

BYTES & PIECES

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IN THIS ISSUE

No January meeting	
• Time off for a vacation	1
Change of venue on the cards	
• From February 2004 the Committee is looking at changing the venue	1
Senior sites worth a visit	
• If you are over 55 and no longer working full time	2
Searching with interactive maps	
• Kartoo draws a diagram	4
What does that mean?	
• From A to ZV, there's thousands of acronyms and abbreviations	4
New method of email distribution	
• To save production time, only the PDF will be produced unless	4
Buy, buy	
• Pickles auction coming up	4

NO JANUARY MEETING

A lot of people, some of our members included, take a break in January and head for other parts and climes. The Management Committee has given this some thought and decided that there will be no January meeting. Besides, it saves us having to find a speaker!

Seriously, though, folks, there is no need to feel deprived. Look out for *Free Access's* Project Guide, or tackle that computer project that you have been meaning to get around to. How about putting your genealogy research on the web? Or getting out with your camera and putting together a photo essay on Hobart – you could use Powerpoint or Impress to display the results? Or you could organise that collection of CDs that keep falling on the floor.

If you are not taking off for parts unknown, how about sharing with us how you intend to spend January? Email me at editor@hobartpcgroup.org.au.

CHANGE OF VENUE ON THE CARDS

Why move?

Some members feel that our current venue is too hard to find, too isolated, and (outside) not well lit. They have advocated that we find a “more central” venue. In response to that advocacy, the Committee are looking at relocating to the “50 and Better” centre in Bathurst Street.

The President and I remain convinced that parking may be a problem at night, especially when there are other events in the vicinity, but are prepared to give it a try.

Have your say

If you have a view on this proposal, let the Committee know **now!** Once the bond has been paid and we have signed up to use the Centre on a regular basis, it will be too late. If you don't like the idea, say so immediately. If you do like the idea, tell us why, but do it **now!** Email the Secretary with your views, secretary@hobartpcgroup.org.au.

SENIOR SITES WORTH A VISIT

As we get older, we need someone who understands our needs, problems, and pleasures, and a number of websites have been set up targeting the Over 55s. Here's some that I have come across:

[Internet Senior Success Centre](#)

This website maintains a directory of "Top Senior Websites by Category". Whatever you are looking for on the international senior scene, you are likely to find a link to it here. Just take a look at the categories:

[Education / Jobs](#)

[Discounts - Shopping Sites](#)

[Travel, Entertainment, Sports](#)

[Internet / Marketing](#)

[Legal Info](#)

[Health, Ageing](#)

[Senior Living/Elder Care](#)

[Finance & Investment](#)

[Sites for Senior Women](#)

[Grandparents](#)

[Retirement](#)

[Baby Boomers](#)

[Chats and Forums](#)

[Magazines on-line](#)

[Government / Organizations](#)

[Misc.](#)

[Senior "Portals"](#)

[News Articles](#)

<http://www.internetseniorsuccess.com/seniorsites.htm>

[Seniorsite.com](#)

SeniorSite.com™ was founded in 1998 to provide a special, easy-to-navigate environment where older adults and their families could better connect with each other and find really useful personalized information and services. SeniorSite.com™ was co-founded by a CEO of an East Coast group of Nursing Home/Extended Care Centers who happens to be a leading nationally acclaimed nursing home administrator, is also a registered nurse, a leading advocate for the rights of senior adults and a renowned public speaker on women's rights that is very politically involved regarding Senior Care issues.

*Change is difficult at any age, but often the transitions of advancing years are compounded by health needs, financial issues, social isolation and the need for companionship and new experiences. SeniorSite.com™ strives to open new possibilities and opportunities for our community. Let us be your looking glasses on the Web, your partners in cyberspace. Our objective is to make your life a little easier and definitely a lot more fun. SeniorSite.com™ is the place to explore and discover the people, activities and resources important to the older but still **Young at Heart™**.*

<http://www.seniorsite.com>

[Friendly4Seniors.com](#)

Friendly4Seniors.com describes itself as a leading resource for senior related information on the Internet.

Friendly4Seniors.com is devoted to helping seniors, their families and senior care professionals locate resources within our database.

The goal of Friendly4Seniors.com is to provide quality listings that are senior related. You can query our database of listings from every page!

Friendly4Seniors.com is not a "web spidering" service. All information in the Friendly4Seniors database is provided by Internet users that submit a free listing or enhanced listing.

