

**Membership**

Membership has now reached 575, which is 22 more than at the end of the last Financial Year, and there are a further 35 still on the Waitlist. Members who joined the club at the beginning of this year are now reaching the end of their Fundamentals Courses and their training slots are gradually being released to new members. Some prospective new members are choosing to do the Assessment Test and, if successful, are joining the club and going straight to the Optional Courses. The new Financial Year starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and after our biggest year ever, it will be interesting to see how many of the newer members continue with us for another year.

Group Courses There are currently two Group Courses, with a total of 23 students, running on Thursday and Friday afternoons – they are both nearing the end of the PC Fun section of the course. The new helpers on these courses include: Maree Twomey, Jan Dominello, Alan Rains, Margaret & Bob Whiley, Edith & Ron Latta, Peggie & Frank O’Gallagher, George Davis, and Bill Burrows. These are expected to be the final Group Fundamentals Courses for 2007.

Trainee Trainers Pamela Sharpe has now joined the one-on-one sessions on Monday mornings. All our new Trainees have been thrown in at the deep end, and are training pretty much unaided. Thank you all for helping the club in this way.

Relief Trainer List

During May, several of our regular trainers have been away either on holiday or because of family commitments. Having the Relief List, and of course the Trainees, has permitted us to get through this period without having to cancel any lessons. So a big “Thank you” to everyone who has covered the extra sessions.

New Trainers

Congratulations to June Godbee and Carol Moreton who have been awarded their Trainers badges during this month. They have both joined the Tuesday afternoon team.

**Windows 98/ME/2000 Fun Training**

As most trainers are now using XP at home, many of us are finding it increasingly difficult to go back to teaching the earlier Operating Systems. At the Training Sub-Committee meeting on 30 May 2007 it was decided that one-on-one training for Windows 98, ME and 2000 will cease at the end of 2007. From 1 January 2008, any new members using these Operating Systems will be taught Fundamentals only in Group Courses.

**Vista**

The Vista PC (the one on the hall side of the “sign on” room) is now up and running. Everyone who receives this mailout is invited to investigate Microsoft’s new Operating System (and Office 2007) when they have the opportunity – the password is “none” (all lower case, no quotation marks).

In early 2008, when we first introduce Vista training, we are considering running Group courses only. These courses will have the dual purpose of teaching both the students and the trainers who help with them. These trainers will then go on to teach the first Vista one-on-one courses, and a second group of trainers can then help with the Group courses. This appears to be the most efficient way of giving trainers experience of Vista whilst also having the support of the Course Presenter.

**Grandpa Joe**

Following last month’s reminder that Grandpa Joe is not on the Fundamentals CD but only in My Documents of Club Computers, we have had further feedback from both students and trainers that this is still causing problems. Some students have reported that their trainer has skipped this section altogether, and others that they were told to do it for homework – which of course does not work! The end result is that Grandpa Joe’s family tree will be added to the Fun CDs.

CDs will not be reissued, but Sheila Cocksedge has kindly offered to come in and update CDs while students and trainers are at the club – thank you Sheila.

**Laptops in the Clubrooms**

Some students are currently bringing their own laptops to the Club for their 101 Fundamentals lessons. This practice is to be phased out (although anyone already using their own laptop may continue to the end of their course if they wish). Laptops are not permitted in any Group Courses.

## **Tuesday Morning Training**

As from the end of June, Pat and Ken Grant will be unable to teach on Tuesday mornings, and will be moving to Monday mornings. If any trainers would like to move to Tuesday mornings, please let you Senior Trainer know.

## **Friendly Reminders**

We have been asked to remind everybody who uses the Clubrooms that:

- Food and cups of tea, coffee, etc., are not allowed in either Room 1 or Room 2. Capped bottles are acceptable, but not cups or mugs.
- After safely removing a flash drive, please close the flap which protects the USB ports from dust and dirt. Many of these are very close to foot level, and are getting kicked and broken. If you see one open – please close it.
- Labelling Disks. When you are given, or given out, a CD or floppy, please put your (or the student's) name on it. There is a pen suitable for labelling CDs in the top drawer of the Office desk. (Floppies are often recycled, so pencil is adequate for them).
- Lost property is now located in cardboard boxes in the bookcase in the kitchen. We have a growing supply of CDs, floppies, spectacles cases, etc. If anyone loses anything (especially CDs and floppies), please ask them to check there first.

## **Computer Problems**

We are introducing a new system for recording computer problems. There will be Log Books created for both Room 1 and Room 2, where Senior Trainers/Trainers can record any problems they have with the PCs in that room. The report should include the Computer Number (which is on the top of each computer tower), your name, the date and a brief description of the problem. Lionel and Ken will then sign off the problems once they have been fixed. This system should mean that each problem should only get reported once, and computers that keep having problems can be identified, and given some extra TLC.

## **USB Problems**

There have recently been a number of problems with some of the new USB flash drives that members have bought, but which don't work on all computers - this is both frustrating and time consuming for all concerned. It appears that some types of USB drives are known to have technical problems which the student could not be expected to know about, and while Peter can fix some of them, it still takes time. We are going to purchase some (20+) flash drives which work with our PCs, and will then sell them to new members at cost (of course, this does not prevent members from buying their own flash drives if they prefer).

Peter's advice for anyone encountering this problem: first try it in a different computer and if that doesn't work email him to seek further instructions.. Thank you Peter.

## **Virus Checking**

The new versions of VET are gradually being installed on the "permanent" club computers, and the "mobile" PCs on grey metal desks have the Avast! Antivirus program. Instructions for using both programs are available from the Office.

## **Clipboards for Optional Courses**

The pegs for the Course Clipboards (and the Clipboards) are going to be numbered so that each Clipboard has its own home spot. This should make it easier to find the clipboard you want...

## **Website**

The dates and times of forthcoming courses will be moved from the Trainers' section to the Public section.

## **Room 2 Sound-proofing**

There are mixed feelings about whether or not the trial soundproofing has improved life in Room 2. The remaining walls will be carpeted, but if that still isn't sufficient, we will go to plan C!

The speaker at the meeting on 13 June 2007 will be Michael Slough from InkMe, who will be talking about printers, ink cartridges and paper. The next Trainers' Meeting, to which all recipients of the mailout are invited, will follow this Monthly Meeting.

*Peter & Eleanor*