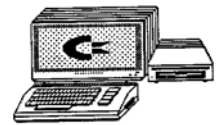


SOUTHERN DISTRICTS COMPUTER USERS CLUB INC.



September 2007

Club Web Site <http://videocam.net.au/sdcuci/index>.



Editor Colin Campbell

**MEETINGS are held on
the third Wednesday of
the Month, at
Christ Church
O'Halloran Hill
1708 Main South Road
O'Halloran Hill at
7.30pm**

Visitors most welcome.
Cost \$2 per family, which
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Subscriptions for twelve
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Novice and experienced
computer users will be
warmly welcomed

Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.

For further information
about S.D.C.U.C.Inc.

Contact The Club President,
Jim Greenfield 83824912

Correspondence to
The Secretary
S.D.C.U.C.I.
Box 991

Morphett Vale 5162
Email to
roymarj@optusnet.com.au



| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| June Barnett | 6 th September |
| Mariam Potter | 9 th September |
| Revor Francis | 11 th September |
| Bruce Tucker | 16 th September |

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

**Friends, it is that time of the Year again.
Next month is the Club's AGM .**

At the October meeting all the positions on the committee are open for your nominations.

Nomination forms are available, and I have a good supply of sharp pencils.

Do not be shy.

One of the local Computer stores recently had a Wireless Network Starter Kit on Special for \$97 (Belkin Network Starter Kit).

The kit included a Wireless 802.11g router and a USB Wireless adapter
I have helped install three of these kits.

If you have two or more computers at home and need to network them I recommend these kits. No messy wires to run plus all computers can share the internet connection. (No more arguments about whose turn to be on the internet).

I tried one at home and was able to make a connection with my Laptop from my caravan.

Colin and Kay Martin will be absent for this meeting. They are on holidays somewhere in Canada.

Roy Buckle has been to The Gold Cost for two weeks with his Grandchildren

On the sick list we have, Ed Uden, Joan and Keith Jones, and Bruce Tucker . We wish you a speedy recovery.

Tonight's guest speaker is Colin Campbell.

Colin will be demonstrating *AX Word*.—A Crossword generating program.

Jim Greenfield

President

THE THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Foolish writers and readers are created for each other. **Horace Walpole (1717 - 1797)**



GOLF anyone? You may have heard about Greg Norman being involved with the construction of a golf-course resort near Pt Hughes on the Yorke Peninsula. We had a look at a similar resort near Yepoon, Queensland.

Having an old interest in Golf, (C-Grade Champion, Leigh Creek 1970), I thought a day of Golf might be good fun.

However, it was obvious that plebs like us were not welcome and price will sort us out. After negotiating the security of the resort entrance, the golf-course entry clearly shows the daily rates before you get anywhere near the clubroom- \$74 for 18 holes.

They have provided a turn-around point before the entrance for the riff-raff!

Windows XP

Had a call from a friend of a friend to say that she was having a problem in MSOffice. When she typed, the pressed key transposed the input to type the wrong letters. A search of the Knowledge Base came up with Article ID #321498; *"Incorrect Letters or Characters Appear When You Type"*.

When XP System is loaded, the default language and keyboard layout is **US-English**. If normal setup is followed, XP gives you the option to select the Input Language and Keyboard layout. If the Language Bar is engaged in System Tray, left click and open the menu, select "settings" and you will pop up a panel about **Text Services and Input Languages**. Here you can see the available language and which keyboard is loaded. We used to have a US-Dvorak layout for DOS but if this keyboard is loaded for Office XP, incorrect characters will type. You can highlight & delete the incorrect keyboard and Add the **US International** as the standard keyboard. Use the drop down arrow to find how many different keyboards there are! Also, if the default language is still US-English, highlight this and click the Add button to open the input language panel, the dropdown arrow will allow you to select **English-Australian**.

Problem Solved?? Unfortunately not, ah well, back to the drawing board!

