

SIXTEEN BITS - ISSN 0817-0991

September 2004

**PC Users Group: ABN 94 130 344 129**

**SIXTEEN BITS is published by the PC Users Group (ACT) Inc.**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the PC Users Group (ACT) Inc. will be held on Monday 27 September 2004 in Manning Clarke Theatre 3 at the Australian National University starting at 7:30pm.**

Copies of the draft minutes of the 2003 AGM and of the audited financial statement for the 2002 - 3 financial year can be downloaded from the PC Users Group documents page in the PCUG web site at <http://www.pcug.org.au/docs.htm>. Copies of the 2003-4 audited financial statement will be made available to everyone who attends the AGM and placed in the web site after that meeting

### **MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER**

Following the AGM, PCUG member Owen Cook will speak on Open Source software packages Scribus and SQL Ledger.

Scribus is a user friendly but powerful Desktop Publishing application already in use for everything from club newsletters to small newspaper production to animated interactive PDF presentations, as well as being used as output to professional quality image-setting equipment.

SQL Ledger is a double-entry accounting program where data stored in a SQL server can be linked through any GUI browser to maintain sales, revenue, expense, inventory, tax accounts and other records by means of templates.

### **Maps**

Manning Clarke Centre, Theatre 3 <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/displaybldg.asp?no=26a>  
Australian National University  
[http://www.pcug.org.au/activities/mmm/PCUG\\_MMM\\_ANU\\_MCC\\_map.gif](http://www.pcug.org.au/activities/mmm/PCUG_MMM_ANU_MCC_map.gif)

### **Notice for AGM**

The Constitution for the Group can be found at <http://www.pcug.org.au/docs/htm>

All financial members of the Group are eligible to attend and vote.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Apologies

Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 September 2003. (The draft minutes can also be found at <http://www.pcug.org.au/docs.htm> . At the meeting it will be assumed that these draft minutes have been read.)

Reports

Presentation of Accounts

Appointment of Auditor

Election of Returning Officer

Election of Committee for 2004-05

(a) Office Bearers

(b) General Committee

Close

#### NOMINATIONS

Section 17 of the Constitution requires nominations of candidates to be made by delivering a completed Committee Nomination Form to the Group no later than six days before the date of the AGM. That means lodgement of nominations at the PCUG Centre by 5.00pm on 21 September. A Nomination Form was included in the July and August Newsletters. The forms are also available from the PCUG Centre and from <http://www.pcug.org.au/docs.htm>

Tom Hayes

Secretary, PC Users Group (ACT),Inc.

PO Box 42 Belconnen ACT 2616

NOTES -

PROXIES - Members unable to attend the AGM, but who wish to arrange for another member to vote on their behalf are reminded of the following requirements as laid down in the Constitution -

Rule 35. Voting - sub-rule

(2) All votes shall be given personally or by proxy but no member may hold more than 5 proxies.

Rule 36. Appointment of proxies

(1) Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy by notice given to the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.

(2) The notice appointing the proxy shall be in the form set out in Appendix 1 to these Rules.

2. NOTE that the Proxy form must be signed personally by the member giving the proxy and the original signed form must be lodged with the Secretary no later than 7pm on Sunday 26 September. It will assist the Secretary to confirm the validity of the proxy if the member giving the proxy also marks his/her membership number on the form.

#### MISSING OUR HERITAGE

PCUG has given the ACT Heritage Library a copy of each 16 Bits magazine we hold, as well as the electronic newsletters. Claire Cruikshank of the library has been extremely pleased with that donation, but has asked whether we can supply the following missing copies:

Vol 7, No 11, Nov 1990

Vol 8, no 7, Aug 1991

Vol 8 no 8, Oct 1991

Vol 9, no 12, Dec 1992 (did this issue exist?).

Could members holding issues of that era please search their stocks to see if they hold a spare copy, or even one which could be copied. (Some recent issues of 16 Bits were printed with the date unchanged from the previous month, and perhaps members could comment whether this happened to any of the above issues.)

Please leave any spare copies or photocopies with Madeline at the PCUG Centre for donation to the ACT Heritage Library.

## PCUG Broadband via TransACT Charges Reduced Yet Again

The PCUG Committee, in association with that the ISSC, has reviewed the charges for the PCUG Internet Services as part of its preparation of its budget for the coming financial year. The Committee has decided that we can now afford to reduce the charges we make for Broadband via TransACT as follows -

Pay in advance for twelve months or 7,200Mb - \$240 (down from \$280)

Pay in advance for six months or 3,600Mb - \$130 (down from \$145)

Pay in advance for three months or 1,800Mb - \$70 (down from \$75)

The new charges will take effect from 1 September 2004.

