

Thuggery

Newsletter of the Hobart Computer Users Group Inc.

VOLUME 18 - NUMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 2001

We promoted the tea lady *reports Peter Campbell*

The Annual General Meeting of the Hobart Computer Users Group Inc. produced a few surprises, not the least of which was how we filled the vacant position of President. Here's what happened:

Election of Committee

When the nominations for the Committee of Management were read out by the Secretary, there was none for President. The Chair then sought nominations from the floor of the meeting, but none were forthcoming. He explained the President's responsibilities, but there was still a deathly silence. He then suggested, without naming the person concerned, someone who had been on a Committee of another computer club, including holding the position of Treasurer, and who was well-known to members, but who was currently ineligible because the person was only a family member, not a full member as required under the Rules of the Association.

This sparked some interest. He then revealed that he had in mind Cindy Campbell, our esteemed T, C, & B lady. Cindy produced \$25 and paid it to the Treasurer, thereby becoming a full member and was duly nominated and seconded.

There being no need of an election, the Chair then pronounced Cindy Campbell elected as President, Peter Campbell as Vice President, Karel Hen as Treasurer, Neil Hutton as Secretary, and Charles Hunt, Lloyd Wright, Colin von Bibra and Bob Curran as the other four Committee members.

Led by Don Trotman, several members then decided to take up a collection to reimburse Cindy her membership fee. Both the Chair and Cindy appreciated this generosity.

We promoted the Assistant Tea Lady

With Cindy's elevation to President, Kathy Hutton has agreed to take over the provision of the after-meeting "cuppa" and has been promoted to Caterer. She will decide what we get to eat and drink after meetings, but would appreciate some assistance with the washing and drying up.

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Glenn at the Fern Tree Tavern has a new menu and is looking forward to seeing you 8

And for that computer upgrade, check Harrison Megabits prices . 10

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NB: Part 2 of Peter Campbell's article on making a newsletter template has been held over again!

Next month, what's in *StarOffice*™ 6 and all the columns by the usual suspects.

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Copy deadline for next issue is October 2, 2001.

Contact Points

President	Cindy Campbell	(03) 62344691	cindc@iprimus.com.au
Vice President, and Editor	Peter Campbell	0414 402 092	pensey@iprimus.com.au
Secretary, Adv. Manager and Ass't Treasurer	Neil Hutton	0403 366 373	ike@iprimus.com.au
Treasurer	Karel Hen	(03) 62236081	henka@southcom.com.au
Member	Charles Hunt	(03) 62446943	charlesh@southcom.com.au
Member	Lloyd Wright	0401 069 903	rockytas1@iprimus.com.au
Member and Ass't Secretary	Colin von Bibra	0419 361 931	vonb@southcom.com.au
Member	Bob Curran	(03) 6228 2740	rpcurran@primus.com.au
Caterer	Kathy Hutton	(03) 6243 1320	ike@iprimus.com.au

Coming Meetings

Preliminary advice only. Subject to change without notice.
Check the website <http://thcugi.freewebsites.com>
for the latest information and further details.

September 11, 2001	MS Word basics
September 25, 2001	Problems Night
October 9, 2001	Greeting card design
October 23, 2001	MS Publisher basics
November 13, 2001	Bring a friend night
November 27, 2001	Guest speaker TBA
December 11, 2001	Christmas supper

General Information

- The Hobart Computer Users Group Inc. meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from January to November and on the second Tuesday in December.
- The Group produces a newsletter monthly, except December/January, in time for the first meeting of the month.
- The Group also runs an email list (hcug-list@southcom.com.au). To subscribe to the list, go to the URL below and complete the subscription details.
<http://lists.southcom.com.au/mail-man/listinfo/hcug-list>
Your subscription request will be acknowledged and you must then reply to activate the subscription.
- We now meet at the New Town Senior Citizens Club rooms, 22-28 Creek Road, Lenah Valley (opposite Lenah Valley Primary School).
- Doors open at approximately 7.30 pm to allow time to set out the chairs and set up the computer and projector. Meetings begin at 8pm.
- A meetings' charge (including supper) of \$1 per person applies.
- Visitors are always welcome. Why not bring a friend?
- Annual subscription is \$25.00 per household per year, payable on 1st July.

