

BYTES & PIECES

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE HOBART COMPUTER USERS GROUP INC.

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AGM ADJOURNED

The AGM commenced as scheduled at 8.00 pm on 26 August 2003 and the first few items were dealt with successfully. However, when we reached the Election of Office Bearers, we found that there were no nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, or Secretary. Accordingly, an adjournment motion was carried.

Incorporated in the adjournment motion was the setting up of a sub-committee, consisting of Cindy Campbell, Don Trotman and anyone else they cared to second. The sub-committee was asked to look at:

- Whether anyone would accept nomination for the vacant positions;
- Whether a merger with another organisation was feasible; and
- The Rules relating to the winding up of the Group.

At its first meeting, the sub-committee received a further proposal that, in the event that nominees could not be found, that a Caretaker Committee, consisting of the five elected at the AGM, Cindy and Peter Campbell, and Don Trotman, be formed to allow the AGM to be completed and the revised Rules of the Association to be passed. This would allow, among other things, the Group to operate with less than four Ordinary Committee Members, although it would still require the four Office Bearers.

Once the business of the AGM has been completed, the proposal calls for the suspension of all General Meetings and the printed newsletter until a properly constituted Committee is prepared to take over the reins. This electronic newsletter, the website and the HCUG-list would be retained. The Webmaster would attempt to modify the website so that interested visitors to the site would be required to register (free of charge). This would give us some potential members when meetings resumed.

Adoption of the proposal avoids the winding up that would otherwise occur.

It is essential that all members, who wish the Group to continue, attend the continuation of the AGM and help us resolve the current situation. Or, at least, make their views known through members who will be attending.

Note: The Rules of the Association do not allow for proxy voting. You have to be present to vote on the Group's future.

GIVE YOUR COMPUTER A BOOST

How you would like to speed your computer up? The following formula is not guaranteed to work, but certainly made a difference to how fast things happen on mine. But first a little background ...

Although I was not particularly enthusiastic about the idea, I had decided it was time to upgrade to Windows XP so I attempted to upgrade from ME. I printed out the report detailing what might need new drivers etc. and made sure I had everything I needed. I then started the upgrade. When it came time to reboot, I got "Missing operating system"! I used FDisk and just about every other utility I could think of, but still couldn't get it to install. I am still trying to work out what is wrong with the drive.

So, in order to learn more about XP, I popped a new 40 GB Maxtor drive in my computer and installed XP and its SP1 on that. I added my favourite applications and noticed that Eudora, Internet Explorer, StarOffice, Mozilla and some other applications all loaded more quickly. Windows XP itself also booted more quickly than ME.

Where did the boost come from, the new hard drive, Windows XP, deletion of background applications, or some combination of the foregoing? I am not sure yet, but I will keep you informed as the testing continues.

PC SOLUTIONS IS BACK!

Some time last year, I drew your attention to a new Australian magazine "PC Solutions". It contained lots of helpful information and, in my opinion, deserved to sell well. Instead it disappeared seemingly without trace. Now it's back and promising to continue appearing on a bi-monthly basis.

The cover disk has seven full applications, valued they claim at over \$460! They are "Partition Commander 6.0", "Genie Backup Manager", "Pal PC Tracker Pro", "PFS Manager", "Firegraphic 4", "Allmenuslite", and "Showshifter". With these you can partition your drive, backup your files, manage your digital photos, add menus to your website, turn your PC (plus TV tuner) into a video recorder, and more.

There's also a digital camera toolkit, "OpenOffice.org", "Startmenu Cleaner", "Fresh Diagnose", and several trial programs.

But, what's in the magazine itself, you ask? Apart from notes to help you get started with the seven full applications?

Try "Ask the experts", "A complete guide to Windows Media Player", "Windows add-ons", "How it works: Projectors", "Your MS Office alternatives", the first part of a networking guide, and hardware and software reviews. And there's more when you've absorbed that lot.

I wouldn't advise subscribing just yet as they haven't established a track record of regular issues. If you ignore that advice, beware the "Easy Payment Plan". It's either a misprint or a rip-off. You be the judge!

BUY BUY

While stocks last, you can save big money. Contact Peter Campbell, 6234 4691, if you are interested. But be quick!

15" LG monitors

These monitors carry a 3-year warranty. Just \$125 while stocks last.

19" LG Studioworks monitors

You want an really big one? \$315 gets you a 19" LG with a 3-year warranty (serviced locally).