

Broadband a significant success but don't forget the rest!

An unfortunate side effect of announcing the introduction of broadband was that some members thought we were going to abandon our dial up internet service. This is definitely not true. We have two internet services. The **dial up service** is available Canberra wide and from anywhere in the Canberra region covered by local phone call access (you can also access it from elsewhere but at STD rates). **Broadband** is only available from those areas covered by TransACT. Both services are highly economical and compete strongly with services provided by other providers. The major and significant advantage of our services is that you can average your use over the period of your subscription, both in terms of downloading limits and, in the case of the dial up service, in the number of hours spent on line.

Although one or two other providers allow an averaging of up to two months, I know of no other provider in the Canberra area who does what we do. As many new subscribers often over use their allocations and get charged at significantly higher rates this is an important benefit of our service.

The take up rate for broadband has been excellent and we anticipate this will continue for some months. Indeed, and with credit to those who did the real work getting this going, we should have gone down this track some time ago.

Don't forget that we provide many other services, including access to Centre machines, training and participation in our various interest groups (if we don't have an interest group for you, consider talking to us about establishing your own).

Thanks to John Saxon, you can view the PCUG Broadband Connection Procedures: <http://www.pcug.org.au/~jsaxon/PCstuff/broadband.htm>

**Register NOW for
Broadband**

JANUARY: NO MEETING
FEBRUARY: Monday 24th
Speaker to be confirmed
(see Fridge Door Notice)

**Broadband: \$25
(incl. GST)
Limit of 400 megs.
per month**

In partnership with



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

Treasurer
Noel Matthews
nomatthe@pcug.org.au Tel: 02 6257 1962

Secretary & Public Officer
Paulette Montaigne
pcug.secretary@pcug.org.au Mob: 0408 223 938

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

David Gray
graydr@pcug.org.au Tel: 6231 5257

Lance Green
lwgreen@pcug.org.au Tel: 6288 1913

Allan Hepworth
allanh@pcug.org.au Tel: 0418 445 006

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.**

**TIP dial-up
6162 6500**

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

ABN 94 130 344 129

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

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

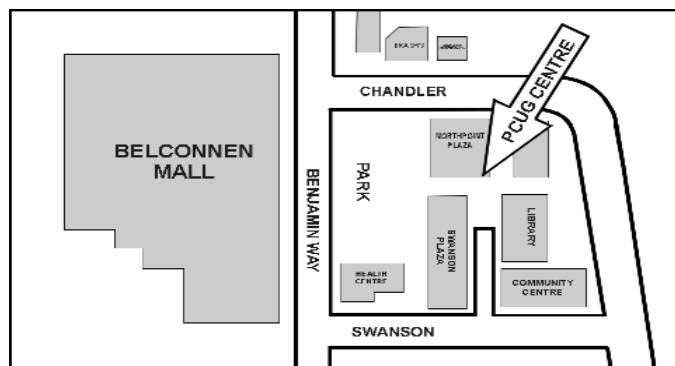
PC Users Group Centre
Northpoint Plaza, Belconnen

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

Postal address

P.O. Box 42
Belconnen ACT 2616

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



TRAINING COORDINATOR: **Terry Giesecke**

Email: terryg@pcug.org.au
Tel: 6254 2896 (9 am—9 pm)

VENUE: PC Users Group Centre, Northpoint Plaza,
Belconnen

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, broadband is popular and going at high speed (pardon the joke). Many other initiatives are going ahead. However, we are being cautious financially. Despite my own wishes and the recommendation of the *Sixteen Bits* review, we have decided, for financial reasons, to publish *Sixteen Bits* bi-monthly with a newsletter published during the alternate months. This will be re-considered if our advertising revenue increases significantly or other good news comes our way.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Noel Matthews as Treasurer and that we now have a complete committee except for the position of President where I still am acting in the role. Any thoughts on this please email me, suggestions are welcome.

Although stated elsewhere please note that with the timing of the Australia Day Holiday we are not holding a monthly meeting this month. The Events schedule shows potential meetings for the first part of the coming year, other suggestions are most welcome. Please remember to contribute to the constitutional review and don't assume that someone else will make your suggestions.

Feedback is always welcome and suggestions to improve the organisation and its viability will always be welcome.