## Thanks to John Saxon, you can view the PCUG connection Procedures:

<http://www.tip.net.au/connect>

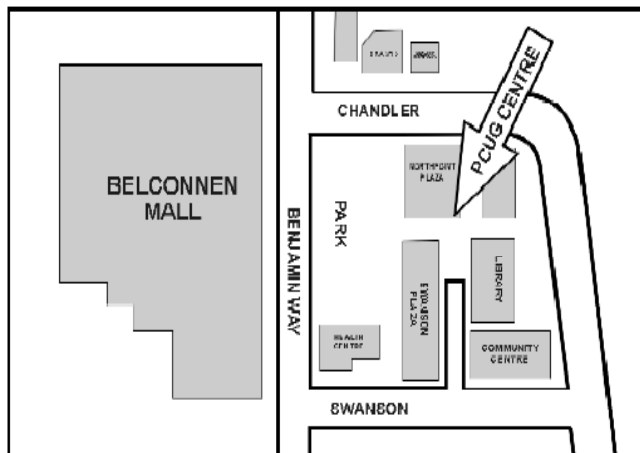
Here are some procedures for setting up various operating systems to connect to the Canberra PC User's Group Internet system. The procedures include both dial-up (Modem) systems or Broadband (Via TransACT). ADSL is not covered. Each procedure is complete for easy printing. Procedure for Modem Installation and other items can be found in the trouble shooting procedures.

### Committee Meetings -Time 7pm

Monday	11 October
Monday	8 November
Monday	13 December
Monday	<b>14 February 2005</b>

Committee meetings are always held at the PC Users Group (ACT) Centre, Northpoint Plaza, Belconnen.

All members welcome



PC USERS GROUP (ACT) Inc.  
<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](mailto:pcug@pcug.org.au)

Postal address  
P.O. Box 42 Belconnen ACT 2616

Executive Secretary: Madeline Mould  
Email: [pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au](mailto:pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au)

PC Users Group Centre  
Northpoint Plaza, Belconnen

Opening Hours:  
Weekdays (Monday to Friday) 10 am-2 pm  
Saturdays and Sundays 10 am-4 pm (closed long weekends)

## **PCUG Broadband Internet Service Now Available**

PCUG now offers members Broadband Access to the internet using the ADSL system (P-DSL). Of course this is in addition to the services we already provide to members in our Internet Service - dial-up and broadband through TransACT.

The P-DSL service is available anywhere in the ACT and NSW (and now also available anywhere in Australia), where the telephone lines are suitable for ADSL, that includes everywhere in the ACT and NSW that TransACT does not service.

Not the cheapest, but the best value for money! Do not be tricked by apparently cheaper offers that finish up costing you an arm and a leg in excess usage charges! Our charges are low and our download quotas the highest.

For more information on how the P-DSL system works and detailed instructions on how to install it in your home, go to the website at <[http://www.pcug.org.au/res-dsl/adsl\\_info.html](http://www.pcug.org.au/res-dsl/adsl_info.html)>, or alternatively go to the PCUG Home Page at <<http://www.pcug.org.au>> and follow the link to P-DSL.

If you would like to find out if P-DSL is available at your place, telephone the PCUG Centre and ask.

### **COPERNIC ENTERS SEARCH RACE**

Many of you will remember the Copernic web search program from years past. Well now they've entered the market for finding documents and emails on your computer with Copernic Desktop Search [www.copernic.com](http://www.copernic.com)

The Windows XP indexing tool is a dreadful resource hog and best avoided. The news that Longhorn (the next major Windows release) will not have the new file system probably also means that the innovative document searching and organization system is also on hold. This means an open field for tools to search your hard drive.

If you've only ever used the Windows XP search then you're in for a treat. Once the index on one of the third party products is complete, you can find documents based on a few words in the blink of an eye and you can also search emails in Outlook or Outlook Express with similar speed.

