

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2012-2013.



President: KATE ORR

Vice President: CORA MALLET

Secretary: JOYCE CHALKLEY

Treasurer: VINCE OWENS

Committee:

Jim Thomson Joan Dodd Joyce Thomson Sarien de Beer Sheila van Vliet

Communications: John Macmahon

Web Master: Steve Nelson

Social Events: Sarien de Beer

Consumables: Margaret Green

President's Report of activities 2011/2012

Many and varied events have been organised by the committee of Peel SeniorNet Association Inc. across 2012-2013. It is my pleasure to report that the committee have been privileged to present programmes that reflect the diversity of Peel SeniorNet's major objectives which highlight the exponential expansion of computer technology and an understanding of it, in the first part of the twenty first century.



Courtesy: Your Life Choices.

Any organisation's success depends on the dedication and expertise of its Committee. And I sincerely thank my team for their commitment and help in running this very active seniors computing group.

I thank Robert Stewart who acted as Returning Officer at the October Annual General meeting for the election of Officers and to oversee the voting with regard to changes to the Constitution.

Following attendance at a breakfast meeting in November 2011 information was shared that the Peel region is one of the first areas in Australia to be granted the National Broadband Network facility. Ongoing information regarding the laying of fibre optic cabling and its roll out allows your Committee to keep you up to date with the infrastructure of broad band services to residents in the Peel region.

This year 2012, all members were encouraged to submit their photographic images, or poetry or prose to the annual Australian Seniors Computing competition. Jim Thompson recorded each entrant's contribution and submitted all the entries, collectively to ASCCA. We also persuaded our Newsletter Editor to submit a copy of one of our Newsletters for best Newsletter. All entries were entered for allocation of points which went towards the best computer club in Australia. Prize Winners: to be announced next month, November 2012.



At the General meeting for November – David Templeman aka Lance Boil of the Family of Boils was guest speaker. Lance, as well as giving a short overview of the woes of the Boil family during the past year, invited members in attendance to come along to the Performing Arts Centre in Mandurah to share all the intricacies of the Boil Family. And in doing so, the entrance fee would be donated to the talented performers who live in the Peel Area and who need financial assistance to further their careers.

The Boils are a hard family and their favourite son, Lance has the ability to make light of their sometimes devastating adventures and encourage the audience to empathise with them. 55 of our members said “Thank you” to Lance for such an entertaining conclusion to our computing club year 2011.

December 5th saw us gather at the beautiful Mandurah Quays restaurant. The ambience of the venue helped all to celebrate the beginning of the Festive Season.

A “Getting to Know You Bingo” was played to help members relax and to allow some sharing time with other members who they often see at meetings but don't have the time to seriously talk with.

A superb Chicken and Cranberry poulet was served with delectable vegetables. In the break between courses, a Christmas Quiz was organised. Interesting questions were provided and many learned an added thing or two about Christmas Traditions.

We all sang the twelve days of Christmas following the Quiz. The first seven days singing was quite robust but volume quietened considerably for the next five days.

Plum pudding with brandy sauce, followed by chocolates, biscuits and coffee rounded off this satisfying lunch. All left in great spirits and it was so good to see the positive effect of sharing on all who attended. Oh, and by the way, Vince won the Pass the Parcel. His prize was a red Christmas Cat Candle. Good on ya Vince.

January 2012 was a quiet month for PSN because we took time out to weather the heat. To swim, listen to Opera, Skype with friends and relatives or just veg. out.

First and Second Click started up again in February. Lillian Bridewell was again at the helm. In place of a guest speaker at the February general meeting, we had a Focus Group session to seek the direction that members would like to see happen within PSN for the coming year.

Information foci – Research continues to indicate that everyone has a preferred method of receiving and acting on information received. Therefore, the website, the newsletter, both online and hard copy and training and events pertinent to PSN continue to be distributed by cross media outreach at the beginning of each month.

A PSN Focus Group was held at the general meeting in February, this allowed members to contribute their valuable comments on how and why they wanted certain things to run in the club. It was highly successful especially as members found it a time when they could really share and air their views. It has been recommended to start off the new year in 2013 with a focus group discussion.



Airing and Sharing Views. Courtesy: Ms.