David Lewis, Acting President and Vice-President

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS PROGRESS REPORT

Have your say .. improving the PCUG constitution. It is not too late to lodge ideas, comments and proposals for improvement of the PCUG constitution. Nor is it too late to indicate interest in being part of the constitutional review working group. The text of the present PCUG Constitution can be found at www.pcug.org.au/files/rules97.htm.

Please send your ideas, comments and proposals to the PCUG exec sec (Madeline Mould) in the first instance. Postal, fax and email addresses for the exec sec are in this newsletter.

Dates and times for meetings to discuss constitutional review options will be set in discussion with those interested in participating.

Graeme Evans

COMMITTEE'S CORNER

Some PCUG members have enquired about accessing minutes of Committee meetings. As you know, these are always available on request; just email pcug.secretary@pcug.org.au. The minutes will be made available once they have been approved at the following Committee meeting. In the meantime, we will endeavour to give you a summary of discussions held at the meetings via the Committee's Corner.

As you can imagine, the introduction of broadband via TransACT has been the principal preoccupation of the TIP and Admin. Teams as well as of this Committee. It is more a case of "we cannot please everyone" while at the same time protecting the best interests of the Group as a whole. During December, the TIP and Admin. Teams tested and implemented the broadband—a big thank you to those members who have worked tirelessly over the past 6 weeks but also to our members who accepted to be used as "guinea-pigs" and at the same time pay for the privilege. This new Committee is concerned about the Club's finances. David Gray and Madeline Mould have been busy implementing a new set of Chart of Accounts. We welcome on board our new Treasurer, Noel Matthews.

Communication with the PCUG membership at large is another area of preoccupation. As an IT organisation, we need to review the way we communicate (or not) with our members. The review of our newsletter "*Sixteen Bits*" is part of this process. Already several members have registered for electronic communications, keeping in mind that not all members have access to *tip.news*.

Recruitment of volunteers: this may sound all too familiar to you but it is really a case of too few people doing too many jobs. If 10% of our current membership (ie 180 people) provided 2 hours per month or 24 hours per year, the total person-hours would be a staggering 4,320 !!. It does not take much to make a "hell of a difference" so please think about it!

Monthly Meeting: Ann Byrne will coordinate the 2003 schedule of this all important activity. The aim is to give PCUG members a chance to hear and learn from the experts in the field as well as network over a cup of coffee. It also enables the Group to reach out to the broader community. Non-members are most welcome so please make sure to spread the word through your network of family, friends and work colleagues.

Your Secretary, Paulette Montaigne

For your fridge door



EVENTS 2003

PCUG Centre
Tel: 6253 4911

TENTATIVE PROGRAM—Monthly Meetings: Time: 7.00 pm

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday | 24 February | MCC | Speaker to be confirmed |
| Monday | 31 March | MCC T 3 | PALM |
| Monday | 28 April | COPLAND THEATRE | Microsoft |
| Monday | 26 May | MCC T3 | Adobe |
| Monday | 30 June | MCC T3 | Macromedia |
| Monday | 28 July | MCC T3 | Grisoft |
| Monday | 25 August | MCC T3 | |
| Monday | 29 September | MCC T3 | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING |
| Monday | 27 October | MCC | |
| Sunday | 23 November | (tentative date) | PCUG Christmas Party |

VENUE FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS:

unless specified, all Monthly Meetings are held at the **Australian National University, Manning Clarke Centre (MCC)**. The room will vary on occasion. Coffee and tea served at the conclusion of each presentation

New Members Night: Time: 7.30 pm

Date Committee Members on duty

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 February | David Lewis & Paul Free |
| 3 March | Paulette Montaigne & Rod Blackburn |
| 7 April | Ann Byrne & Keith Sayers |
| 5 May | Graeme Evans & David Gray |
| 2 June | Eleanor Rayment & John Bienkiewicz |
| 7 July | David Lewis & Allan Hepworth |

Committee Meetings: Time: 7.00 pm

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| Monday | 13 January |
| Monday | 10 February |
| Monday | 10 March |
| Monday | 14 April |
| Monday | 12 May |
| Tuesday | 10 June |
| Monday | 14 July |
| Monday | 11 August |
| Monday | 8 September |
| Monday | 13 October |
| Monday | 10 November |
| Monday | 8 December |

New Members Nights and Committee Meetings
are always held at the PC Users Group (ACT)
Centre, Northpoint Plaza, Belconnen. All members welcomed.