Companies like X1 and Dtsearch have been joined by Copernic. Other companies have time-limited trial versions but Copernic have a different approach. As they have with other products, Copernic have released a free version of Copernic Desktop Search which will be joined later by paid versions with extra features. It's available at [www.copernic.com](http://www.copernic.com)

Woody's OFFICE Watch  
Copyright 2004 by Peter Deegan. All rights reserved. ISSN 1328-1674.  
Reproduced with thanks to Woody's Windows Watch

**For Your Fridge Door  
EVENTS 2004  
PCUG Centre: 6353 4911**

PROGRAM Monthly Meetings: Time: 7.30 pm			
Monday	27 September 2004		(Annual General Meeting) Scribus desktop publisher and Linux SQL Ledger
Monday	25 October 2004		Home Automation
Monday	29 November 2004		Email

SIGS- Special Interest Groups			
<b>Coffee &amp; Chat (North)</b>	Western District Rugby Union Club	10:00am 11:30am Alternate Tuesdays	Jim Dick mobyj@pcug.org.au
<b>Bytes</b>	6pm Asian Bistro ANU Union	PCUG Meeting nights	Andrew Freeman 6258 7411 afreeman@pcug.org.au
<b>Computers &amp; Vegetarianism</b>	Meets with Bytes SIG	PCUG Meeting nights	Andrew Freeman 6258 7411 afreeman@pcug.org.au
<b>Investment</b>	PCUG Centre Belconnen	7:30pm 4th Thursday	Roger Penhale 6290 0807 rpenhale@pcug.org.au
<b>Internet Daytime Demo &amp; Discussion</b>	PCUG Centre Belconnen	10:00 am- Noon Every second Thursday	Allan Mikkelsen Amikkels@pcug.org.au
<b>Linux User Group</b>	Room N101 Computer Science Dept. ANU	7:00pm 4th Thursday	Stephen Rothwell sfr@canb.aauug.org.au
<b>Linux Learners</b>	PCUG Centre Belconnen	10 until 12 Every second Thursday	Rodney Peters rpeters@pcug.org.au
<b>Evening Internet</b>	PCUG Centre Belconnen	7:00 pm Last Tuesday	Marion van Wely 6258 8750
<b>Coffee &amp; Chat (Southside)</b>	Irish Club Weston	10:00-11:30 Alternate Tuesday	Jim Dick mobyj@pcug.org.au
<b>Digital Imaging</b>	Irish Club Weston	1:00 - 2:30 pm Alternate Tuesdays as for C&C Weston	Jeff Colwell jeffmeg@webone.com.au

**FOR ALL ENQUIRIES AND PAYMENTS REGARDING BROADBAND DIAL-UP AND OTHER PC USERS GROUP (ACT) SERVICES**

Please contact THE PC USERS GROUP (ACT) Inc.  
Email: [pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au](mailto:pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au)

Telephone: 02- 6253 4911  
<http://www.pcug.org.au/pcug/>

**TransACT Communications does not handle any PCUG internet accounts or PCUG memberships.**

## 2004 COMMITTEE

To reach all Committee members via email: [pcug.committee@pcug.org.au](mailto:pcug.committee@pcug.org.au)

<b>President</b> David Lewis	<a href="mailto:pcug.president@pcug.org.au">pcug.president@pcug.org.au</a>	Tel: 6226 8811 Mob: 0417 708811
<b>Treasurer &amp; Public Officer</b> Noel Matthews	<a href="mailto:nomatthe@pcug.org.au">nomatthe@pcug.org.au</a>	Tel: 02 6257 1962
<b>Secretary</b> Tom Hayes	<a href="mailto:pcug.secretary@pcug.org.au">pcug.secretary@pcug.org.au</a>	Tel: 6254 2596
<b>Vice President</b> Vacant		
	<b>General Committee</b>	
Graeme Evans	<a href="mailto:evans_digdiv@yahoo.com.au">evans_digdiv@yahoo.com.au</a>	Tel: 6251 6849
Paul Free	<a href="mailto:paul.free@pcug.org.au">paul.free@pcug.org.au</a>	Tel: 6251 1030
Keith Sayers	<a href="mailto:kmsayers@pcug.org.au">kmsayers@pcug.org.au</a>	Tel: 6258 6238
John Hodge	<a href="mailto:hodgej@pcug.org.au">hodgej@pcug.org.au</a>	Tel: 0404 328 468
Ken Ford	<a href="mailto:kenford@pcug.org.au">kenford@pcug.org.au</a>	Tel: 6259 0475
Annette Fischer	<a href="mailto:abfischer@pcug.org.au">abfischer@pcug.org.au</a>	Tel: 6241 1829

### Renewing your PCUG Membership or Internet Service Subscription (Dial-up or Broadband)

Members are reminded that they must provide both their log-in id (part before @ of your basic e-mail address) and membership number when they renew membership for Internet Service Subscription or Broadband.