"Thuggery" is published monthly (except December/January combined issue) and distributed to members, visitors and advertisers. Copies are also exchanged with other user groups in Australia and overseas.

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The Hobart Computer Users Group Inc.
PO Box 563
Glenorchy Tas 7010
Australia
Email: See the Committee List in opposite column.
ABN: 12 505 486 303

Advertisers please note:

All advertising copy must reach the Editor by the advertising deadline, or it may be excluded at the discretion of the Editor. We regret the necessity for this, but compliance with deadlines is essential so that the draft newsletter can be submitted to the Committee at their meeting on the first Tuesday of each month for printing approval. Advertising rates and deadlines on application to the Advertising Manager, or the Hon. Secretary.

Visit our website at <http://thcugi.freewebsites.com> for back issues, hints, links and more!

A Review

by a frustrated Karel Hen

The Club was given a copy of *Picture It, Photo and Print Studio 2001*. Do not confuse this with *Picture It Express* also produced by Microsoft (c) . The latter was part of Microsoft Plus 98, which was a companion to Windows 98 first edition (bought separately). Most of it was incorporated in the second edition except this *Picture It Express*.

What comes in the box?

The software came in the usual almost empty box measuring some 24.2 by 20 by 6 cm or just under 3 litre. It was lined with a corrugated liner, which left an internal space of 23.2 by 18.8 by 5.5 cm or 2.4 litres. In this space was the "Companion" a 78 pages handbook, which had the usual don't photocopy me size of 23 by 19 by 0.5 cm

The Microsoft Warranty in 22 languages measuring 23 by 19 by 0.25 cm and a registration card measuring 21.5 by 18 by 0.15 cm.

The program consists of 5 CD's packed in a box measuring 13.4 by 13.4 by 2.5 cm, which would comfortably hold in excess of 10 CD's.

Assuming that it is impossible for Microsoft to print to a different size paper the thickness of all items packed more tightly would only have taken up 3.2 cm or 58% of the space it occupied. However if the paper warfare was printed on say an A5 format the space saving would have been even greater.

Installation!

During installation you will be given the opportunity to have the program coexist with *Picture It Express* or overwrite it

When installing the program you are advised in the Companion to end the anti virus program and any other programs running (I read this to late!). Do this or else.

Here is the story. I have not previously found a program that halted the installation and advised me to end these programs before it would let me install it. However inserting Cd Rom disk 1 in the CD Rom drive merely stated the installation, not just the program but firstly by installing the MacroMedia Shockwave player, Then Internet Explorer 5.5 and finally the program. It was about 1 minute in the installation of

the program when the machine hung.

So shut the machine down and reboot! NO drive C: Luckily Norton Rescue got me going again. So I start the installation again making sure no programs were running in the background. This time it went straight into the installation of the program. No mention of Shockwave player or IE5.5 It used the first 4 disks of the 5 provided. So now let us have a look at it.

First I decided to have a look at the instructional movies provided. Problems again. The bad original installation left the Shockwave player incomplete and to get it to work I had to reinstall it from the web ("shockwave.com"). After that everything was fine.

What paper size?

As I had to produce an acceptance card, I thought it a good opportunity to test the program. So I set out to lay it out using a template. I had no trouble laying it out, but when it came to printing it insisted in printing to a letter size paper even trying to set the printer to A4 format and applying it made no difference. So search the companion and the help files. No use It only allowed you to change it to legal in the Poster design mode. Obviously the program is geared to Web page production, while the home user who only wants to print is neglected.

This is a British Version, so perhaps they don't use anything else but letter and legal in Brittan

If Microsoft wishes to make an impression with this program it definitely will have to make some changes.