Message from the Staffers Coordinator, Eleanor Rayment:

On behalf of PCUG, I would like to thank all the Staffers who have helped me during 2002. I hope that they will keep up the good work in 2003 as well.

Tel: 6258 5375 Email: eleanorr@pcug.org.au

Thank you to the November and December Centre's Staffers

Jose MARQUES
Bob DEANE
Bryant & Diane BICE
Evelyn DEENA
Graeme EVANS
Ann BYRNE

Bob SUTHERLAND
Rod FARR
Rodney CHALKER
Anton JAZVIC
Eleanor RAYMENT

Thank you to Sixteen Bits Stuffing Team

November Team

Wendy Anderson
Gordon Urquhart
Vernon Kronenberg
Jeff Colwell
Petra Dwyer
Allan Mikkelson

Rufas Garcia
Marion van Wely
John Hempenstal
David Lewis
John McInerney
Jim Dick

December Team

Wendy Anderson
Gordon Urquhart
John Hempenstal
David Lewis
John Bienkiewicz
Doug Blake
Paulette Montaigne
Rob Crafter

Rufas Garcia
Marion van Wely
Jeff Colwell
John McInerney
Pearl Moyseyenko
Bill Parish
Bruce Black

Stuffing Team Coordinator: **Gordon Urquhart.**

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

PROPOSED COURSES

The following courses are being considered for the first quarter of 2003. The success of the courses and sessions will depend on the nominations given by members. While most of the sessions are informal, members should register their interest but are not compelled to attend. The PCUG committee is working hard to provide interesting topics and skills based learning for members at all levels of skill. Please register your interest in these courses and events by sending Email to allanh@pcug.org.au and by providing your name, Email address and membership number.

Proposed courses and events (First quarter 2003)

1. Introduction to Databases. (Formal half day)

Do you have an inventory or listing of all your house contents? What about a listing of your software library? Don't know where to start.

Course Objectives:

- Understand what is a database?
- Why not use a spreadsheet?
- Introduction to Microsoft Access
- Building your first database (practical)
- Using queries
- Building data entry forms
- Publishing of your database

2. Introduction to networking (Home and Small Business) (Formal half day)

Do you have an old PC laying around but is still usable? Ever thought of having a second computer for hard disk storage reasons only? What about a print server or internet gateway? Like to but don't know where to start.

Course Objectives:

- Introduction to networking (basics)
- Methods of connection
- Introduction to Protocols
- How does it work
- Tips and techniques
- Build your first PC network (practical)

A. Troubleshooting Sessions: (Informal 3 Hours)

Are you having problems installing software? Do you need a hand to install new hardware? Want to purchase a product but would like to get some help on what to look for and what to avoid? Hardware is not working? Just want a cup of coffee and a general chit chat?

Session Objectives:

- To allow member to have software, hardware and other technical problems resolved by other skilled members
- Provide a venue for an informal discussion between members.

MEET OUR NEWEST COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2002-2003

NOEL MATTHEWS, Treasurer

Noel was trained as a Communication Engineer and spent the first 20 years of his working life in the PMG (now Telstra) where he rose to Divisional Engineer. In 1970 he transferred to the Department of Transport where he was responsible for the project and financial management of many large construction projects, including the construction of the standard gauge railway from Broken Hill to Perth.

He left the Public Service and became the Executive Director of the National Public Works Council (NPWC). After leaving the NPWC Noel moved into the international arena and served the last four years as the Chief Executive of the International Accreditation Forum, Inc., responsible for the operations of the international body responsible for facilitating the acceptance of certificates of conformity.

He has served on the Boards of a number of business and community organisations and has been Treasurer of some.

DAVID GRAY

Treasurer of the Forrest Tennis Club for the past 12 (or 13) years - been a long time anyway - since about 1989; Treasurer for 2 years of the work Social Club before work pressure made me retire; Batchelor of Business Accounting from the Queensland University of Technology (1979) Employed by Coopers and Lybrand in Brisbane as an auditor (1980 to 1983 - 4 years); Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (CA) Currently working in the Information Technology field. Some of my achievements with the Tennis Club include: Computerization of the membership and accounting systems to provide a high degree of integration (previously only the membership was computerized and the accounts were manual); Extension of the systems to provide the ability to EMail members as an alternative to the post (saving not only postage but substantial time for the volunteers). Regular production of accounts for the bi-monthly Committee meetings including a list of payments for approval, detailed profit and loss and a balance sheet; Preparation of the Annual Accounts and arrangement of the auditor of the same.