PCUG membership renewal in particular does require your number as there are quite a few people who not only have the same surname but also the same first name.

When renewing by mail or telephone please fill in the renewal form at the end of this newsletter, it is essential that you correctly identify yourself with both username and PCUG membership number.

Members who fail to provide correct information may find that their payments have not been credited to them or that their renewal is withheld until details can be checked.

You will NOT be able to connect to the Internet if your PCUG membership has expired, even if you have Internet credits.

Help us to keep you up to date, by advising the Executive Secretary at email <[pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au](mailto:pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au)> of all changes of address, telephone numbers or email address

**Please Note:** *The web based facility to pay PCUG subscriptions is temporarily unavailable*

# TRAINING 2004

## TRAINING NOTES

There is only one training course planned at present, due mainly to the lack of suitable trainers. If you are able to run courses on the following subjects then contact Terry Gieseke on 6254 2896. Trainers are paid a small remuneration.

Windows XP	Filemaker Pro
Open Office	MYOB
Quicken	Internet security and firewalls

**All full day courses cost \$44.00 for PCUG members.**

## TRAINING COORDINATOR: Terry Giesecke

**Email: [terryg@pcug.org.au](mailto: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 at [pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au](mailto:pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au)**

## THE HELP DIRECTORY

The people in this directory are volunteers, so please observe the times given. The Help Directory is designed to help individual users and should not be used as a substitute for corporate support calls to vendors. This service is provided for members only. Please quote your membership number to the helper. Additions or amendments to this directory should be sent to [pcug.editor@pcug.org.au](mailto:pcug.editor@pcug.org.au) or by post to the PCUG Centre.

Subject	Name/Email	Phone	Days	Times
Adobe Pagemaker Microsoft Publisher Photoshop General software	Anne Greiner ( <a href="mailto:agreiner@pcug.org.au">agreiner@pcug.org.au</a> )	6288 2810	All days	6.30pm-9.30pm
Microsoft Office Windows XP	Thomas McCoy ( <a href="mailto:tmccoy@pcug.org.au">tmccoy@pcug.org.au</a> )	6294 2226	M-F	8pm-10pm
Flight Simulator	Roger Lowery ( <a href="mailto:lowery@pcug.org.au">lowery@pcug.org.au</a> )	6258 1583	All days	Anytime
Free Agent/Agent Newsreading	Allan Mikkelsen	6278 3164	All days	Noon-9pm
Hardware Modems Open Office	Anthony Glenn	6286 3903	All days	Anytime
Home Installation Team (HIT)	John Telek ( <a href="mailto:tweek@pcug.org.au">tweek@pcug.org.au</a> )	0418 605 930	All days	Any decent time'
Linux	Rod Peters ( <a href="mailto:rpeters@pcug.org.au">rpeters@pcug.org.au</a> )	6251 2580	All days	9am-7pm
Noteworthy Composer	Andrew Purdam ( <a href="mailto:apurdam@pcug.org.au">apurdam@pcug.org.au</a> )	6230 2231	All days	Anytime
Unix	Michael.Lightfoot ( <a href="mailto:michael.lightfoot@canb.auug.org.au">michael.lightfoot@canb.auug.org.au</a> )	6258 8185	All days	7.30pm-9.30pm
Digital Imaging	Jeff Colwell ( <a href="mailto:jeffmeg@webone.com.au">jeffmeg@webone.com.au</a> )	6247 7756	All days	9am-7pm

## President's Report

This is my last report before the election of a new committee. I urge anyone interested in the future of the PCUG to consider standing for election. The PCUG relies on the preparedness of volunteers to stand and contribute to the continued running of the organisation. May I also encourage those who haven't served in other capacities, such as weekday or weekend staffers, to consider doing so. We are always looking for more volunteers to continue the work and not all roles require any special computer knowledge. Please remember that our motto is "Users Helping Users".

Neither I nor most of the existing committee will be standing again (in my own case my paid work looks like being intensely busy over the next twelve months and I prefer to spare what little time I have to assisting looking after my four year old son). Nonetheless I am a member of the new committee as immediate past president (although if work is too onerous I might have to reconsider serving even in that capacity).

