PC **UG** **ACT**
Users Helping Users

Combined Christmas Party
and TransACT
Broadband Launch

PCUG, TIP Members and their families are invited to the combined Christmas Party and Launch of the TransACT Broadband contract.

WHEN: Sunday 24th November 2002
TIME: 2.00 pm
WHERE: PC Users Group Centre, Northpoint Plaza, Belconnen

Come and meet the many volunteers who run the PC Users Group (ACT). The **Volunteer of the Year Award** will be presented to **Jeremy Bishop** (in absentia as he is currently overseas). The Broadband Contract with TransACT will be officially launched. Staff of TransACT Communications will attend to answer your questions.

(if possible) **RSVP** to pcug.secretary@pcug.org.au - to help us with arrangements.—or call on 6239 5091.

TransACT
Communications

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This is an opportunity to thank you, all our dedicated volunteers, without whose contributions the PC Users Group (ACT) could not function.

If you are not a volunteer, then make sure to take a moment to thank our volunteers when you are next in contact with one of them, and think of giving some of your time to PCUG (ACT).

DATES TO WATCH

Sund. 24th Nov.: Christmas Party & Broadband Contract Launch (2.00 pm)

Mond. 16th Dec. Committee Meeting (7.00 pm)

Sat. 30th Nov: Training—Dreamweaver (9.15 am)

1st Dec.: (on or about) Broadband goes live (pending technical testing)

Monday 13th Jan.: Committee Meeting

2002/03 COMMITTEE

To reach all Committee members via email:
pcug.committee@pcug,org.au

Acting President & Vice President **David Lewis** pcug.vp@pcug.org.au	Tel: 6226 8811 Mob: 0417 708811
Immediate Past President **Nathan Robertson**	
Secretary & Public Officer **Paulette Montaigne** pcug.secretary@pcug.org.au	Tel: 6239 5091
General Committee	
Ann Byrne abyrne@pcug.org.au	Tel: 6282 2536
John Bienkiewicz jb@pcug.org.au	Tel: 6288 9979
Rod Blackburn blackrod@ozemail.com.au	Tel: 6254 7138
Graeme Evans evans_digdiv@yahoo.com.au	Tel: 6251 6849
Paul Free paul.free@pcug.org.au	Tel: 6251 1030
Eleanor Rayment eleanorr@pcug.org.au	Tel: 6258 5375
Keith Sayers kmsayers@pcug.org.au	Tel: 6258 6238

The phone numbers listed above are home phone numbers unless otherwise specified. **Please restrict calls to between 7.30 pm and 9.00 pm.**

APOLOGY

Some TIP members have benefited from a software glitch which allowed them to have on-going access to TIP when their subscription period had expired but they had unused hours. When this glitch was fixed it was not possible to inform these members that their connection had been terminated. So we wish to sincerely apologise to these members for the inconvenience caused. Although they have benefited from the additional access they have been inconvenienced and we are sorry.

PC Users Group (ACT) Inc.

PC USERS GROUP (ACT) Inc. Centre
http://www.pcug.org.au

Main phone number: (**02) 6253 4911**
(answering machine when Centre unattended)

Fax number: (**02) 6253 4922**
Email: **pcug@pcug.org.au**

PC Users Group Centre

Northpoint Plaza, Belconnen

Opening Hours:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10 am—2 pm
Saturdays and Sundays 9 am—5 pm
(closed long weekend)

Postal address
P.O. Box 42
Belconnen ACT 2616

Executive Secretary: **Madeline Mould**
Email: pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au

CENTRE CLOSED

DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

From Monday 23rd December 2002

Re-opening on

Monday 6th January 2003

**TIP dial-up
6162 6500**

WELCOME TO THIS SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

The purpose of this newsletter is to reach all of our members with the news of the signing of our contract with TransACT to provide broadband internet access. On Sunday, 24th November we will have a combined **Thank you Party** for volunteers and a formal announcement of this new service.