March marched in and we invited Mr. Khalid Razi from Harvey Norman to demonstrate Tablets especially I-Pad 2 and the latest Samsung tablets. There was a large audience and Mr. Razi brought along Chris. from Samsung and Jason to help him present a full story on tablets. These portable, light weight devices are so convenient to use. And although they will not overtake some aspects of the P.C. at this stage in computer

development, they certainly offer advantages for certain people looking for niche workings from their computer tablets.



Android Tablet

The recent versions of the I-Pads: Most have a 1 GIG processor, they are multi-tasking and have approx. 9hrs battery life. The Apple I-Pad has its own unique IOS operating system which includes a camera, email and internet access as per your Personal Computer. Skype is also available for use.

A download application is available for printing. However Apple works only with its own "Apple P.C". Connection to a TV is provided by a special adaptor.

Apple iPods have a few limitations, 4G is as yet not available here, only in the US and Canada. But they will work efficiently on 3G without too much loss of power.

All other tablets are similar to each other and most are Android based. Available are Samsung's Galaxy W7. Chris. from Samsung demonstrated this new tablet which is Windows 7 compatible.

The Samsung "Dive.com" allows owners to trace their tablet, if lost or stolen.

Web access is not free outside one's own area; but it has a video application, Google maps, and the GPS mapping software. The Polaris office is compatible with MS via USB and using the drag & drop method.

I-Pads and Tablets were not designed to replace P.C.'s but their portability is a great advantage. Some expensive tablets have a bigger screen and more hard drive. Several sizes in Kits are available and these were shown to the members. All are still complementary items to a Personal Computer as no extra RAM can be added.

Application to the City of Mandurah Community Funding Scheme was made for funding the purchase of Citrix Software and training (go to meeting) which is used for online tutoring. This software allows "Webinars", or On-Line Training conducted by tutors and member students in their own homes when unable to attend Ac-cent classes for training. The submission was successful with \$1,000.00 being made available to pursue the Citrix pathway for online tutoring.

Our special and returning guest speaker for the month of April was Ms. Diane Oldman And the title for her Genealogy talk was "Barking up the Wrong Tree. Come and dig up your roots". This valuable and professional talk again encouraged members to search for family affiliations. We are fortunate to have speakers of Diane's caliber to share her knowledge with us.

May's guest speaker was Ms. Tracy Fortune. The title of Tracy's talk was "Computers do what you want them to do!" Such an important message. Yes, Computers do DO what your tell them to do. It's just that some new members become anxious that (a) they may break this piece of machinery [computer] or (b) lose valuable data which they have

painstakingly put into their new computers. Neither (a) nor (b) is correct. Thanks Tracy for straightening us out. Tracy loves to build computers and remained after her presentation to show us how to build one's own computer.

June, our first month of winter, when members of PSN were offered tutoring in photography by Mr. Peter Taylor.

Peter also acted as Judge at the annual photographic competition.

This year we added an extra segment namely Mandurah Meanderings.

Portraits	1 st prize	Aileen Drage
Landscape	1 st Prize	Kate Orr
Animals	1 st Prize	Marie Hutchinson
Mandurah Meanderings	1 st Prize	Marie Hutchinson
Your Greatest Shot	1 st Prize	Marie Hutchinson



1st prize Animals: Marie Hutchinson – Turkish Camel

An excellent number of entries were received with each of such a high standard. The overall winner of the competition was Marie Hutchinson who took out first prize in three sections. Congratulations to all for such a brilliant collection of images. Marie won a designer digital camera, courtesy of Camera House. Thankyou

We welcomed Yan a Masters Psychology student from Curtin University. Yan was researching on the effect of loss of a loved one on daily functioning. Many thanks to those who participated in Yan's study.

July's guest speaker : Ms. Blanche Holzman – demonstrated Aids to Visual Impairment. She demonstrated Quantum products. There is a large range of both hardware and software to assist those who have failing vision. She competently showed the various visual response of a person with cataracts, macular degeneration and other diseases of the eye. Although the price of some of this equipment is considered high, it was made known that the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs and Lottery West can fund these aids for qualifying members. Anyone wanting further assistance phone Blanche at Quantum products.



