

Membership

Membership reached 622 at the end of the 2009/10 year (1 less than at the end of last year). There are 19 on the waitlist, many of whom chose to wait until 1 July to join the club. This waitlist (XP-9, Vista-2, Windows 7-8) will take 2-3 weeks to clear. There were 420 renewals and 202 new members during last year, and the renewals for the year 2010/11 are already coming in.

Fundamentals Training

Windows 7 for Seniors

As promised last month we have now looked at the book "Windows 7 for Seniors" by Michael Price, and think that it will be a good reference guide for Trainers but do not recommend it for students. Five copies of the book have been ordered for Club use from the Book Depository in UK (www.bookdepository.co.uk). When they arrive they will be held by the Senior Trainers of the Fundamentals sessions for use in those sessions. If anyone is considering purchasing a copy for themselves, Book Depository prices are quoted in Australian dollars (currently \$16.50) and delivery is free. This is less than half the retail price in the local bookshops, so thanks to Marie Woodward and Patrick Hunter for advising us of this site.

New Training Methodology (NTM) for teaching Windows

The segment format of the New Teaching Methodology has now been finalised. Teresa Rigney, Terri Weston and Walter Bradstock are now writing Segments 1-3. Copies of the format details, segment template and the draft Segment 4 are on the NTM Project Website. Anyone interested in writing a segment or in reviewing the completed segments should send their Gmail ID to Peter so that he can give them access to the website.

Windows 7 PCs

We now have licences for our Windows 7 PCs and the Maintenance Team will be upgrading all our PCs to include Windows 7 (plus Office 2007). Booting will be similar to before, with the "black screen" pausing to give you the choice of:

Earlier version of Windows (this gives XP)

Windows 7

Windows Vista

with the default being XP. Windows 7 should be available on Room 2 PCs by next Tuesday (13th July) and in Room 1 soon after.

Windows 7 Training Videos and Notes

The Windows 7 Training videos and notes have been downloaded from the Microsoft site to the Documents folder of the "Windows 7 Training" PC in Room 3.

Quick Reference Guides for Microsoft Applications

The CustomGuide website (www.customguide.com) gives access to free Quick Reference guides for many of the Microsoft applications. These can be accessed through the "Free Training Resources" link at the top right hand corner of the CustomGuide home page. Thanks to Patrick Hunter for sharing this information.

Vista Laptops & Professor Teaches

Some of our students have laptops which don't have variable screen resolution making it impossible for them to view the entire Professor Teaches window. It has been agreed that any students with this problem can return their copy of Professor Teaches Windows Vista to the Office for a full refund.

OS Stickers for PCs

All PCs in Room 1 will soon be triple boot running XP, Vista and Windows 7. All PCs in Room 2 will run XP and Windows 7, and just 4 PCs will also have Vista. To make it easier to identify the Vista PCs they will now have a small V on the case near the PC number.

Windows 7 Trainer Training

As already mentioned, there will be Train the Trainer sessions for using the Windows 7 Manual once it has been written and approved.

Files and Folders Refresher

The next Files and Folders Workshop is on Thursday, 22nd July 2010 from 10.00am – 12.30pm. If you know of any students who have completed the Files and Folders section in the Fundamentals courses, or who are struggling with browsing CDs etc. in Optional courses, please tell them about this free workshop. The Workshop does cover XP, Vista and Windows 7, and if you are interested in coming along as a Trainer to help with the session please email Eleanor.

Virus-Handling Instructions

Sorry, these are still on the waitlist. They will be circulated to everyone on the Mailout List as soon as they are available.

Difficulty Removing Flash Drives

Sometimes the **Problem Ejecting USB Mass Storage Device** error message appears even though there are apparently no programs running which could be using the Flash Drive. One solution is to open **(My)Computer**, right-mouse click on the appropriate drive letter, and select **Eject** from the menu. This disconnects the Flash Drive and it can be safely removed.

XP & Vista Fun – Word section

Friendly reminder: there are alternative “Word” notes in Eleanor’s tray to cater for students using Word 2007 on XP or Word 2003 on Vista. Please help yourselves to the appropriate pages but leave the sleeves, and put a note on Miriam’s clipboard by the photocopier if we need more copies printed.

Optional Courses

Whiteboard

The Whiteboard is in progress – watch this space.