Everyone is invited to attend and TransACT representatives will be there to answer questions. We will take initial expressions of interest in subscribing to broadband.

I would like to emphasise that the event on Sunday 24th November was originally planned as a special thank you to volunteers. I hope that volunteers will forgive us for combining the TransACT announcement with what is, in fact, a special thank you to them. The day seemed an ideal opportunity to invite not only the volunteers, but to extend the event to include members who wished to thank the volunteers, and to include those who wished to attend to ask about our agreement with TransACT.

To answer a few questions - we intend commencing in December, the earlier the better. The actual date will depend upon finalising software and testing. Those members currently using dial up who wish to transfer to broadband will be given credit for the unused portion of their dial up subscription. Credit given will reflect our normal policy on hours and time subscribed. Broadband subscribers will be able to use dial up but find that this is charged against their broadband account. This allows broadband subscribers to dial up from outside the TransACT coverage area, or away from their fixed connection, if they so wish.

Details of the charges and general conditions follow. Members will, when subscribing, be asked to sign a new agreement in place of the current *Acceptable Use Policy*.

We have also decided to give dial up users an off peak service, combined with a maximum megabyte download limit of 400 megabytes per month (averaged over the period paid for so you can download your full megabyte limit in a much shorter period). For example, a 12 month subscription gives you 4,800 megabytes and you could download all of this in as short a time period as is possible. You will find, however, that your connect time will limit how much you can download. Downloads during the off peak period will be counted at half the normal rate. It is important for dial up users to realise that to be recognised for the off peak service you must log on after 1.00 am and log off before 7.00 am. The date of implementation is to be advised.

David Lewis
Acting President
pcug.vp@pcug.org.au

PCUG and TransACT deliver broadband to PC Users Group Members

Volunteers from TIP, the Admin team and previous Committee members devoted much of their energies and expertise over the past few month to bring Broadband, through TransACT, to PCUG members at vary favourable conditions. Those people can be very proud of their achievements and deserve full credit for their efforts. They are: Jeremy Bishop, Kevin Easton, Ian Gould, Michael Lightfoot, Allan Mikkelsen, Nathan Robertson, Stephen Rothwell, Ian Gould and many others.

$25 (incl. GST) or a limit of 400 megs. per month*

*see conditions.

1. Dial-Up Charges
The Committee has approved the following variations to dial-up access to be implemented at a date to be advised.

a. A download limit at the rate of 400 megabytes per month is to be applied, pro-rated for the period paid for, e.g. 4,800 megabytes for a 12 month period. A review of download history has identified that this limit will have no effect on the majority of users. There will be no effect on the maximum download previously achieved by any existing user, i.e. heavy users, should they take advantage of the off-peak period and rates approved below.
b. Data downloaded during dial-up sessions entirely within a defined off-peak period will be counted at half the normal rate i.e. users would need to log on after the start of the off-peak period (defined below as 0100 hours) and log off before the end (0700 hours). We reserve the right to adjust the off-peak times and rate at reasonably short notice.
c. The off-peak period is initially defined as being from 0100 to 0700 hours (i.e. 1 a.m. to 7 a.m.).

Broadband conditions … continued

2. Broadband Access

The PCUG has approved charges and conditions for broadband internet access as set out below.

Access is limited to residential users except that existing TIP members who are running a business may apply for connection as a special case. Each case will be considered on its individual merits and needs approval from both PCUG and TransACT. Use for business purposes would need to be similar to the type of use by a residential user. These charges are subject to amendment as and when necessary. Members signing up for this service will be required to agree to a revised "Internet Project Acceptable Use Policy" which is <u>currently being prepared</u>.

a. Access to the internet through the PCUG TIP service using the TransACT network will allow unlimited on line time during the agreed period.

b. <u>The charging rate is $25</u> (including GST) for one month of access or a limit of 400 megabytes download, whichever comes first.