Getting to know how to use the *Knowledge Base* is a good skill to master, CC,

SEPTEMBER, the ninth month of the Gregorian calendar; it was the seventh month of the Roman calendar and takes its name from the Latin word *septem*, meaning "seven". In 1752, the British Empire adopted the Gregorian Calendar and September became the ninth month. September is the first month of our spring and the equinox on the 23rd will see the sun set directly in the west before it moves further north towards its summer solstice. (geocentric model, pre-Copernicus!) America celebrates it's Labor Day on the 1st; Japan is to have a Respect for the Aged Day, (19th) and the September Birthstone is Sapphire. Anniversaries include the onset of WW11, 1939; Japan surrendered to the Allies on the 2nd, 1945; Slim Dusty died 19th, 2003. Look up more September facts at Wikipedia.

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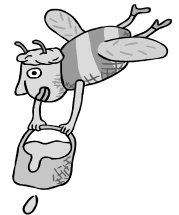
<http://www.stores.ebay.com.au/vcswebgoodiesbox/>

We can also sell items for you.

Contact us for details!

Did you know that the Honeybee kills more people worldwide than any other animal, reptile or insect?

Also, in Australia, bees are disappearing and fewer people, particularly children, are getting stung. One expert thinks that this is because our homes do not have the Strawberry-Clover lawns that we used to have. Being a favorite to both bees and children, the lawns were the source of many a sting. If one is allergic to bee stings, keep away from Strawberry-Clover. Australia is exporting bees to the USA because they are suffering losses of complete colonies. Bees are essential to the survival of many plants and perhaps, according to one philosopher, to mankind. Attract more bees!!!



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Have you recently acquired, or do you just want to learn more about operating your computer?

The Club conducts classes on a wide range of subjects, at a very moderate charge

The Maximum number in class is four

(Our aim is to conduct the classes in a friendly non threatening atmosphere)

Some of the classes that are available

1. Basic Computing (Stage one and / or Stage Two)
2. Advanced Word
3. Internet workshops
4. Digital Cameras

For more information contact a committee member.

MSWord and others WPs.

The style of typed text in your word-processor is determined by the **FONT** that you use. MSWord 2000+ Normal Doc. Template defaults to **12 point** (size of the letters), in **Times New Roman** Font, (the style of the letter). Earlier versions defaulted to 10 point. **Times New Roman** is an old print style derived from the Times Newspaper. After much research, they decided that this style was the best for their broadsheet as it proved to be the easiest to read and easier on the eye. Most of you know that you can change the font size and style but many people chose inappropriate fonts for their work. Typing in *italics* is not good for formal letters, **fancy fonts** are ok for cards or invitation but not all are suitable for web viewing or commercial print. Don't UNDERLINE upper-case fonts. Ugh! Horrible! Type a page of available fonts by name in upper and lower case and print them out to see what they look like on paper.

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MEETING RULES

NO SMOKING NO DRINKING NO SWEARING

We are allowed to use the facilities at Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill 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.

Windows XP TOOL BOX

Practical hints for the serious Tinkerer



Last month I wrote about saving your documents and other data files on another partition of the PC hard-drive. This assumes that the drive is partitioned into Primary and Extended partitions, (think of a Pie-Chart!). Most PC providers will not partition the drive on assembly because they usually load the operating system from a network connection and/or batch processing of system-build software. You can check your drive status in “My Computer”. All the PC’s drives will be displayed and icons will show whether the drive is a fixed drive or a CD-R/W and it will show drive letters. However, this doesn’t show if the hard drive is physically one or more single drives.

To view more specific drive information, you can go to “**Computer Management**” (XP with admin rights), go to *Start/Control Panel/Administrative Tools/Computer Management* and open “*Storage*” in the right-hand pane. Next, open *Disk Management* and expand to full screen and you will see a pictorial representation of the hard drive/s volume/s in your machine below a textual description of the drives. The bar-charts will show the size of the Primary Partition, any Extended Partition. If there is more than one physical drive, they will also be shown as a bar-graph. The first drive for some reason is labelled **Disk 0**, subsequent drives will be 1,2 etc; (Why disk 0 (zero) I’ll probably never know). Note that the Primary Partition of Drive 0 is Drive “C” The subsequent partitions are “D” etc; dependent on their position relative to the IDE ports in the PC, C-Drive is where all of the XP operational software and programs are loaded by default. Thus, if you only have one partition, all of your data will also be there. Any problem with “C” means a problem with the lot. In previous months I gave you methods of XP recovery if a failure occurs but from the Disk Management tool, you can see the advantage of having the data in another partition. (Short-cut to Disk Management = Start/run/diskmgmt.msc)