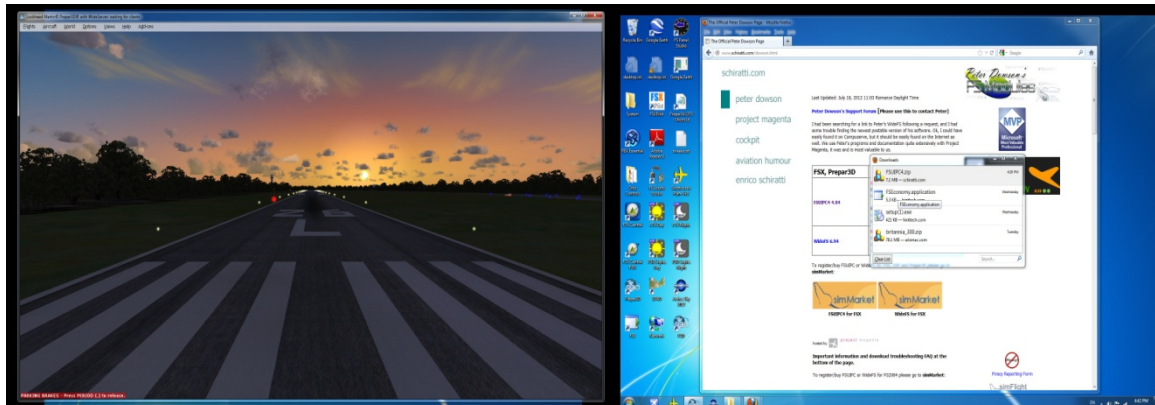
August 27th Debate: "You can't twitter all you want to" . An excellent debate conducted by the Year 12 debating team of M.C.C senior students. As with last year's outcome, it was difficult to ascertain who offered the more powerful argument, those for Twittering or those who posed the questions against Twittering.

One powerful point offered by the positive team was that Twittering can pre-empt a Sunami.

Both the pro team and the opposition were convincing. In summary, this writer thinks the contra team convinced us that Twittering may have many advantages as a form of social media, but overall it wasn't such a good idea as an outside source owns what we may have written on their Twitter site; and as well, it was suggested from some research that those who use social media excessively are more prone to depression and narcissistic tendencies. Interesting. I did ask for the supportive research - yet to arrive.

September saw four guest speakers. They spoke about computer magazines and computer games. Jim Thomson (magazines); Mary Crane (Mahjong); Lillian Bridewell (Card Game) and Robert Stewart (Flight Simulator). What a successful conglomerate of fun. Thankyou you all on behalf of members.

Games are helpful for the development and maintenance of fine motor skills, lateral thinking and redefining neural pathways. All of which keep Seniors active and mentally alert. Go. Go. Go Games!



Flight Sim, Sunset flying into Benalla. Courtesy: John Macmahon

The Annual General Meeting was conducted to ratify the Minutes of the previous year and to re-elect committee members for the year 2013. Members also voted to make a small change to the Constitution with regard to the use of Internet Banking. This resolution was overwhelmingly accepted.

October is “Cloud” month. Mr. Sheldon Jones from Microsoft was unable to attend due to a death in his family. Some research findings with regard to the Cloud were presented.

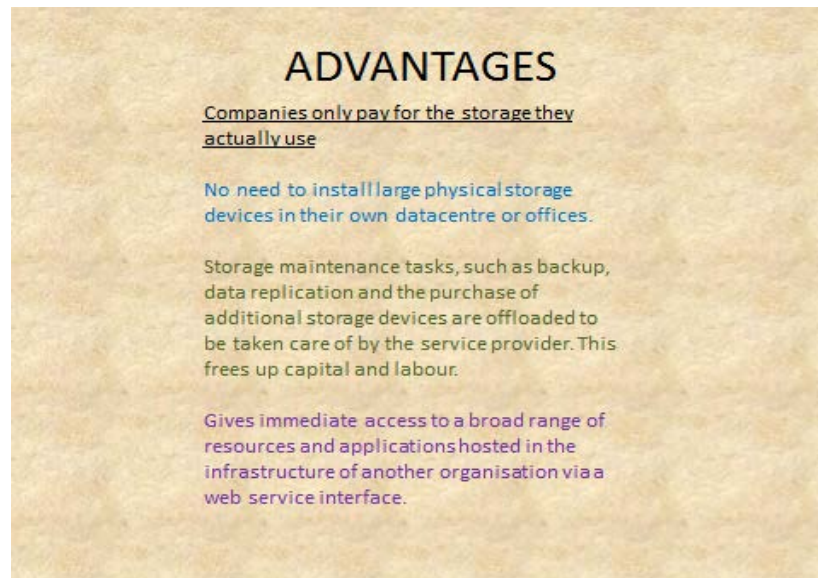
Cloud storage is believed to have been invented by Joseph Carl Robnett Licklider in the 1960's. Because the Internet only started to offer significant bandwidth in the nineties, Cloud computing for the masses has been a late developer.

