SOUTHERN DISTRICTS COMPUTER USERS CLUB INC.

October 2010

Club Web Site   http://sdcuci.com/

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

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Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.
For further information about S.D.C.U.C.Inc.

Contact The Club President,
Jim Greenfield 83824912
Or
The Secretary
Correspondence to
The Secretary
S.D.C.U.C.I.
Box 991
Morphett Vale 5162

Email to
secretary@sdcuci.com

The President's Report

Firstly and I must acknowledge the excellent job our secretary has done in the last twelve months.
Trevor , has carried out his duties as secretary in an exemplary manner for us all to follow.
The Committee appreciates his commitment to detail and his almost super human ability to get the President organized.
During this period Trevor recovered from major cancer surgery. He never fails to cross the T in Trevor or to dot the I in Francis.
To Our Treasurer , Betty Dawson, our grateful thanks in balancing the books……..and going on a well deserved holiday!!!!!
Once again the Committee has worked well together.
My thanks for their support and friendship.

The year has been quite busy with losing our tenure at O'Halloran Hill.
Being detective and asking around countless organizations if they had a suitable place where we could meet. Then deciding to settle here at St. Mary's.

We applied to the Marion Council for a Small Grant opportunity to purchase 5 laptop computers to assist in running courses. This failed – not least as we moved out of the Marion Council jurisdiction but many thanks to Alan Coe and Roy Buckle who assisted in the preparation of the required documentation.

Robert and Anne Zeugofsge spent many hours in going back over club history and locating and sorting all the old newsletters dating back from 1987 - our inaugural year. So far, we have succeeded up to 1991 and these have been digitized and have been placed on our club web site – available to all interested. More work is to be undertaken.

The club web site had been a bit neglected and with the assistance of Gaelyne Glasson – of VCSWEB – and also a Life Member. With her assistance, this has got back on track and at the moment has been current for many months. Many thanks Gaelyne and Trevor.

More recently we have again turned our attention back on running courses. New, updated notes have now been prepared for Basic Computing and email and internet courses. We expect to run courses into whatever schedules we can fit during the coming year. This can be tricky with so many of the committee travelling around during the year. If anyone feels able to assist in this area it would be most welcome.

We have seen new members commence with us this year – and we trust you are all enjoying the experience. Others have left for various reasons and we wish them well also. We have left our membership fees static for the 2010-2011 year but may have to reconsider this for the following year.

I have enjoyed being part of the management team

I hope and trust the new President of the SDCUC for the year 2010 / 2011 enjoys the year as I have.

Jim Greenfield.

CAPTCHA
My thanks to Gaelyne for this email

Captcha the Spammers
by Gaelyne Gasson

G'day Everyone.
 Jim Greenfield asked me to explain a little bit about what a **CAPTCHA** is and explain why so many websites use this when it's often a nuisance to their users.

CAPTCHA is an acronym that stands for **"Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart".** Just think of it as a way to 'capture' the evil spammers and their minions.

You know about SPAM, right? That's the advertisement and completely unwanted junk mail we get in Email. Well websites get spammed too. The people who send spam came up with this idea to use automated means of sending spams to website comment and query pages. Webmasters of course, got fed up with it and someone very clever came up with the idea of using graphic 'CAPTCHA's' that a real person can read and put the information in, but generally the automated scripts the spammers use can't. This stops spamming of websites very effectively. As a person who manages several websites, I can honestly say that this is a godsend. Before CAPTCHA's were around, I used to get a fair bit of crap mail through the websites and on some I took out the comment or query forms all together. It just wasn't worth wading through the junk.

Not all captcha's are graphic letters and numbers with squiggly lines. Some can be 'challenge' questions such as math problems or type the word that doesn't belong in a group, etc. But most are the squiggly line ones because this is what most folks have become used to using and the other methods rely too much on the visitor knowing the language used on the website and having some math abilities that not everyone has.

You may see a captcha that has two words in the squiggly lines. This is a 'Recaptcha'. The neat thing about these is that when you fill out the form and type both words, you're actually helping to determine fuzzy words that have been scanned from documents such as books, magazines and old scripts. If enough people type the same word for one graphic word, the system chooses to use that word in the scanned file.

Good captcha software generally include ways to handle the situation if the word / letters or numbers can't be read. Some will offer a link so you can hear the word. Others will have an option to load a different graphic in hopes it will be clearer than the current one. Some sites will include both options.

I hope this helps explain a little about what a CAPTCHA is and why they exist. And, next time you're faced with a CAPTCHA, blame it on the dang spammers.

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.
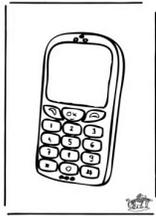
The maximum number in class is five.

(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.

Mobile Phone Etiquette

When in doubt, always go out

When possible go outside or to another room to make your call if your call might disturb others. Also, features such as text messaging, answering services, call diversion and vibration alert can be used to receive important calls without disturbing others.

If you can't turn it off, use silent mode

If you need to keep your phone on for important calls, then turn it to silent or vibrate mode. It's the ring of a mobile phone in inappropriate places and times such as at the tennis or in restaurants which annoy people the most.

MEETING RULES

NO SMOKING   NO DRINKING   NO SWEARING

We are allowed to use the facilities at 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.

From Margaret Norton. Committee member.

I have received x 2 calls from an Indian speaking man informing me that my computer has a virus and he can fix it. I questioned how did he know this and also asked him who my internet provider was. His English was difficult to understand and I was not able to get this info from him. He became very short with me and hung up the phone. The next time he phoned my home No and asked for me by name. Same story saying that I had a virus on my computer. He asked me to open up my computer and would instruct me what I had to do. I became very suspicious and told him that I would have my computer looked at by a person that I know. I then phoned my internet provider and he said this is most probably a scammer trying to get my information and definitely do not divulge any info to him or follow his instructions re this virus he has stated that I am supposed to have.

Please be aware of these calls as I have found out that this has happened to others lately. If you do receive a call like this, just tell them your computer is O.K. and hang up.

Keep your computer safe by ignoring these calls.

Your Notes