c. The minimum sign up period at any one time is two months or 800 megabytes download, whichever comes first.

d. The download limit applies across the whole period paid for, e.g. if someone pays $75, they are provided with 3 months or 1,200 megabytes, with the download being able to be used at any time within the period.

e. All payments are to be made in advance of supplying service.

f. Data downloaded during a defined off-peak period will be counted at half the normal rate. We reserve the right to adjust the of-peak times and rate at reasonably short notice.

g. The off-peak period is initially defined as being from 0100 to 0700 hours (i.e. 1 a.m. to 7 a.m.).

h. Broadband customers will have access to dial-up services but the megabytes downloaded will be treated as being part of the broadband access allocation (i.e. part of the 400 megabytes per month limit) and access will be limited to 25 hours per month (or pro-rata, e.g. an annual sign-up period will limit access to 300 modem hours for dial-up access and a total download limit of 4,800 megabytes whether the download is accessed under broadband or dial-up service).

i. For users whose accounts end, special access will be allowed to permit on line renewal by credit card. This access will be to local TIP services and anything that is required for account renewal but for no other external access. This access will be restricted to seven days maximum or until the end of the current month, whichever is the sooner.

Have a look on the web

http://www.transact.com.au
http://www.canberracapitals.com/

THE COMMITTEE'S CORNER

Since the annual general meeting held on September 30th, the new Committee has met 4 times including one full meeting devoted to the TransACT Broadband proposal. The first meeting of the full committee generated over 40 action items so you can be assured that your Committee is in "business".

Regrettably the Committee noted the retirement of several long-standing Committee members. The Committee would like to thank those members for their commitments to the PCUG over many many years; they certainly deserve a break. You will notice several positions remain vacant on the Committee. We were very sorry to lose Chess Krawczyk, so soon into his Presidency. We are sure that he will continue to share his expertise and wisdom with members of the PCUG. David Lewis has been asked to continue as Acting President until reconsideration of this matter in early February. A review of the Group's Constitution is much needed; see Graeme Evans' call for contributions. The Committee has proceeded with a review of our Chart of Accounts as well as carefully monitoring our modest resources. Thank you to our Executive Secretary, Madeline Mould, for her patience in this matter. The incoming Committee inherited the all but signed TransACT Broadband contract. Full credit goes to volunteers of TIP, the Admin Group and previous Committee members. We encourage you to register your interest as soon as possible.

Last but not least: everyone is invited to the end of year Christmas Party to be held on Sunday 24th November 2002 (2.00 pm). We are working with the Corporate Communications Section of TransACT and hope to attract a few local dignitaries and some media profile. We almost managed to get the participation of the Captain of the **Canberra TransACT Capitals**, Lucille Bailie. Lucille told me that, if it was not for their game in Sydney on 24th, she would attend our Party. In lieu, the Canberra Capitals have donated around 50 signed posters and a couple of tickets to their home game against Perth on December 14th at the Tuggeranong Indoor. Who will be the lucky winners ? You must be there to win it !

The Committee looks forward to seeing you on Sunday 24th November. This is your chance to give us feedback; if you cannot make it, drop us a line at pcug.committee@pcug.org.au

Wishing you and your family a merry and safe Festive Season.

Paulette Montaigne
Secretary
pcug.secretary@pcug.org.au

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

PC Users Group (ACT) is always in need of volunteers. Tasks vary in size and level of responsibility; no task is too big or too small though satisfaction is guaranteed.

We strongly encourage you to volunteer, even if only once and you'll see how rewarding it is.

Please contact our Volunteers Coordinator, **Eleanor Rayment** Tel: Tel: 6258 5375 or via email: eleanorr@pcug.org.au

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Thank you to the October Centre's Staffers

Jose MARQUES	Bob SUTHERLAND
Bob DEANE	Rod FARR
Bryant & Diane BICE	Rodney CHALKER
Evelyn DEENA	Anton JAZVIC
Graeme EVANS	Eleanor RAYMENT

Thank you to Sixteen Bits Stuffing Team—September Edition

At the time of going to press, your newsletter production team did not have the list of volunteers who packaged the September edition of Sixteen Bits. Our apologies for not being able to name you in this column. This does not diminish in any way your contribution nor our gratitude. Thank you.