Features

Well now is the time to describe the major features of the program.

The program opens with a page containing three tabs. The first time it opens with the "Get Creative Ideas" tab in front (open) later it will open with the tab that was open when the program is closed down

Under "Get Creative Ideas" you are given two basic choices:

1. Ready to get started
2. Need some inspiration

Under both of these you must choose a pathway.

Under 1:

You either

"Pick A Design"

- which takes you to the "Pick A Design" tab on the opening screen

Or

"My Pictures"

- which takes you to the "Show My Pictures & Projects" tab on the opening screen

Under 2:

You can:

"Transform"

- Enhance photos,
- Edit your photos,
- Add effects or illusions, or
- Just get silly.

Or

"Celebrate"

- Have a party,
- Send invitations,
- Make Banners,
- Party hats and so much more.

Or

"Communicate"

- Make an impression,
- Design a business card,
- Make brochures,
- Newsletters and other great projects

Or

"Connect"

- Get on the net,
 - Send photos by email,
 - Create web projects – the choices are fantastic!
- Also on this page: Welcome movie and Helpful movies

The "Pick A Design" tab has three main choices.

- You can pick a design
- By Type
- By Occasion or Activity
- For Photos

Also on this page is

"Find A Design"

- which allows you to search for a pre-designed project.

"Scanner"

- Scan in photos to be used in projects

"Digital Camera"

- Download photos from a camera

"Website"

- Visit the Picture It web site
- Register on line

The "Show My Pictures & Projects" tab allows you to

"My Documents"

- Open a saved picture or project

"The Gallery"

- Open clips and catalogued items

"Blank Projects"

- Start a project using a blank design

"Scanner"

- Scan in photos to be used in projects

"Digital Camera"

- Download photos from a camera

"In the Gallery"

- Add or organise clips and saved items

"My Websites"

- Open one of my websites

"Website"

- Visit the Picture It web site
- Register on line

Requirements

Now a brief description of the requirements:

(Please note this is Microsoft's recommendation.)

- Minimum Pentium 166 MHz or better, must be a multimedia PC Windows 95, 98, Me or 2000 operating system
- 32 Mb of Ram, (64 Mb recommended) for Win 95 or 98
- 64 Mb of Ram for Win Me or 2000
- 450 Mb of hard disk space, 580 Mb needed during installation
- 805 Mb of hard disk space recommended, 935 Mb needed during installation
- Up to another 80 Mb of ram may be required to upgrade to Internet Explorer 5.5, which is included in the package. It will not replace your primary browser, but is used by the program
- Quad speed or faster CD Rom drive
- Super VGA monitor, 1 Mb Vram
- Mouse
- Recommended also, but optional
- Modem
- Service Provider
- Audio card with Headphones or speakers
- Microphone for voice recording.

AGM Report

[cont. from page 1]

We formed a sub-committee

The Treasurer's figures having shown that we are losing money, a sub-committee has been formed to examine ways of stemming the losses. The members are Paul Turvey, Sid Davis, Lloyd Wright, Neil Hutton and Karel Hen.

If you have a view on whether we should increase the membership, attendance and/or supper fees, or raise money some other way, let Neil Hutton know..

Wandering the Web with Ted

Ted Martin discovers some more interesting websites

Relax – Life wasn't meant to be hectic

First let's get in a relaxing mood. Have you been to the Secret Garden?

If you like the kind of music performed by Fionnuala Sherry and Rolf Lovland then point your browser in the direction of <http://www.secretgarden.no> (yes, Norway). There are details of their CDs, DVD etc, with many sound clips, mpeg etc. to listen to or download.

Ah... Pairee

Winter getting you down perhaps a week or two in Paris would help?



For the most comprehensive site go to <http://www.paris.org>. There is everything you want: events, accommodation, transport, maps, museums and galleries, monuments etc. Another good site is <http://www.louvre.fr> which has a lot of information (in English, French, Spanish and Japanese) and Quick-time Virtual Reality tours of one of the world's most famous art galleries. Search their bookshop, too, for items of interest.