Club Internet Access

Telstra’s latest repair work between the Cottage and Castle Hill Exchange seems to have made a significant difference (3+Mbps up to 6+Mbps) in our download speeds. The cable under the Cottage has also been replaced and re-terminated at both ends. The net result of this work means that we are consistently getting download speeds of between 6.0 and 6.5Mbps to each of the Club’s PCs. Upload speeds are typically 1.5Mbps. These Internet speeds are considered adequate for all courses with the possible exception of the Skype Course but we will only know for sure after the next Skype course has been run (end August). How we managed to get 10Mbps until February this year appears to be a mystery and no longer attainable. It was agreed that TPG could close the Fault Report – thanks Peter for your tenacity in dealing with this long-running problem.

Desk top hubs for USB ports

The desk top hubs for USB ports are now in position in both Rooms. They work very well with flash drives, but not with some digital cameras. If you have problems connecting a digital camera via the hub then connect via one of the normal USB ports instead.

Office 2007

Office 2007 is now only on the Vista and Windows 7 partitions of club PCs.

Office 2010

Office 2010 has been released and the club will be purchasing a couple of copies for trainers to explore the changes. These copies will be installed on the “Windows 7 training” PC in Room 3, and the Windows 7 laptop (which has now been upgrade from Vista). We are not intending to teach Office 2010 until next year.

Room 3

We have purchased 11 chairs for use in Room 3 for meetings and “not-hands-on” computer courses.

New, Updated and Deleted Courses

Word Intro

The Word Intro course using the new manual commenced on 1 July 2010.

Family History

The first Family History SIG will be in August. Watch the SIG space!

Audio Editing (Audacity)

Following the enthusiasm from people attending the first two Audacity SIGs, the Club has agreed to look at developing a 2-day course covering setup and use of Audacity, and then an exercise in preparing a soundtrack from provided pieces of music, and maybe even covering Media Player. The resulting soundtrack could be used in PowerPoint, Photo Story, or Video Editing. Watch this space.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

It has been agreed that the SIGs will be held according to the availability of the presenter and Room. Topics already suggested but not yet run include: Password Safe; Home Networks; Linux Installation; Spell checking & Thesaurus; Capturing Screens & Videos; Nero; Snag it; VHS to DVD (repeat), Backing up Data. If you have any further suggestions please email Peter or Eleanor.

SIGs already scheduled:

July	Thursday 8 th am	Backing up Data	Peter Fowler
July	Thursday 28 th am	iGoogle(3)	Peter Fowler
August	Thursday 12 th am	Backing up Data(2)	Peter Fowler

Repeated SIGs

Please be aware that if you sign up for a SIG but are too far down the list to attend the first offering, you will automatically be transferred to the repeat session. If, when the date of the repeat session is announced, you are unable to attend, please email Jean Smith (jeanfred@tadaust.org.au) so that she can offer your place to someone else. Thanks Jean for taking on SIG Coordination.

Course Coordinating over the July-August period

We have now entered the new financial year and Course Coordinators are reminded that everyone wanting to do a course must renew their membership for 2010/11 (i.e. become "Financial") before they enrol.

The Office PC has been updated to Windows 7 and Office 2007, and at this busy time of year may not always be completely up-to-date. If you have any problems checking a member's financial status please phone our Membership Officer Sandra Self (9639 0208). We do appreciate the time and effort Course Coordinators invest to get courses running, and we remind you that you do have Committee support to delete anyone who tries to sit on waitlists and persistently make excuses for not doing courses, or who repeatedly ignores emails or phone calls. In those cases, it is your choice whether you use the "3 strikes and you are out" or "3 strikes and you go to the end of the list" rule.

New Flash Drives

Sheila Cocksedge reported that a number (4/10) of the recently purchased Flash Drives had the "Recycler" virus present and some (3/10) had a Sales Catalogue present. This problem necessitated cleaning and reformatting the Flash Drives before they could be used. This will be taken up with the supplier.

Vista to Windows 7 Upgrades

Peter has spoken to DCA Computers about Vista to Windows 7 upgrades for members. Whilst DCA do not recommend "in place" upgrades (especially for laptops) they are prepared to carry out the work based on their standard Diagnostic Charge (\$49 for desktops and \$69 for laptops) **plus** a standard OS Reload Charge of \$89. All above charges would be less the 15% Member discount. (You do also have to purchase a copy of Windows 7.)

ASCCA Notice Board 2010

Wed 8th & Thu 9th September 2010 ASCCA Conference at the Power House Museum
18 November – ASCCA AGM at 280 Pitt Street, Sydney - Winners of the Annual ASCCA Competitions will be announced at this meeting.

For more info about all these events, see the latest ASCCA Newsletter on the Club Notice Board

Monthly Meeting

The July monthly meeting on 12th July 2010 is the Christmas in July Luncheon. Anyone wishing to help with the setting up (or clearing away) please contact Noel Milligan (8850 4121). There will be no Trainers' Meeting this month.

Peter & Eleanor