

This month's Mailout is slightly different from normal – this is not a permanent change, but a sure sign that there was no Training Sub-Committee Meeting this month, and therefore no opportunity for collecting information about what has been going on in the club over the last month! Normal service will be resumed next month.

### **Membership**

Membership is still going well and is currently 584 with a Waitlist of 42 (XP-24, Vista-18). Looks like being another bumper year.

### **Fundamentals Training**

#### Fun Manuals

Copies of the updated XP Fun Manual will be available for all Fundamentals trainers (and students using XP Fun) from next Monday (11<sup>th</sup> May) – your Senior Trainers will have access to them. Vista Fun update is still coming. Everyone should now have copies of the new PC Fun (dated 27/01/09) - if you have missed out, please email Eleanor.

#### Vista in Room 2

PC 13 (the one immediately facing you as you walk into Room 2) is now dual-boot Vista and XP - making 4 Vista PCs in Room 2.

#### Professor Teaches Windows Vista

The Club now has access to a downloaded “trial” version of Professor Teaches Vista on CD, which students can install on their home PC and pay for over the internet using their credit card. This saves them from doing the 375MB download themselves. The cost is US\$19.95 (currently about A\$27.30) and while not as good as the original offer at US\$9.95, it is considerably cheaper than purchasing the program from Harvey Norman for \$49.95. If you have students who wish to purchase Professor Teaches this way, please contact Eleanor to get a copy of the CD and installation/payment instructions. A word of warning - this “trial” CD is only useful for people intending to purchase Professor Teaches – the “trial” is activated the first time Professor Teaches is opened, and only lasts for 11 minutes – after this the only options are a) to register and pay for the program, or b) to close it.

Hopefully, when Windows 7 arrives, there will be a Professor Teaches version for that, too.

### **Optional Courses**

Course Presenters are welcome to “broadcast” vacancies for future courses by pinning an advert on the Noticeboard at Monthly Meetings. There may also be an opportunity to mention course vacancies in the Newsletter – watch this space.

### **Club PCs**

#### Assessment Tests

The number of requests for Assessment Tests to gain exemption from Fundamentals has increased and there have been queues for tests, especially on Tuesdays. To try to solve this problem, Peter has put the Assessment Test on both PCs in the corridor of Room 2 (PCs 25 & 22), and on both PCs at the far end under the air conditioner (PCs 19 & 20). (The multi-boot PCs have both XP and Vista Assessments Tests as appropriate.)

#### Missing Fonts, Folders, Shortcuts, etc

Please remember, accidents do happen (especially in Fundamentals Classes!) and sometimes things get deleted in error. If you ever use a PC that has this sort of problem, please write a note in the Log Book for the appropriate room so that the Maintenance Team can restore normal working order - don't forget to clearly add your name and contact details in case they need further information.

We are in the process of collecting information from Course Presenters about any special requirements they may have for their courses. Things like the Desktop shortcuts for Blocks and Sticks, the Grandpa Joe folder for XP Fun, special fonts for some courses, the Courses Promo, etc. The hope is that these “standard” items can be automatically installed on new PCs as they are built or when they are re-loaded, and that the

Maintenance Team will have ready access to the appropriate information if any of them have "accidents". So, if your course needs any additions of this type, please email Eleanor so that they can be included.

### **2009 Business Achiever Awards**

Our Club has again been nominated in the Hills Shire Times 2009 Business Achiever Awards, in the Community Service / Not for Profit category. If you are a happy member, and wish to vote for our Club, go on line to: <http://www.businessachieverawards.com.au/> You need to register your name, address, and contact details before you can vote (they ask for a password for your email address, but we see no reason why this has to be your real password, so use a dummy one if you prefer). When you vote, type in **Computer Pals for Seniors The Hills Inc** then **Search**, and scroll down to find our Club name below, and **Vote**.

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

#### *e-Bay Workshop??*

Peggy Joel and Marie Woodward have kindly offered to help with this course – thanks Peggy & Marie. Watch this space!

#### *Photoshop Full Edit (renamed from Photoshop Intermediate)*

The first running of this course ended on 30 April, the next offering commences Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June.

#### *Genealogy Workshop*

The first workshop was held in April and covered: how to begin family history research, a demonstration of software to record the data, and many internet sites to assist in the quest. If there is sufficient interest, another course covering 3 half days may be held later in the year.

### **Windows 7**

Last year's "Advice to club members wishing to purchase a new PC" has been updated and included on the next page.

### **Monthly Meeting**

The May monthly meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 will take the form of an in-house Question and Answer session. There will be a Trainers' meeting following the May Monthly Meeting.

*Peter & Eleanor*

## Notes for Potential New Members Wishing to Purchase a New PC

The club has been teaching Windows XP since about 2002. All our PCs run Windows XP Professional and have Microsoft Office 2003. This is sufficient for all but 6 of our more advanced courses which require additional specialist software.

As from February 2008 we introduced Vista PCs running the Windows Vista Home Premium edition, with graphics capability to run the Vista aero interface. We teach a Fundamental Vista course using a combination of in-house Manual, and the interactive software “Professor Teaches Microsoft Vista” program, currently available from Harvey Norman for \$49.95. It can also be purchased over the internet for US\$19.5 (about A\$27.50) – details available from the Office. We recommend that Vista students purchase a copy of this for themselves so that they can practice at home. We have Microsoft Office 2007 loaded on the Vista PCs. Vista is “prettier” than XP, and requires a much more powerful PC to run it, but it is designed mainly for business use, and is by no means a necessity for home users. Our Optional courses are currently based on Windows XP, so students with Vista will need to make their own adjustments to instructions in the course manuals.

If you don't have a computer, but want to purchase one in order to join Computer Pals, the following notes might help you choose something which is compatible with the PCs we have at the club. However, as the PC you need is very dependent on your experience and the sorts of things you want to use it for, we stress that you must make your own decisions, and suggest that you take these notes along with you when you talk to your Computer Supplier.

### You are a Beginner – just exploring the possibilities

If you have a Centrelink Card or receive any other Government benefits, we strongly recommend you choose one of products from the WorkVentures product list available from the Club Office. The standard pack (costing \$250) gives you enough hardware and a club-compatible version of Microsoft Office. It is suitable for all but 6 of the courses we offer.

### You want to buy a ready built Desktop PC or Laptop loaded with Windows Vista

Buy a PC Desktop or Laptop with Vista Home Premium Edition. Make sure the PC has at least 2GB of memory and sufficient graphics capability to support the Vista “Aero interface”. If you are interested in Word Processing, Spreadsheets, or any of our Graphics courses you require Microsoft Office 2003 or 2007. (NB Microsoft Office Home and Student edition does not include Publisher. Microsoft Works and Open Office are not suitable for our courses.)

### You have heard bad reports about Windows Vista but still want a new Desktop PC

You may be aware that Windows Vista is about to be superseded by Windows 7 around the end of 2009. We suggest you have a Desktop PC built to order by a computer store and have it initially loaded with Windows XP Home. Make sure the PC has at least 2GB of memory and sufficient graphics capability to support the Vista “Aero interface”. Windows 7 is believed to need more power than Windows XP but less than Windows Vista. You will be able to upgrade this PC to Windows 7 in 2010 or beyond. If you are interested in Word Processing, Spreadsheets, or any of our Graphics courses you require Microsoft Office 2003 or 2007. (NB Microsoft Office Home and Student edition does not include Publisher. Microsoft Works and Open Office are not suitable for our courses.)

*PF/EB May 2009*