

As most of you will know by now, Peter Fowler, our Senior Training Officer and Committee Member, had a heart attack early in the New Year. We are very pleased to announce that Peter is recovering well, and will be returning to the club on light duties in mid February. As we all know, Peter is always very willing to help us with our computer problems, but we do ask you to be considerate and give Peter's "help desk" a rest for the next few weeks.

### **Membership**

Membership currently stands at 508 and there are still some spaces in the Fundamentals sessions.

#### New Trainees

Although we have several new trainees wanting to start one-on-one training, the current lack of students has meant that there is currently no one for them to teach. We hope that this delay will not dampen their enthusiasm.

#### New Trainers and Senior Trainers

Congratulations to ElsieMay Hamerlok (Fundamentals) who now has her Trainer's Badge, and also to Connie Vallis who is now a Senior Trainer. As many of you know, Connie has been running informal Creative Writing courses at her home for some time, but has now agreed to run them as Optional courses at the Club.

### **Training - Windows 98, 2000, ME, Vista and Office 2007**

#### Windows 98, 2000 and ME

The Windows 98 Fun manual has been discontinued (as have Windows 2000 and Windows ME) and our Application Form, Leaflet and Website are being updated. Often, students starting off using Win 98 have voluntarily upgraded to XP shortly after starting PC Fun, and since Optional courses are taught using XP, this is to be encouraged. Students who have just joined can complete PC Fun using XP in classic mode (please tell your Senior Trainer if you are willing to teach this) but will have to upgrade before starting XP Fun. Anyone not willing to upgrade, will be told that due to changed circumstances we are no longer able to teach them on their existing system. They will have their annual membership plus \$20 of their \$30 Fundamentals Course fee refunded (in effect charging them \$10 for the 5 or maybe 6 lessons for PC Fun -the \$20 joining fee will not be refunded).

#### Vista

We have a few new Vista students, and a new Vista manual is being prepared. This will include a Fun introduction to computing using WordPad and Paint (similar to PC Fun), followed by a series of practical Vista Exercises to be used in conjunction with the Professor Teaches Vista Training program (providing headphones for students to give access to additional sound information). Students will be able to buy a copy of Professor Teaches for home use if they wish. The Manual will cover the use of CDs and Flash Drives but Floppies and MS Word will not be included. There are 5 students waiting to start the course but the Manual is not ready. As a stop-gap we plan to start off using "ad-lib" Group PC Fun parts of the course run by Peter and/or Eleanor for 2-3 weeks (pending the availability of the Manual) to gently lead these students into Professor Teaches under the one-on-one approach using volunteer trainers. Whether there will be enough spaces in one-on-one sessions to include these students, or whether a Group course (Monday pm, or Tuesday when the Vista PCs in Room 1 are free) remains to be seen. If you attended one of the Vista familiarisation sessions and would like to be involved in Vista training please sign up on the list in the hall and indicate your availability. (We will negotiate with Senior Trainers to ensure that XP Fundamentals sessions keep enough trainers to cover their existing students.)

#### Office 2007 and possibly Media Player 11

Sorry folks, but there has been no progress on the development of the Office 2007 training sessions since last year, but we now have Professor Teaches Office 2007, which will be installed on one of the club PCs in the near future.

We have also learned from ASCCA that there is a Microsoft Volunteer Program which might run Office 2007 and Microsoft Media Player 11 workshops for our trainers. If you are interested, please sign up on the clipboard in the hall, and we will contact you if we hear anything from Microsoft.

## **One-on-One Trainers**

As previously announced, one-on-one trainers should now be further identified by having a Gold Star on their Trainer's Badge – placed in the space to the right of the Trainer's name. These stars are now in stock in the Stationery Cupboard, and should be handed out as appropriate by the Senior Trainers of the one-on-one sessions. Senior Trainers are also asked to email Eleanor [leightel@aapt.net.au](mailto:leightel@aapt.net.au) with a list of trainers given stars so that this information can be recorded in the Trainer database.

Trainers who stand down from one-on-one training for an extended period of time should remove the Gold Stars from their badges.

## **New Assessment Test**

New members opting to do the Assessment Test (Version 1.4) and getting a score of  $\geq 75\%$  will be given exemption from the Fundamentals courses and will therefore be free to sign up for any Level 2 or 3 courses. A Vista version is coming soon. There still appear to be a few problems, especially on PC23, but PC 9 seems to work well. Jill is coordinating the appropriate changes.

## **New, Updated and Deleted Courses**

### Word Processing

The Advanced Word manual has been update following the trainer testing sessions and the first course is scheduled for March 20th.

### Internet & Email

The list of topics for the new Internet and Email Advanced Course has now been agreed, and work on the new manual will start soon. Watch this space for updates.

### Adobe Photoshop 6

The Adobe Photoshop 6 manual (replacement for Corel Photo-Paint) is ready, but a few interface problems are being investigated. The course is still on target to run in the first half of the year.

### Video Editing

As mentioned last time, before starting work on the Advanced Adobe Photoshop Manual, Bertrand will look at incorporating Adobe Premiere Elements into the existing Video Editing course for those members who have chosen to purchase the Adobe twin pack (consisting of Photoshop Elements and Premiere Elements). Bertrand has written an article about this in the February Newsletter.

### Windows 98 (including 2000 & ME)

As mentioned above, we will not be enrolling any more students for this course.

## **EBay Workshop**

The first eBay workshop run by Amber Duncan in January went well, and there could be more workshops if the demand continues. However, details and charges may be renegotiated if Amber decides not renew her eBay accreditation. Watch this space...

## **Sound in Room 1**

The equipment needed for the lapel microphone/body pack for Presenters in Room 1 is installed and ready for use.

## **New LCD Flat Screen Monitors**

We are purchasing 19" flat screen LCD monitors for all our PCs. Existing monitors will be offered for sale to Trainers and members for \$15 each as they are replaced. John Greenlees has kindly offered to coordinate payment and collection. If you are interested in purchasing one of these monitors, please email John: [johnq@virginbroadband.com.au](mailto:johnq@virginbroadband.com.au) and he will contact you when monitors are ready.

The speaker at our Monthly meeting on 13 February 2008 will be our own Ken Caldwell, who will talk about "The Linux Operating System and Free Software". The next Trainers' Meeting will follow the February 2008 Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 13 February 2008.

*Peter & Eleanor*