

President's Report

Hello all,
A new year and new challenges! Our early start to the year has been busy from the first day and has proved very popular with members. A big thank you to the Tech Mates and the Reception staff who have been very busy looking after all the needs. While we are busy with developing some further new ideas to support members we will hold off on any early announcements until we are confident that things will work out. Whatever we do, we encourage members to provide feedback or suggestions at anytime.

We are hoping to take most Committee Meetings using Zoom with a view to moving all future meetings online. This will reduce the need for the committee to travel unnecessarily and keep up with developments in this handy communication tool.

I believe that as much as we can, the Committee needs to utilise the available technology so that our personal experience is available to advise our members.

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.arvcc.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

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Bits & Bytes

February 2025

Anglicare Retirement Villages
Computer Club Inc. Newsletter



Connecting Residents with
Technology

The DeClutter Journal

Hello everyone,
Welcome to the new year and the hope you have all had a happy time over the Christmas period. Perhaps when you read the heading you may have thought I would be writing of an adventure on the high seas with Captain Acel DeClutter, the suave French commandant but alas it is only a clean-up story; sorry.

You will find the Bradford Rooms at the computer club are somewhat changed, hopefully for the better. We have had a big working bee over the break and are pretty happy with the results so far. (thanks team!) The aim was to organise our space a little better to give more room for members to congregate while booking assistance, browsing for our Shop offerings and ordering badges.

There is also more space for our Tech Mates to work with you if you book a session in the Clubrooms. Our `Internet

Cafe' room has been given over to use by club staff or Tech Mates as it was seeing little use for Be Connected sessions at the clubrooms.

Our reorganisation also provides for future development of a small group tutoring space/special interest groups. More on this later as we sort out the best arrangement for these new ideas.

We have also rationalised our stored items and we have started a few sales of good quality pre-owned items. Look for some bargains listed in Friday Night Updates from late January onwards.

As a few members found late last year at our website launch, we have also de-cluttered the club website and tried to make it far more useful for members.

Apart from a new look, it has a lot of current information about Gatehouse sessions, Apps, First Aid for your

technology (ie quick-fixes) and other support material. The website address is on the back page of Bits & Bytes.

While not a de-clutter, the Gatehouse Sessions this year have been adjusted to take better account of member's needs and experience. Every session will be identified as either: Basic/Refresher; General Interest or Experienced.

The **first Saturday of the month** will always be either General Interest or Experienced. The **second Saturday of the month** will be Basic/Refresher level at a slower pace. These latter sessions also will be a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) so that you can practice in the session. Hopefully this means that everyone will know what sort of pace and level of experience to expect at each session. Regardless of your experience level, **all members are welcome to attend any session.**

Brian McLauchlan

Batteries on Fire


You have probably seen the frightening fires in electric scooters. The Lithium Ion

battery is widely used and is common in these scooters, so could your mobile phone start a fire in your pocket or handbag!? In most cases, the fires in scooters and similar devices are caused by one or all of:

- Damage to the batteries
- Wrong charger used
- Modified electricals

There have been very few fires or overheating problems in most other devices, and rarely in consumer electronics like laptops and mobile phones.

To keep safe:

- Do not buy ultra-cheap devices or chargers
- Always use the original device charger
- Check that the **charger** has a safety mark as shown here. 
- Do not charge high powered devices like power tools when you can't check for problems (not overnight)
- Safely dispose of any device that starts to distort or bulge (an indication of misbehaviour of battery chemicals).

Safely dispose off any device that has had serious damage to its case **but do not put old batteries in garbage bins**; recycle to prevent fires in rubbish trucks or dumps. If you

have any concerns, talk to us at computer club.

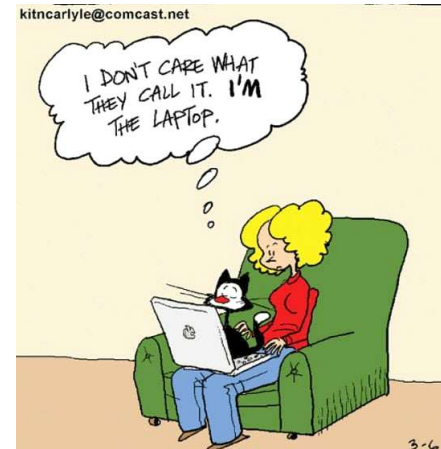
New Members

A warm welcome to our first new members for 2025:
John Mallet Warrina
Betty Van Dyck Hopetoun

So-so survey

We put out our member survey late last year being very careful to minimise questions that might be invasive of privacy. Unfortunately with a modest return from 18% of members and no way of testing our statistical accuracy we cannot have complete confidence in the results. Before we take any action for further change we will have to review our survey process to better balance the statistical accuracy and the need for requesting some further personal information.

The Lighter Side of Tech



Gatehouse Sessions

This Month:

Sat. Feb 1st Buy a Computer
General Interest

Sat. Feb 8th Basic Apple iPhone
Bring n Do Session

Be there at 10am for the session start.

Next Month

Saturday March 1st

Buy a Mobile Device
General Interest
Speaker: Brian McLauchlan

Saturday March 8th

Basic Phone (Android)
Bring n Do session
Facilitator:
Brian McLauchlan

Ware AI (again)

I have mentioned AI scams before and now they have drifted into fake instruction books. AI has been used to re-purpose material from the internet to make beginner hobby books such as Lacework and Tattling. The big problem is that much of the content is unworkable as it has been stolen from experts and edited by AI into a mess.

These books are not worth buying. So; Don't start a new hobby without speaking to some humans who understand that hobby.