Basically: “Cloud” Usage Frees up capital and labour.

Costs

Cloud storage may be cost-efficient for many corporations and small businesses for everyday use, but for the average user of computers and internet, the costs of “Cloud” storage may outweigh its benefits.

One platform offering “Cloud” facilities is “Eucalyptus.” They enable 25,000 “Cloud” starts each year, including servicing more than 20% of the Fortune 100 companies. Data Ownership poses a serious concern with respect to the “Cloud.” Many questions remain unanswered, so be wary if you are considering the utilisation of the services of “Cloud” Providers



We accepted reluctantly, the resignation of Tom Hoffman due to the ill health of his wife, Penny. Members signed a giant Thankyou card for Tom to express our sincere thanks to him for years of devoted service for passing on his knowledge of computer expertise to many members over his long term of service. And for his creation and maintenance of PSN’s first Web site.

Our Revamped Web Site: As mentioned earlier, individual members have preferences in receiving information with regard to their clubs and organisations. The committee has worked untiringly to assist in the redevelopment of the PSN website. The new look website is now up and running with thanks to the 2012 Committee and Mr. Steve Nelson, who is webmaster. Please access the website for all your information about meetings, socials, training, history of PSN and a monthly competition. Please put in your entries each month.

Cutting the ribbon to officially open the new PSN website. Courtesy: Hans Nissen

Joan Larter experienced extended hospitalisation. Lovingly Joan told me recently that she had given up her bed at Peel Campus and was now at home. Library assistance has been given by Sheila Van Vliet

Socials: Sarien organised functions throughout the year. One social gathering at Stingray Wharf which was a sundowner, included playing Bocé which was followed by “fish and chips” at M on the Point.

Many were captured on video by Lorna & Frank.



Sundowner at Stingray Wharf

March 14th 2012 – Morning tea at Cicerellos on the Boardwalk.

April 11th 2012 – Morning tea at Redcliffe on the Murray.

Another enjoyable outreach was a most successful luncheon at “M” on the Point. Well done Sarien. Good thinking to get there early with the school holidays, it was very busy.

Throughout the year other venues have been visited for morning coffee at Edenvale, Pinjarra, the BoardWalk café and the wonderful Sailing Museum and Café Pronto

PSN’s Communication outreach conducted by John Macmahon has been exceptional. His constant identification of Viral attacks and Trojans and many other nasties has kept many member’s computers safe.

Adult Learning Week expo November 16th. Fortunately, we received funding from COTA to defray expenses for this event.

Write your own Eulogy was not exactly the training hit of the year. Some liked the idea of leaving their story behind for posterity, for others it brought up unhappy memories.

Buddies: The committee has worked with the Buddies to encourage those generous volunteers to continue to offer their time and knowledge to help fellow members. Members, please utilise the services of our valued Buddies. Please see ‘Buddies’ on the Website.

Website: www.peelseniors.net we welcome your constructive criticism with regard to the website. As part of the update of the website, we changed our ISP from HostAway to Crazy Domains. This change reflected a large saving in service fees. Plus a considerable discount was obtained as a bonus for long term commitment to the new ISP.

An inaugural Competition was announced - to be available each month on the website. Announcing the 1st Winner - Gena Nissen who submitted the first correct entry of Marilyn Monroe’s Baptismal Name. (Norma Jeane Baker).

During the year PSN has lodged submissions to five funding pools. So far, two applications have been successful and another is being favourably reviewed.

The future? To continue to offer, up to date service, to fellow Seniors to achieve I.T, independence through knowledge. And thus continue excellent communication with friends and family across distance and time and financial restraints.

I extend my best wishes to all members at the conclusion of this very busy working year. And sincerely hope that abundance filters into every aspect of your life.

Again I thank again PSN's wonderful volunteer committee who continue to give so generously to Seniors and in doing so, create a much needed practical community service.

Finally a large thank you to the team at Ac-cent who help us with our mantra.



Red Grevillea, Jarrahdale.

Thankyou,
Kate Orr
President, 2012