With a new drive, Western-Digital and Seagate, the most common brands around here, have drive tools that make it easy to separate the new drive into partitions and NTFS or FAT systems before XP is loaded. (Download from their web address.) Using these tools *after* installation will result in **all data** loss. **Partition Magic** is one good piece of software that allows you to re-partition the drives without losing data, most useful but expensive for a one-off job. Windows XP gives you the option as you install, to set the drive volume and file system and is the best time to do it. Fiddling with XP Disk Manager *is* possible with XP but! (More later)

Microsoft Word, other word processors and text programs

Page Breaks: Word processors divide documents into pages, the length of each page is set by the page-setup function according to the size of paper that you will be printing to, (e.g. A4 portrait). As you type, make paragraphs and/or add pictures/tables on the page, you will work your way to the bottom margin. The pre-set bottom margin will determine when the typing will jump to the next page. This automatic function is called a **soft page break**. If you want to start a new page before this happens, you can insert your own break, a **hard page break**. In MSWord, pressing (*control + enter*) will insert a hard page break which will show on the document as a dotted line with *page break* in the line, a new page is opened and the curser will jump to line one of the new page. (Or go to Insert/Break/page break).

Text wrapping breaks help you to wrap the text around picture boxes or tables on the page, **Column Breaks** end the current column typing and jumps to line one of the next column. If you wish to start a new section that changes the page layout in the middle of a document, **section breaks** are used, perhaps to make the next page layout to landscape with columns. Look up the Help Index to learn more about **Breaks**. More on margins next month.

CC 9/2007

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc. nor does publication of an advertisement imply endorsement by the Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.

While every attempt has been made to verify that the information in this newsletter is correct, the Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc accept no responsibility for any inaccuracies.

Likewise no member of the committee or member of the Southern Districts Computer Users Club will accept any liability for any damage occurring to a computer, to any computer system and/or data from following instructions given in this newsletter.

FireWire No More?

According to a recent study, FireWire (IEEE1394), the high-performance technology for transferring files at lightning speeds between PCs and devices such as digital camcorders, set-top boxes, scanners, hard drives, and prints... may be on the way out. According to a report by US market researcher In-Stat, FireWire usage will peak in 2008, and then begin a period of slow decline. The problem, it says, is that only about one-third of PCs are equipped with FireWire. By contrast, USB technology is on almost every PC. Originally invented by Apple in the mid-1990's, FireWire can transfer data at either 400 Mbps or 800 Mbps. You can link up to 63 devices and built-in peer-to-peer technology negotiates conflicts to decide which device will best control a data transfer. It is especially popular in the video and publishing industries and it has even scored an Emmy award in 2001 from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. So if FireWire is smarter and faster, how come USB is so much more popular? The answer: because USB is an Intel development and it's cheaper. Intel charges no royalties for USB use, while Apple charges US\$0.25 on every FireWire port. Although it may be the beginning of the end for FireWire, USB 2.0 is still a formidable replacement, with up to 480 Mbps transfer.

(Article submitted by Jim Greenfield)

Editors Note:

PC Data Connectivity is a complicated affair, the following is a short guide:

Bit Rate: the unit of data transfer, Kilobit (Kbits) is often confused with Kilo-Bytes, (e.g. KBps). A byte is usually referred to being eight bits, ie: 8 bits = 1 Byte; Kilo- the prefix for 1000; Mega- prefix for 1000000 Bytes or 1000 KBytes. We will use the small b with kilo-bits and uppercase B for Byte rates. Serial Ports transfer is noted as being the slowest at 230 Kilo-bits per second, (Kbps); Parallel Port for printers is faster at up to 16 Mbps; USB-1 at 12 Mbps has been upgraded to 480 Mbps by USB 2; FireWire, as above, up to 786 Mbps. Cameras might use Cameralink or PictBridge at up to 2.04 Gbps (Giga-bits) and the latest Bluetooth Wireless rates are listed at 3 Mbps.

Wireless Networking is fastest at just over 540 Mbps. Check out Broadband speed rates advertised, ADSL2+ at 20 000 kilo-bits, (Kbps), whereas their download quantity is quoted in **Bytes**, e.g. 100 Megabytes or 30 Gigabytes. (30GBps). Heard about *kibibits* yet??? Check *Wikipedia*

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Did you know?