Please volunteer again by registering with pcug. execsec@pcug.org.au

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WANTED !
TREASURER

PCUG still needs to appoint a Treasurer. Please volunteer for this vital position. Naturally we would prefer some one with accounting qualifications and experience.

If you are interested or wish to discuss the workload, please contact David Lewis by email pcug.vp@pcug.org.au or mobile phone 041770 8811 or home phone in the evenings 6226 8811.

TRAINING NEWS

Dreamweaver: (introduction)
Saturday 30th November from 9.15 am to 1 pm
The presenter is **Jennifer Phillips**.
Venue: PC Users Group Centre, Northpoint Plaza, Belconnen

BOOKINGS: contact Madeline on 6253 4911 or email at execsec@pcug.org.au

Other courses being considered for the coming months: Linux, Excel, PowerPoint, Java Script, Computer Security and firewalls, anti-virus etc...

Please register your interest with the Training Coordinator, Terry via email at terryg@pcug.org.au

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CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS
Have your say .. improving the PCUG constitution.

As many members have witnessed, the PCUG constitution is failing to meet the demands made on it. Situations have arisen where the constitution has failed to give guidance, or the "guidance" is no longer appropriate. Constitutional development is a task some members will find fascinating. Hopefully, many members will allocate some time to it.
The committee has endorsed the following tentative program as a process to be aimed for.

FIRST, members are urged to read the present constitution (see pcug website - www.pcug.org.au). They are urged then to provide comments on what they think should be changed and what should be added. Please respond by mid-December if possible (though comments will be welcomed at any point). Send your comments by email to pcug.committee@pcug.org.au or by mail to the PCUG office.

SECOND, members are invited to volunteer for the steering group which will sort through the various suggestions made and add its own suggestions. You can volunteer at any stage, but the sooner the better!

THIRD, the steering group aims to report, with suggestions and ways they would be applied, to the April 2003 meeting. If this is to be achieved, it will be necessary for the steering group to circulate its proposals to members by mid-March.

So ... please think about your participation in this project. What about starting now?

Graeme Evans
evans_digdiv@yahoo.com.au

MEET YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

Acting President & David Lewis
Vice-President:

I have been a member of the PCUG since 1997 and a member of the committee for several years. In the last election I was elected unopposed to the position of Vice President. I am currently a "house father" and believe that that gives me a little more time than some members (because my wife is working part time and takes over from me). Of course, paid employment would be welcome.

I believe that I have a lot to offer PCUG because of my previous experience in running a voluntary organisation. I was, for over 4 years, the Director of Business Services in the Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross. In this position I was responsible for fundraising around $7 million, for approximately 75 staff, jointly responsible for thousands of members and many thousands of volunteers who were not members (like the Red Cross Calling volunteers), responsible for merchandising (over 30 second-hand shops), and for financial management of the organisation. It was a very vibrant and well-managed organisation of which I was only one of the contributors.

I have also been employed at five Australian universities in administrative roles, including, in one university, administering the budgets for Arts and Science faculties to the tune of $7-8 million each. I hold a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Melbourne with honours in marketing and strategic planning subjects.

My wish is to re-vitalise the PCUG, to increase its membership and to ensure that members feel satisfied, and enjoy, what the PCUG provides for them.

Secretary: Paulette Montaigne

I am the silent partner of a long time member of the PCUG and thought it was time to get involved. I hope to bring to this position my organisational and public relations skills. Over the coming weeks and months, I look forward to meeting the members and learning more about PCUG.

