetings. Please respect copyright laws at all times.

Disclaimer: The information herein is of a general nature. Always do your own research and seek advice before proceeding on information you don't understand.

IT & COMPUTERS

Shop 6, 76 Beach Road
Christies Beach 8186 2736
(Same block as Woolies on Beach Road)
Contact: Jamie 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?

New Computers
Repairs
Virus removal
New software & Upgrades

Peripheral units:
- Wireless Keyboard Mouse
- Sound Boards & Systems
- External & Internal Hard Drives

Tell IT & Computers
you are from
S.D.C.U.C.I.

S.D.C.U.C.I can
recommend the
customer service
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