Pisa, not pizza

Want a new slant on the Tower of Pisa?

Their award-winning site (<http://torre.duomo.pisa.it>) will give you all the information you need: its history, the attempts to stabilise it, etc. The information is in English and Italian.



UK bound?

Going to the UK?

Apart from the British Tourist Commission most large and many smaller towns and cities have their own websites. A good example is the Chester City Council's site (<http://www.chester-cc.gov.uk>) where you can also download a 19 page visitor guide.



Armchair traveller

Why stay at home, when you can travel the world from the comfort of your own armchair? Type the place you want into a search engine and sit back and enjoy the view!

Bobbie's best

Hints, tips and suggestions from all over

Get updates and add-ons

If you have Windows 98SE or Windows Me, you can find the latest security patches, updates and add-ons for Internet Explorer at Microsoft's Windows Update page. Choose Windows Update from the Tools menu or the Start menu and you will connect to the Microsoft site. It will check your system to find the latest add-ons and updates and let you choose from a list.

Netscape plugins don't work with IE 5.5 SP2

Service Pack 2 for IE5.5 recently became available via Windows Update <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/> and it cleans up quite a number of bugs. See <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q303/2/01.asp?ID=303201> for the full list of everything changed in SP2.

But with this release, Microsoft dropped support for the older proprietary Netscape "plug in" format. See <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q303/4/01.asp?id=303401&SD=MSKB>.

Both Microsoft and Netscape are moving towards adherence of W3C standards for browsers, and the old Netscape Plug-In models are not standard.

One of the most widely-used old-style plug-ins was the Apple Quicktime player that supported the older "MOV" format used in Quicktime. Apple already has released a new Quicktime player that works correctly with IE5.5 SP2: <http://www.apple.com/quicktime>. Other vendors using

old-style plug-ins will most likely be releasing updates as well.

Faster without Find Fast

Many people don't use Find Fast, but its background indexing of Microsoft Office documents can slow down your computer and even prevent Defrag from ever finishing. If you don't use it, it is best to get rid of it.

Different versions of Microsoft Office require slightly different procedures, but, in general: Insert your MS Office CD, and run Setup. Under "add/remove features", look around until you see something relating to Find Fast; tell the setup program that you wish to deselect or remove Fast Find.

Alternatively, in some versions, you also can prevent Find Fast from loading at startup by running MSCONFIG, and disabling all instances of Find Fast you can find (especially in the Startup tab). And, of course, if you are loading MS Office for the first time, make sure that you don't load Find Fast.

Quick tray

The most recent versions of Windows (98SE, Me) have a quick start section to the right of the Start button, into which you can drag any icon on your desktop. Well, almost. In a few cases you will only be able to place a link there. Put your most used applications there and start them with one click of the mouse. This is also handy if you need to start an application while working with another.



essential
OFFICE SUPPLIES

Basic Product List

We can supply a vast range of supplies for your home and small business computer users.

Best prices given to members of the Hobart Computer Users Group Inc. who identify themselves when purchasing.

Even if you only try us for items that others cannot, or will not, supply, we will use our best endeavours to do so. Combined with friendly and personal service, you will be pleasantly surprised.

- Computer consumables
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- Copy paper
- Envelopes
- Desk accessories
- Computer paper
- Pens and pencils
- OHP Products
- ATM Rolls

"If it's made we can get it"

Please contact Glenn Tanner

Ph 6234 3212 Mob 0419 372 607 Fax 6234 3213

1 Federal Street, North Hobart, just off the Brooker Highway

Neil's nonsense

Some more humour from Neil Hutton

Nun On The Run

A nun stepped out of the doctor's office, saying her rosary rather loudly as she hurried down the hospital corridor.

Another doctor witnessed this, and went to ask her doctor about it. "Hey, what happened? The nun ran out of here praying her rosary as though it were the end of the world!"