September the 19th has been declared ***International Year of the Pirate***. Originated as a joke by John Baur and Mark Summers in the US, 1995, the idea is that you talk in pirate phrases like “Ahoy me Hearties” or “shiver me timbers” or any other dialect popularized by the movies such as “Treasure Island”, “Peter Pan” or “Pirates of Penzance”. The actor Robert Newton who starred as Long-John Silver in “Treasure Island” is the Patron Saint (??) and there are web sites and more information on the Internet.

Lots of other interesting “Did you Know?” at <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page>

The Compact Disc (or Disk)

An article in the Epoch Times this week reminded us that the **CD Disc** was first manufactured **25 years** ago by Royal Phillips Electronics. The CD was to make redundant, all vinyl and tape media for the growing music and, eventually, video production markets. Phillips and Sony combined to design the **Compact Digital** audio disc and it was claimed that they were scratch proof and very durable. One music retailer demonstrated to me that he could stand and scuff the disc and it would still play in the new CD machines. Little did they know how teenagers could treat them! Each disc was to hold 74 minutes of music, about twice that of the average EP and the digital quality was to be far superior and free of background noise. Did they know about the subsequent development and consumer confusion of the various formats? CD-R; CD-RW, and now the evolution of the several formats of DVD?



How ironic that there is a big interest in copying old LP's and tapes to CD/DVD, pops and clicks included!

CC, 9/2007

Men's Prostate Cancer & Men's Health Fund Raising Dinner

On Wednesday 24th October 2007
7:00 pm for 7:30 pm (BYO Drinks)
Cost \$20.00 Per Head for a three course Meal

Men and Ladies are invited
Guest Speakers Dr Rob Wight Local G.P.
Mr. Brenton Hand Consultant on Wills and Power of Attorney

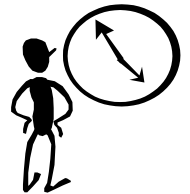
At
Reynella Neighbourhood Hall
164 - 170 Old South Road Reynella
Tickets Can Be Purchased
From Eddie Belle on 8326-2723
Len Miller on 8326-0694
Or contact Jim Greenfield 83824912 email :- sd cuc@esc.net.au

Supported by The Freemasons Foundation of S A. & N. T
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All proceeds to Mens Health Research Programme



Members Market

HP Computer (Model a210a)
Pentium 4 2.2Ghz
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TIME: been thinking a lot about time lately, here it is , September and I still have many things to do before I can hook up the van and head off again to the wide blue yonder. According to the book “Why in the World” (*Readers Digest, Aust; 1994*), time has fascinated mankind since they first started watching the sun and the moon. Measurements of time originated in the heavens. One Day is the time that the Earth takes to rotate on its axis and was easy to work out from the sun. A Month was also noticed as the time that it took the moon to complete it’s cycle of earthly rotation. The seasons and the position of the sunset/sunrise worked out the Year. The need for shorter measurements had been recorded as four days when early Africans held regular “weekend” markets. Assyrians recorded a six-day week but it was the Babylonians that worked out that the moon had four distinct cycles of about seven periods. Seven according to them is a magic number, based on their observed supreme sky objects. The Jews of course, also thought seven a good number. It took the Romans and Saxons (4th Cent. AD) to firmly set up the seven day week and naming the days after their gods. The Julian Calendar was accepted by Julius Caesar about 46 BC and gave us the three years plus one leap year every four. However, a period of one day is still too long and different societies since the Chinese in 4000 BC had water clocks to divide the day. Moslem scientists calculated the hour as a meaningful division but it was the need for better timekeeping for navigation that really drove the search for accurate clock mechanisms.

Galileo (16th Cent.) invented the pendulum to time clock movements in seconds, but ship clocks that allowed accurate measurement of latitude came much later.

Once it was enough for us to know that it was “about twenty-to” or “five past” the hour and a hooter told us when to knock off. Now though, we seem to need digital clocks to show the exact time in minutes and seconds accurate to the Universal Standard Time and measured by an atomic clock. Our PC clock, being less accurate than the \$5 “cheap-as-chips” variety, has its time reset every-time you go on the Internet. At last check, my PC clock was adjusted by 0.047 second.I ask you!

CC, 9/2007