



February / March 2009

# NEWSLETTER

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Home of Peel Seniornet

## **GENERAL MEETING Monday February 23rd. 2009** **President Christine Jackson opened the first meeting for this year and welcomed everyone.**

The beginning of this year was not unpleasantly interrupted by Australia Day falling on the same day as our usual meeting and Accent Mandurah being closed ! However we did celebrate with the rest of Mandurah and enjoyed a great breakfast and morning tea held on the foreshore!

The Committee have not had a break though as we have been working hard on workshops and grant application.

The City of Mandurah Community Assistance Grant application has gone in, closing date is Feb. 26 and it'll take about 3 months to be assessed.

The equipment applied for is a Laptop Computer;

"Visual Steps" computer training books for Seniors' Windows Vista and Switching to Windows Vista for Seniors, Internet and E-Mail for Seniors, Windows XP for Seniors and Photo Video and Music for Seniors.

These will be an enormous help to our learning sessions for the future.

We included the cost of a further Image Manipulation session too with Kingsley Klau .

A Mobile Phone Workshop was also organized recently. Called a "Train the Trainer" venture by Telstra Connected Seniors which is a joint venture between ASCCA and Telstra. It was attended by 10 of our members, including our speaker for today, John MacMahon of the RAAFA, Meadow Springs. The material presented was excellent and hopefully we all learned a lot and will pass that knowledge on.

Sirkka Duncan was the training officer and the aim of the workshop was that those attending will be able to pass on their knowledge to others in the club.

Sirkka left us a training disc which is being copied as needed,



by Arthur Turvey and which can be used in training sessions for the club. Also available in our library. Sirkka Duncan has also advised us to apply for a grant from Telstra Seniors Connect, to run mobile phone courses, plus buying a number of mobile phones to be used as a learning tool at the courses. We think this might be a very popular subject for our seniors.

Members also please read the latest ASCCA Newsbreak as circulated to all members; it contains much of interest to all of



### Social Functions

(Formulated by Alvin Council)

A little bit of what you missed!

The Christmas lunch at the Abingdon Miniature Village on Wednesday 10th December was a great success.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of January – the first function for the year was at Meadow Springs Golf Club that was really great.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January – Australia Day – some of us got up early and took part in the scrumptious breakfast!

#### **Coming up is -**

Morning tea at Edenvale on the 10<sup>th</sup> March ( \$7 with a cake)

Morning tea at Gloria Jeans on 7<sup>th</sup> April

### **Greetings to new members –**

**Muriel Creasey, Ronda Lane, John MacMahon, Kate Orr, Barbara Powell, Kevin Ryan, Stanley Worthy and Lois Burke.**

## Training.

This is going well and classes are full for the months until June. Tom's Sessions are covering areas of PC Maintenance, Backup & Protection, Excel Basics, and Desktop Publishing. However they are taking longer than first thought and may extend into further months. Tom says there are some very good tutor books available at the Sessions also to take the place of written notes.

The General Sessions are still working well but it is advisable to let the 'helper' know if you plan attending.

## Question Time.

Has wireless broadband any advantage over any other broadband?

Not the same and wireless broadband can be expensive. Mobile phones can be expensive when travelling and the connection in big towns is not good.

One Server has a pre paid \$149 one charge and then as you use.

Another is \$39 per month while travelling all over Australia. One member said. extra dollars for extra time and suggestions to update from servers becomes a nuisance.

***Complaints from members about not hearing questions has been discussed with Centre Coordinator Kerrie, who has offered PSN roving microphones! Apparently part of Accent Mandurah's service.***

## After our usual break for afternoon tea, John MacMahon our speaker was introduced.

John firstly explained the body of his talk would be in computer protection but firstly he introduced Louise Stewart from Lasar computers.

She said her talk was about computers and getting on line. She encouraged questions for better understanding.

The internet she said was very good for searching for unlimited information. Google is a good Search Engine .



Banking is another area. Louise herself used to work in a bank and advised that as long as you don't use your password it is perfectly safe. To pay bills etc. can be done from your own home.

Email is a great tool instead of using the phone.

News channels are easily accessible too. All channels are available at the touch of a finger.

Down loading music can now be done legally.

Skype, has the added advantage of being visual on screen as well as being able to talk.

Google Earth – shows maps and streets and has ability to go back in time – interesting.

Louise then explained the use of a modem – to use a phone line to connect to internet.

“Servers’ can supply modems when going onto internet. There are several plans available.

.Dial up, with limited time on line is cheaper. Broadband and wireless broadband can run all day if required but cost a little more.

Local service is handy for immediate response, Louise said. Software is important for Browsing and of course an email program and security program. Lasar can do all of above.

Louise then answered questions from the floor. Firstly explaining broadband with one pc appx cost \$75, Wireless network can be about \$129

An existing Modem can be used. Lasar can program this for you.

When transferring from main PC. to a second PC and failure to receive email it is best to call on a server for assistance.

When there is a fault in opening emails. this usually means you do not have the right program Louise explained but again she offered to look at this at the Lasar shop.

Tom our trainer interjected saying this can occur when software needs rectifying. For example an older type program to 2007 vista can be a problem for this he said Microsoft have a free download.

**Louis then handed back to John MacMahon.**

He described the amount of viruses that are on line.

Security - according to survey over 23% of personnel computers are affected

Mail ware are gathering info. Half of PCs are connected all the time. That's giving more time for viruses to track you.

Some popular programs for internet are vulnerable.

John disconnects his internet when working on other programs.

There is very good software available free of charge for viruses.

AVG and Avast are free for example.

The most probable way that viruses come into your computer is by a mail program. and email spam.

He suggested 'Mail Washer' which looks at your emails before going into your mail You then get a preview of your emails and you can tell mail washer whether you want them or not.

With time against us John wound up his presentation but members can see a full report on our web site [www.peelseniors.com](http://www.peelseniors.com) .

We showed our appreciation in the usual way.

The President Christine then presented John with a Certificate of Appreciation. He then agreed to draw our Raffle and the winner was B 35 F. Hunt – Congratulations.!

**Cheers from Christine.**

**The next General meeting is Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>.**