"Oh, I just told her she was pregnant." The first doctor replied. "Oh my! Is she?" "No, but it sure cured her hiccups!"

Psychiatric helpline

New answering service installed at the Royal College of Psychiatry.

"Hello and welcome to the Mental Health Helpline.

"If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly,

"If you are co-dependant, please ask someone to press 2 for you.

"If you have multiple personalities, press 3,4,5 and 6.

If you are paranoid, we know who you are and what you want. Stay on the line so we can trace your call.

"If you are delusional, press 7 and your call will be transferred to the mother ship.

"If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a small voice will tell you which number to press.

"If you are manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press, no one will answer.

"If you are dyslexic, press 9696969696969696.

"If you have a nervous disorder, please fidget with the hash key until a representative comes on the line.

"If you have amnesia, press 8 and state your name, address, phone, date of birth, social security number and your mother's maiden name.

"If you have bi-polar disorder, please leave a message after the beep or before the beep. Or after the beep. Please wait for the beep.

"If you have short-term memory loss, press 9. If you have short-term memory loss, press 9. If you have short-term memory loss, press 9.

"If you have low self-esteem, please hang up. All our operators are too busy to talk to you anyway."

Flunk driving

A man leaves a bar, gets into his car and drives away. A mile down the road, he's stopped by a police officer.

The officer walked up to the driver's side window holding a Breathalyzer and said, "Good evening sir. We're testing for drunk driving. Would you please blow into this machine?"

The man replied, "I'm sorry, I can't do that. I have asthma. If I blow in that machine, I will get out of air".

"In that case, I'm going to have to ask you to come back to the station for a blood test."

The man said, "I can't do that either. I have anaemia and if you stick a needle in me I will bleed to death."

The officer said, "Then you'll have to get out and walk five yards along this white line."

"Can't do that either," said the man.

The officer was getting irritated and said, "And why not?"

"Because I'm dead drunk."

Violins against animals

Little Johnny was practicing the violin in the living room while his father was trying to read in the den. The family dog was lying in the den, and as the screeching sounds of little Harold's violin reached his ears, he began to howl loudly.

The father listened to the dog and the violin as long as he could. Then he jumped up, slammed his paper to the floor and yelled above the noise, "For Pete's sake, can't you play something the dog doesn't know?!"

Notice to members

**We still need you,
but ... we also need money.**

**If you have not paid
your membership fees
by 1st October 2001,
then we will be unable
to send you
your copy of this newsletter.**

**If you are not able to attend
a meeting this month,
send your payment to
Karel Hen, Treasurer, HCUG,
PO Box 563, Glenorchy Tas 7010.**

Download dexterity

The why, when, where, what and how of downloading with Peter Campbell

Each month, this column will discuss aspects of downloading files – why and when you need to download files, how to download proficiently and where to find what you want. It will also suggest downloads that readers and, if necessary, I have found useful.

In this regard, include files you have found on magazine disks and chosen to install. Mention what magazine the disk was on as well as telling us why you installed that particular application.

Hopefully, your contributions about the files you have downloaded will make it unnecessary for me to provide my favourites.

Once the column is established, I will be looking for someone to take it over, just as Ted Martin has taken over the Web column, Neil Hutton provides the humour column and Bob Curran contributes the hints column.

Why download?

The first reason that comes to mind is to update your operating system, antivirus software and/or other applications.

Some programs include an automatic update mechanism that logs on to the software manufacturer's website, checks to see if there is an update that you should install, and then downloads and installs it automatically. For example, InoculateIT, VET and EZ Antivirus have an option under Tools called Auto Download. Click on this and the update will be downloaded and installed. NB: To use this service, you must be registered with Computer Associates.

Recent versions of Windows include an update mechanism which checks what updates are available and lists those that could be added to your system. You must then select the ones that you wish to install. Read the notes on Microsoft's website carefully and only choose those updates that are listed as essential.