I have been a member of PCUG since 1986 (I think). graydr@pcug.org.au

LANCE GREEN

I have an Applied Maths Degree (Hons) from La Trobe University. I have been involved in IT for over 20 years. Originally programming on mini computers in RPG then on mainframes, Client Server and back to mainframes.

I have been working in Service Management area specialising in Availability Management. I am currently designing contingency for overloaded Call Centres for Centrelink. I taught Basic and PASCAL programming as well as basic PC computing skills for YASS TAFE in the Mid 1980's for 2 years.

I am on the board of the French Australia Pre School a community run pre school which my 4 year old son attends. I have been treasurer for PATHS an association for Preservation of Australian Traditions and Heritage. I have also (with my wife) been Coordinator for Dance for the National Folk Festival held in Canberra each Easter. I have also been a board member for Woden Early Childhood Centre and assisted them in the acquisition and setup of their computers. I have been a committee member for various folk organisations as well as vice president of the Canberra Potters Society in the mid 80's.

I have been a member of the PCUG on several occasions while residing in Canberra. I first joined in 1984 (I think). As a member who uses the services of the PCUG I believe it is time for me to contribute something back to the group. lwgreen@pcug.org.au

ALLAN HEPWORTH

I have been involved with computing as a hobby since I purchased an Amstrad CPC6128 in the mid 80's. By the way I still have it and it works perfectly. This was before the first PC came on the market. I spent a number of years in the Armed Forces as a computer specialist. I have managed small networks, around 40 people, and have supported larger networks that had a user base consisting of an Australian State. On the enterprise side I have managed a national database application that supported the Australian Army. I have a broad experience in nearly all operating systems and have qualified in most of them. I am a technical hands on person.

My passions are networking and databases. I would like to start a SIG that will provide members a forum for discussion and problem solving on databases and managing of small networks (Home and Small Business). I would welcome any members interested in these topics to drop me an Email at allanh@pcug.org.au and get on the mailing list.

ROD BLACKBURN

APOLOGIES: In the last newsletter, your humble art-work technician (ie Paulette) truncated Rod's biography. My apologies Rod. Here is more about our very active Coffee and Chat Co-ordinator.

I've had a computer at home since 1985 having progressed from an original 4.5MHz PC through a 386SX and a 200MHz Pentium (all IBM machines to my current AMD Athlon powered 1200MHz machine, which, dare I say it, has given me more trouble than all the other put together 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. blackrod@ozemail.com.au

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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. These other discussions are usually carried on by some of the members over lunch. 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

SIGS... continued

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 amikels@pcug.org.au

Internet Daytime Demo & discussions SIG meets at the Centre on January 30th, 2003 and then 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

PROMOTION OF PCUG

The PCUG Committee is currently updating our promotional brochure which will be ready for general distribution very shortly.

This leaflet gives the history of the PCUG, and its goals and benefits. Most importantly, it outlines the benefits of PCUG membership, details of Monthly meetings and Special Interest Groups.

We need volunteers to identify organisations and business around Canberra where we can display our promotional materials, including back issues of *Sixteen Bits*. Please register with the Secretary.

Electronic News Alerts REGISTER NOW

pcug.secretary@pcug.org.au

If you want to be included on the electronic distribution of news and special events.

Mail outs will be restricted to the minimum.

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

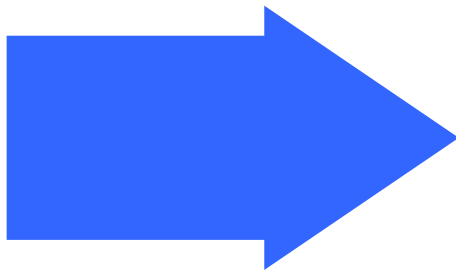
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P.O. Box 42 BELCONNEN ACT 2616

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Canberra
AUSTRALIA



PLEASE NOTE:
NO Monthly meeting
for January
(see schedule inside)

**Subscriptions for DIAL-UP and
BROADBAND are accepted by
telephone with credit card payment**
[For renewals: provide member number,
userID which is your email address]

**THE PC USERS
GROUP (ACT) Inc.**

Centre in Belconnen

Telephone: **02- 6253 4911**
Email: pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au

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