

Membership

Membership currently stands at 520 and there are a few spaces in the Fundamentals sessions.

Prospective members without a PC

We have received a few membership enquiries from people without a PC who would like to "try out" computing before committing to the cost of purchasing a PC. Although we understand their problem the Committee has decided against letting them join without having their own PC or sitting in and watching someone else's training session. John Greenlees has kindly offered to be a first contact point for these people, and to meet them at the club to demonstrate the difference between XP and Vista, describe what the club currently teaches, and explain the WorkVentures versus new PC options. Thank you John for this new initiative.

New Trainees

As mentioned above, the Fundamentals sessions are now almost full and all the new Trainees have been allocated to Fundamentals time slots.

New Senior Trainer

Cliff Lavender has decided to stand down from his position as Senior Trainer for the Friday am one-on-one session as he wishes to return to hands on training. The Training Sub-Committee and Management Committee would like to thank Cliff for taking on this role in October 2006 when James Gaudry became sick. Congratulations to Sandra Self who has accepted the role of Senior Trainer for the Friday morning Fundamentals sessions.

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

Windows 98, 2000 and ME

As announced last month, the handful of members with Windows 98 who joined the club in early February will do PC Fun, and then be encouraged to either upgrade to XP or Vista, or have most of their membership and tuition fees refunded. Everyone joining the club from mid-February 2008 will be using either XP or Vista.

Just to clarify the situation for those who joined last year – they will continue with Window 98 Fun unless they voluntarily decide to upgrade.

We know of one volunteer who is still willing to teach the earlier versions of Windows where appropriate. If there are any more would they (or their Senior Trainers) please let us know for rostering purposes.

Vista

What a great encouragement your response to the Vista Training has been. Naturally some things didn't proceed quite as planned at the beginning of the year, but far from sitting back and waiting for "management" to do something, many of you have jumped in and enthusiastically started teaching Vista students with whatever resources you could lay your hands on. Thank you all so much for your help doing this – we really have a great team of Trainers!

In view of your efforts, we have modified our plans a bit to make it easier for you, and are currently upgrading the two PCs in the "corridor" of Room 2 to multi-boot XP and Vista (with Office 2007 and Professor Teaches on the Vista partition) before finishing off the final 6 PCs in Room 1. The draft Vista Manual is now ready, and anyone who is currently teaching PC Fun to a Vista student is welcome to a copy both for themselves and their student (please email Eleanor with names) on the condition that they let us (Peter or Eleanor) know of any problems!

The first Vista Group Course has had two x 3hour sessions, and will complete Paint and have a quick introductory look at Professor Teaches during the third 3hr session. Students will then start working their way through Professor Teaches Vista. As we don't think students can gainfully use Professor Teaches for 3 hours at a time, the remaining sessions will be of 1.5 hours only, with a second group

of Professor Teaches students taking the other half of the afternoon session as soon as that can be arranged. Wendy Hoare has accepted the role of Acting Senior Trainer for these sessions.

We are considering starting another 3-week introductory Vista Group, possibly on a Friday afternoon, with this group moving to the second half of Monday afternoons when they start Professor Teaches. If you are interested in being involved with this Friday group, would you please add your name to the extra column on the Vista sign-up sheet in the hall. Thank you everyone who has signed up to help with Vista – as we said above, your response has been so encouraging, and we will contact you as soon as we are ready for the next group.

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 the Vista partition of one of the PCs in the corridor of Room 2 in the near future.

We have not had any feedback from Microsoft or ASCCA about the Office 2007 and Microsoft Media Player 11 workshops for our trainers.

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 with a list of trainers given stars so that this information can be recorded in the Trainer database.**

Relief Fun Trainers

As most of you know, there is a Relief Trainers' List in the hall which gives Roster Officers and Senior Fun Trainers contact details and availability for Trainers willing to fill in for occasional one-on-one sessions to cover Trainers' holidays, sickness, etc. We would like to update this list for 2008, so please sign up if you are willing to be contacted - remember, you are not committing to always being available for a particular session, only that you are willing to be asked if you are free.

Assessment Test

The changed instructions for the Files and Folders section of the Assessment Test have now been finalised (thanks Sandra and Bruno), and the new version of the test (Version 1.5) is on PCs 9 and 23 (Room 1) and 19 (Room 2). A Vista version is coming soon.

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 first course is scheduled for March 6th.

eBay Workshop

Amber Duncan has decided not to renew her accreditation and that she would expect payment for any future courses she ran for us. As all our other course presenters, including speakers at Monthly Meetings are volunteers, we have decided against this in the hope that we can find enough people within the club with eBay experience to run our own eBay Workshop. Marea Parsons and John Greenlees have agreed to start this off by investigating the eBay information currently available, and would be very pleased to hear from any one who has any eBay experiences to share.

Linux

Following Ken Caldwell's Linux talk at last month's meeting, 30 people signed up wanting to find out more. As a first step, Bill Butts will present a paper to Training Sub-Committee listing possible options for development of Linux at the club. Watch this space!

New LCD Flat Screen Monitors

As previously announced, we are purchasing 19" flat screen LCD monitors for all our PCs. As storage space is our biggest problem we have had a change of plan regarding the existing monitors and have decided to give them away to any club member who is interested. With the exception of the monitor nearest to the side door of the Cottage (which does not work), all the monitors on the verandah are free to any club member who would like one – just help yourself!

Burning CDs on the Demo PC in Room 1

When using Windows XP's "Send to CD option" you get the message "Insert CD in drive" (or similar) even though there is a blank CD in the drive ready to be used. This appears to be caused by a conflict between Windows XP and some other software loaded on the Demo PC (and some of the other PCs in Room 1). Peter is investigating this problem on the various PC Problem-Solving websites, but although many people have reported the problem no one has yet come up with a solution. However, all is not lost, burning CDs on these PCs using Nero does work.

The Club's 10th Anniversary

Our next Monthly Meeting on 12th March 2008 will be a special celebration for the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the club 25th March 1998. This will be followed by a special morning tea. The next Trainers' Meeting will follow the April 2008 Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 9th April 2008.

Peter & Eleanor