The second reason to download files is to get new programs. Some are either free, or you can test without having to buy them first. You can also purchase many commercial programs over the Internet. Typically, you provide your credit card particulars and email address and then download the program. The software company then sends you an email containing a code which unlocks the program and allows you to use it beyond any trial period that is built into it.

And, thirdly, you can obtain many files of fonts and clipart from the Internet. Most of these are free for personal (i.e. non-commercial) use.

When to download

To keep up-to-date:

If your antivirus software is out-of-date, it will not protect you from new viruses, worms and trojans. You should update it at least once a week, or as often as the antivirus software company provides updates. In the case of EZ Antivirus, VET and InoculateIT, this is three or four times a week.

When you find a bug:

If, for instance, you are running Windows 95 and install an AMD K6-2 CPU faster than 300 Mhz, Windows 95 will no longer boot

up. This can be fixed by installing a patch found on Microsoft's website.

Microsoft and other manufacturers release bug fixes, sometimes with new features added, as "Service Releases" or "Service Packs". If you have experienced a problem that the release is designed to fix, or you want the new features, you should download and install it.

A third example of a "bug":: Many older computers can only identify and setup hard disk drives up to 8 MB in size. All new hard disk drives are bigger than that. To set them up you must go to the website of the manufacturer of the drive and download some software that patches the bigger drive into the system.

When a new version is released:

Next month, Sun expects to release a public beta of StarOffice 6.0. If you want to test this to see what is new, you could download it. Similarly, there is a beta release of Internet Explorer 6 available and a final version is expected in a couple of months.

New hardware:

When you purchase a new printer, scanner, modem, video card, or sound card, it will come with a disk containing the manufacturer's driver for that piece of hardware. However, a few months may have elapsed between the time that the hardware was manufactured and the time it was sold to you. In that time the manufacturer may have put out a revised driver. Check their website and, if there is, download and install it.

[Continued next month]

From the Presidential Desk

with Cindy Campbell

Thank you

First off I should like to thank those who attended the AGM for entrusting me with the Presidency. I must also thank those who dug into their pockets and reimbursed my membership fee. It was an unexpected, but much appreciated, gesture.

Financial sub-committee

The Treasurer expressed some concern over the Group's finances and those at the AGM reacted by forming a sub-committee to consider various ways that they can be improved. The sub-committee will be much more effective if you let them know how you think we should tackle the losses.

Email or hand your suggestions to our Hon. Secretary, Neil Hutton, as soon as possible.

Major raffle

To raise funds to cover last

year's loss, the Management Committee is organising a raffle of Microsoft software. There will be two prizes, each consisting of MS Office XP and other software. With only 1000 tickets at \$2 each, it is important that we sell all the tickets. We are asking every member to buy or sell at least one book to help us reach our target.

Even if you don't attend meetings, this is one way you can help the Group.

Membership drive

Of course the best way to improve our finances is to recruit more members. People won't join, or attend meetings as visitors, unless existing members invite them. Who do you know with a computer? Are they members of our Group? Have you offered to pick them up and bring them to the meeting? If not, what's stopping you?

In November we are planning to have a "Bring a Friend" night,

especially for people who want to find out more about our activities. Who will you bring along? Give it some thought now, please.

Advertising

Another way we are seeking to improve our financial position is by finding more advertisers to offset the cost of producing and posting the newsletter. While it is relatively easy to persuade a business to advertise once, it is impossible to retain their advertising if they do not get a response.

Visit the firms who advertise in the newsletter and make yourself known. That is the only way that they can judge the effectiveness of their *Thuggery* advertisement.

Membership fees

Last, but not least, is the payment of membership dues. Quite a few members have not yet paid their membership renewals, even though these were due at the end of June. If you are one of these people, please note that this is the last newsletter you will receive unless you pay now!

The Hobart Computer Users Group Inc.
PO Box 563
GLENORCHY TAS 7010

This is an abridged version of the September newsletter. Full page advertisements have been omitted, which means that you cannot take advantage of the special offers they contained. However, this has reduced the file size considerably.