President's Report

Hello all,

At the close of the year it feels like time for a wrap-up of the year. We have many members who seem very happy with our service and especially with our volunteer tech mates. I know that they enjoy helping all our members and I am sure that you all would join me in a big thank you for the time they give up to assist us all. We have been 'testing the waters' with the Gatehouse sessions and have plans to make further changes there to better support everyone's needs. While not obvious there have been a number of internal changes with our systems to improve our services.

A big thank you too for our reception desk and Committee volunteers; the computer club is a team effort and everyone's effort is valued. We do hope to do a lot more in the new year based on our review of the member survey that has just closed. We are always happy though, to hear from anyone who drops in at the clubroom with suggestions.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year

Brian McLauchlan
President ARVCC

ARVCC Committee

Mowll
Brian McLauchlan (President)
Neil Davidson (Vice President)
Ruth Bunn (Reception)
Geoff Litchfield (Membership)
Merilyn Davidson (Supplies)

Warrina
Clare Hamilton (Catering)
Chris Keay (Reception)
Melanie Rankine (Welfare)

Nuffield
Elizabeth Pedersen (Treasurer)
John Gaffey (Genealogy)

Hopetoun
Rita Berryman (Reception)

Glenhaven Green
Jan Andrews (Village Rep)
David Makin (Secretary)

Bradford Rooms
Ground Floor Lober House
Phone 88531810

Email: computer.club@anglicare.org.au

Website:
https://www.arvrcc.org/

The Club is open:
Tuesdays 0900-12 noon
Thursdays 0900-12 noon

For sales of cards, badges and other items just come in

Editor: Brian McLauchlan

Bits & Bytes December 2024
Anglicare Retirement Villages Computer Club Inc. Newsletter

Connecting Residents with Technology

Hindsight & Forecast

Hello everyone,
Christmas is almost upon us and soon after that the New Year. A hopefully joyful time followed often by a time of reflection on the year past and a look ahead to start a new year.

Looking back on the year we have seen some big technology changes like the early developments in AI; the close down of 3G mobile services and the push for the so far underwhelming 5G.

Certainly there have been some high profile hacks like Optus and Medibank and many new and re-used scams. New car privacy concerns have also been a revelation. While we have to warn of the negative consequences of criminal activity, the hope is that you are alert rather than alarmed. All technology has negatives but hopefully on balance there are many positives for us all to enjoy.
We are happy to assist with new technology purchases but there does not seem to be any pressing reason to update computers, mobile phones or tablets unless yours is failing or is simply outmoded by age. By all means buy yourself a Christmas present but otherwise there is no outstanding technology change that really means you miss out unless you update.

And the future? Forecasts are notorious for being wrong. Futurists are rarely correct, so we can only make some suggestions that are short range and mostly local.

Expect more push to use AI as every business that has spent money on an AI system wants to get a return on their investment, for example Apple and Microsoft who both have plans but vastly different in approach.

See Internet Searches (eg Google) becoming 'dumbed down' as AI is used more. Why? Your search will give

an AI simplified answer and many folk will go no further than that. But it will certainly be easier to get that dumb answer!

More sophisticated scams that will need us to be on our guard, but offsetting that are improved systems used by banks and businesses that are aimed at better protection for customers.

And what is your Computer Club doing? We hope to introduce 'the bones' of a new club website with basic support services built in, things you can try immediately if you have tech trouble.

We will operate our Gatehouse Saturday Tech Sessions with new content and formats and also experiment with Bring&Do tutorials next year, all to try to provide a service at the many levels of need and interest for members. There are some ideas that have yet to come together, like getting information via Zoom to save on travel or more 'Smart Home' demonstrations.

It will be an interesting 2024

Brian McLauchlan
President ARVCC

Member Survey
The member survey was open for the whole of November and at time of publication the responses were still coming in and are yet to be analysed.

A big thank-you to all who participated as this is an opportunity to have a voice in how your club works and to help us make it work better for all members. We had a few blips with our new system but helpful feedback got it sorted. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Rod Roberts
In memory of Rod Roberts, a genial founding member of the ARVCC. Our sympathies to the family for the loss.

Welcome New Members
Since September we welcome 9 new members:

Noelene Beer	Mowll
Barbara Garthwaite	Mowll
Ray Smith	Mowll
John Lucas	Warrina
Norm Pilbeam	Mowll
Anthony Van Der Wall	Mowll
Jilska Van Der Wall	Mowll
Lyn Eggins	Warrina
Cecil Fisher	Mowll

The Lighter Side of Tech

"The computer says I need to upgrade my brain to be compatible with the new software."

Gatehouse Sessions
This Month:
Sat. Dec 7th Tech Session
Sat. Dec 14th *ARV CC Website*

Be there at 10am for the session start.
Next Year!
Two Sessions per month!
Saturday February 1st
Buy a Computer (General Interest level)
Speaker:Brian McLauchlan

Saturday Febuary 8th
Bring n Do Session
Basics of Mobile Phone Settings (Apple) BYOD
Facilitator Brian McLauchlan

Save these dates!
These are free technical and general interest presentations provided for members by Computer Club every month.

Sessions will resume on the 1st of February.

Bring n Do Sessions
This is a trial of a **Basics** hands-on series at The Gatehouse on second Saturdays of the month. They are **BYOD** *(Bring Your Own Device)* and follow along. The **first Saturday each month** will be a mix of General Interest and Experienced User level Tech Sessions. All welcome to any session though!

Christmas Conundrum
We regularly have a Christmas-New Year close down resuming in February. In the past we kind of assumed that everyone is taking a holiday, a rest, family time or whatever.

This time we will try an experiment as some of our tech helpers and our members have suggested interest in an early resumption. I am guessing that there are a few that have 'asked Santa' for a new tech device and would like some help to set it up after it is unwrapped.

So, we will only shut down from **14th December until 7th January** and will resume with a modest service only, to test the interest. Drop in or call to take advantage of the early service in the new year.