<http://www.friendly4seniors.com>

AboutSeniors Australia

Senior citizens, retirees, those about to retire, veterans, pensioners and carers will find this most comprehensive listing of information and links extremely valuable. Here are the links of interest for seniors to Australian and State government departments, national and state associations, community service groups, aged care and retirement housing information, as well as to seniors lifestyle interests such as computing, health, finance, hobbies, sport, and travel.

Some of the categories on their Site Menu include government, organisations, lifestyle, computing, retirement, Seniors Card, finance, travel, health, shopping, competitions, news and Notice Board.

<http://www.aboutseniors.com.au>

SeniorLink™

No, not the local "Linking Tasmanian Seniors", but the mainland-based organisation that provides, among other things, computer guides and email computer tutorials. This, they say, is in response to a problem that seniors have with computing:

So many people buy expensive computer textbooks only to find that their new textbook simply confuses them more. The reason...these textbooks are often written using confusing terms and hard to understand 'techno speak'! They are clearly not written in 'Plain English' and they are definitely not user friendly!

Here at SeniorLink, we identified this 'language barrier' as being one of the major reasons why many seniors (or anybody that has not grown up with computers) do not enjoy their computers as much as they should.

In response to this ever increasing problem, we have developed a series (the 'Here's how To' series) of short, easy to read, easily downloadable (sent by the Internet to your computer immediately) user guides. They are only ever 2-3 pages in length, full of pictures that you can relate to and they are easy to print. Please feel free to download our sample 'Here's How To' user guide below, to see what we are talking about. Currently, we have developed over 70 'Here's How To' user guides and more are being created every month.

<http://www.seniorlink.com.au>

Linking Tasmanian Seniors

....was established in January 1999 to mark the UN International Year of Older Persons, to link those seniors who have personal home computers. The principal objective is to promote companionship and social interaction with seniors who hold similar interests and who have, or intend to have, access to electronic mail (email); also to provide opportunities for seniors to gain further skills and confidence in computer communication technology.

It is based on similar organisations world-wide which have done much to relieve the isolation of seniors particularly those who may be lonely or house-bound due to distance or infirmity.

It will provide a go-between to forge friendships of people within Tasmania and globally, who have similar interests, creating opportunities for new hobbies, education, entertainment and travel. Members are automatically members of Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association Inc. with contact to thousands of senior computer users nationally, and share in such benefits as software discounts, etc.

<http://users.bigpond.com/linkingseniors/>

SEARCHING WITH INTERACTIVE MAPS

Despite Google's ambitions to be the only way to search, there are still many alternatives. One that I came across recently does things differently, producing an interactive, graphical map. Sometimes this proved helpful and sometimes not, which proves, I guess, that you should use whatever search engine works best for your particular type of search. Anyway, take a look – you might just find that you like the way it does things. It describes itself in these terms:

KartOO is a metasearch engine with visual display interfaces. When you click on OK, KartOO launches the query to a set of search engines, gathers the results, compiles them and represents them in a series of interactive maps through a proprietary algorithm

<http://www.kartoo.com>

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

There are more than 10000 computer acronyms and abbreviations and you would have a remarkable memory if you could remember even half of them. So how do you find out what the ones you don't recognise mean?

One way is to type the acronym or abbreviation into your search engine. This will, with luck, find a site that gives an explanation of that particular piece of jargon.

Another way is to go to is this website where more than 10,000 are listed and (briefly) explained:

<http://www.acronyms.ch/servlet/welcome>

NEW EMAIL DISTRIBUTION METHOD

To simplify the production of this newsletter, I will only be producing the PDF version. Email subscribers will be advised when it is available and will be able to download it, or read it on-line. It will also be made available via the website.

This new arrangement will apply unless someone volunteers to convert the .pdf or .sxw/.doc version into a text, html, or rtf email version. I have found that the conversion process alters the formatting, which then needs some adjustment. The conversion also involves removing the page references in the "In This Issue" section.

<http://hobartpcgroup.org.au>

BUY BUY

Those computer auctions keep coming. This time it is Pickles Auctions on Wednesday 22 October at 10.00 pm on-site at 1 Self's Point, Lutana. Desktops, laptops, laser printers, monitors – there's plenty to choose from. <http://www.pickles.com.au> for more details once the items are lotted into the sale – usually two days beforehand.

Also check out Gowans' weekly auction. You never know what computer gear may show up there.

<http://www.gowansauctions.com.au>

If you have something for sale, or notice a bargain around town, let everybody know through the HCUg-list and this newsletter. Remember the list is open to everyone, not just Group members, as is this newsletter.

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