For the past 14 years I have worked at Canadian High Commission in Canberra, including 8 years as Head of the Academic and Public Affairs Section. My duties included the management of research grants, the supervision of staff and interns, liaison with media and government officials. Following a year-long working holiday in France, I am back at the High Commission in a more junior role, which provides me with some free time to devote to PCUG activities.

My past experience with committees has been as Coordinator of the annual Terry Fox Fun Run, the NSW branch of Oxfam/Community Aid Abroad and more recently 2 years with the ACT Veterans Athletic Club including one year as Treasurer.

General Committee

John Bienkiewicz: I am a relatively newcomer to the PCUG – having been a member for just over one year. Many members reading this might think that a member of the committee should have more experience and knowledge of the group and I should begin by saying that to a certain extent I agree with them. I had originally intended to nominate for the committee in a few years time but it became fairly obvious to me that there was going to be a real shortage of committee members in the immediate future and such as shortage could be quite harmful to the group. Hence my nomination and subsequent "election" to the committee.

Rod Blackburn: I have been a member of PCUG for some three years and joined after visiting a Coffee and Chat meeting. I have learned a great deal through participation in that SIG and hope that I have been able to contribute to the resolution of other members' difficulties. As a result of this interaction I have volunteered to teach at the Belconnen library and have helped a number of people I have met there by visiting their homes.

I am retired, but spent the majority of my working career in the computer industry, mostly as a systems engineer with IBM giving support across a wide variety of industries.

I was particularly involved with retail systems and mainframe CAD systems, the latter finally leading me to working with AIX, IBM's UNIX operating system. I qualified as a mechanical engineer and worked initially in the motor industry and made a very small contribution to the design and development of some Vauxhall and Holden models in the '60s.

Perhaps because I now have time to be more adventurous in the things I do with it. Which things include editing a newsletter, photographic manipulation, home finances, personal communication and flight simulation.

Ann Byrne: (AKA Boop) : Member of the group since 1991 and on the committee in some form or another for 9 of those years. Love the group and know exactly how much it has to offer both in the practical sense but also the chance it gives you to make great friends.

I am now back on the committee: (a) because I was asked and (b) because I found the last AGM very sad to sit through, people as always telling us how to run the group but not so willing to help implement their ideas. I don't know if I can make a difference, but I certainly want to try, and to that end I am willing to once again spend the next 11 months giving it my best shot.

Graeme Evans has been a member of PCUG since 1997 and a member of the PCUG committee since 2001. He has for many years been an active participant in a wide range of community activities. Within the ACT these have focussed on land-use and social planning. He is currently president of Belconnen Community Council and is a former president of ACTCoSS, the Conservation Council and the ACT Council of Cultural and Community Organisations.

Graeme has a deep interest in the role of information technology as a central aspect of the way society as a whole is changing and growing. By contrast with many members of PCUG, he is much less interested (read - not interested) in the technical aspects of IT. Instead, he sees diversity within the committee (and the Group) as a useful way of widening the range of perspectives represented and brought to focus on issues which arise.

Outside PCUG, but still within the IT area, Graeme is a member (and deputy chair) of the ACT government's Community IT Advisory Group appointed earlier this year to advise on measures for the bridging of the digital divide.

Paul Free: I am retired, aged 79. I was an electrical engineer in the Public Service. I have spent half my life in the design and production of Equipment. I was previously the Commonwealth member of the Metric Conversion Board and was Divisional Head of the Department of Science.

During retirement I have been heavily involved in matters relating to older people. I was a board member of the Council of the Ageing and was Immediate Past President of the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association (ACT Branch).

I have belonged to the PC Users Group for approximately 10 years and I am a member of the daytime Internet Special Interest Group. I am keen to see PCUG continue and flourish.

Eleanor Rayment: I first joined in 1995 when the group was operating from Fyshwick. The reason I joined was because I bought a PC that year and a friend told me that I should join PCUG, because they will provide help if I needed it. I moved to Brisbane in 1996 for two years and when I returned, I decided to rejoin and because the group now operates from Belconnen, it is easier for me to become an active member. I am connected to the internet, because a friend gave me their access connection, but I would suggest that I would serve once every three or four months. I mainly use the access for FTP so I can transfer my email attachments into my PC.

When I decided to be an active member, I first became a staffer and, slowly, slowly I involved myself in other areas. Then I thought to be in the committee would be the way to get to know how the inerts works. In the past two and a bit years that I have been with the committee, I have been very frustrated, disappointed, amazed, surprised but always glad that to be involved.

Keith Sayers: Age 63 (yes, I know, I do not look it, but that is what the calendar says). Resident Charnwood. PCUG member since 1990. Been a low-level activist at different times and in different ways - stuffing, computer fairs, used to teach the Bluewave course (remember that?).

Professional accountancy and industrial management accounting have been my forte. Interests apart from computing:- genealogy (currently transcribing for the FreeBMD project); bush dancing (I host what is apparently the only www page on lagerphones); bushwalking and skiing, though since an illness some two years ago I have not done much of those; keeping an HX panel van going.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

As the holiday season is approaching, please check with the SIG's contact person before attending a meeting in case of any changes.

The **Coffee and Chat** meets weekly on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30, alternately at the PCUG Centre and the Canberra Irish Club. There are friendly, informal discussions of problems members are having with their PCs and sometimes other things as well When the meeting is at the Irish Club an additional hands-on session for beginners commences at 13.30. Members are very welcome at any or all of the sessions. For more information contact Rod Blackburn at blackrod@ozemail.com.au

Bytes: why not combine computers and food ? Meetings held prior to the PCUG's monthly meeting—6 pm at the Asian Bistro (Note: no meetings in November, December of January). Contact person: Andrew Freeman afreeman@pcug.org.au

Computers and Vegetarianism: This SIG meets with Bytes SIG (see above).

Two **Investment SIGs**, both meet at the PCUG Centre to discuss investment affairs, especially the stock market. The evening group meets on the 4th Thursday of every month (except December) at 7.30 pm. Contact person: Roger Penhale on 6290 0807 (h). The day group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10 am to 12 noon. Contact person: Dieter Amelung 6231 6454 Email: amelung@bigpond.com

The **OS/2 SIG** meets on the 4th Thursday (except January) at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm at the IBM Building, 8 Brisbane Avenue. Contact David Thrum on 6201 8806.

The **Linux SIGs** meets on the 4th Thursday (7.00 pm) at the ANU. Contact Stephen Rothwell on 6231 6648.

Linux Learners meets at the Centre on the 2nd Thursday from 10 am to 12 noon. Contact: Allan Mikkelsen on 6278 3164 or amiikels@pcug.org.au

Internet Daytime Demo & discussions SIG meets at the Centre every 2nd Thursday. Contact Allan Mikkelsen on 6278 3164. The evening Internet SIG meets on the last Tuesday of every month. Contact Marion van Wely on 6258 8750.

[Note: please submit any changes or additions to pcug.secretary@pcug.org.au]
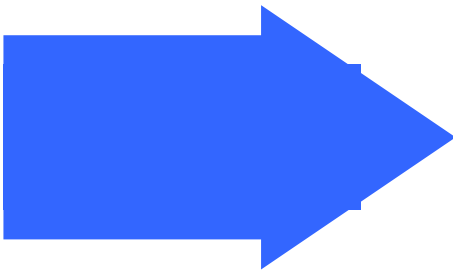
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FOR ALL ENQUIRIES AND PAYMENTS
regarding broadband and
other PC Users Group (ACT) services

Please contact
THE PC USERS GROUP (ACT) Inc.
Centre in Belconnen
Telephone: **02– 6253 4911**
Email: **execsec@pcug.org.au**

http://www.pcug.org.au

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nor PCUG memberships.

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PC Users Group (ACT) is committed to protecting
the privacy of our members.