We often do not thank our hidden army of volunteers enough (and sometimes this is pointed out by others as a reminder to us) so I intend to express those thanks here to the best of my ability. So I wish to thank:

The weekday and weekend staffers who come day after day after day to the Centre, sometimes when very few attend and the opening of the Centre might seem pointless - I assure them it isn't. Our members rely on the knowledge that the Centre is open and before we opened fully some were put off coming in by not remembering when we were open and when not. I am truly grateful.

The volunteers who attend our table at the Computer Fairs. Often, especially when there are too few volunteers, the person attending stayed the full hours that the Fair was open, hoping to build the PCUG to greater levels. I marvel at their continued enthusiasm and helpfulness.

The 'Stuffers' who for many years stuffed and labelled the hard copy of the magazine (and then the newsletter) and then continued to be on call for other duties when asked.

The Co-ordinators of Special Interest Groups who continue, some over very many years, to look after these groups and ensure their continuity and viability.

Our 'Hit' team who visit homes and provide a very special personalised service, much appreciated by those struggling with the vagaries of misbehaving equipment.

Our trainers, who have also provided paid and unpaid services (and even the paid trainers are not paid at realistic rates) and who have helped to ensure good use of the Centre.

A special thank you to those who serve in more than one capacity. Even with our motto "Users Helping Users" we are short of volunteers and these people put in a real special effort. It is deeply appreciated.

A thank you also to our TIP admins. This year the Committee's relationship with some individuals in this group has been stormy but I truly thank those individuals who have continued their functions and commitment year after year and day after day. I thank especially those who have helped us introduce new services and who have appreciated the need for change in order for the organisation to survive. We know and acknowledge that without their efforts the Group would not be able to continue.

Having thanked groups without naming individuals, I now wish to thank individuals and I hope those whom I have not mentioned will forgive me.

Gordon Urquart, who attends several special interest groups, co-ordinates one of them (two?), attends at computer fairs, assists at monthly meetings, advises and visits individual members and so much more. Gordon, a very real thank you.

Lance Green, who edited the newsletter both last year and this and, having indicated his wish (decision) to give this duty up has continued to edit the newsletter up until this edition. He has suffered late submissions (including mine) and has provided outstanding dedication and commitment.

Madeline Mould, who although a paid employee as our Executive Secretary, has contributed her heart and soul to the well-being of the organisation and has also provided many hours of additional volunteer labour.

As most of the Committee are not standing for re-election I can thank individuals without it being seen as electioneering. I have served on the committee since 1999 and this has been the best committee that I have experienced. I have relied heavily on them and some have done some of my duties for me, making my job very much easier. A number of committee members have many years of senior management experience and, best of all, have not been interested in self-aggrandisement. Indeed most were heavily persuaded by others to join the committee against their will, but joined with a true commitment to serving the organisation with a sincere lack of self-interest. Mind you, they have not suffered fools gladly, although their tact in not expressing their opinions has been outstanding.



Noel Matthews, although officially Treasurer and Chair of the ISSC, has done much, much more. An example, in the past we relied on the TIP admins to negotiate renewal of our internet content from suppliers such as Comindico. This year, when the Admin support was not available to do this, he took on the role, learnt the complexities and negotiated a reduction in the monthly fee from around \$2,400 to around \$900 - a significant saving that has helped the PCUG to survive financially. He has answered voluminous correspondence on internet matters, been responsible for instigating changes which have provided members with more internet options and has guided us through the financial minefield with commonsense, foresight and a hell of a lot of very hard work.

Allan Hepworth - Centre Manager - instructor in networks, Access, use of the new media equipment and maintainer of our training room equipment and much more than this again. Sometimes, whilst working full-time, doing in excess of another 30 or 40 hours per week and also full of good ideas aimed at improving the future of the organisation. So significant has his contribution been that we nominated him for Volunteer of the Year over and above many who have served us for decades (yes, decades) because of the impact of his work.

Tom Hayes, our Secretary, is another who has provided good commonsense and good management and has been a major support. Absolutely reliable and responsible and he has helped ensure that we are heading in the right direction.

Graeme Evans. Graeme is one who sought out and encouraged others to join the Committee and for this alone is to be highly commended in providing us with a committee prepared to work hard. But he has done much more, he has worked interminably to encourage the involvement of government and semi-government bodies in PCUG's future. Looking at ways to change our role in the community, he has had a clear sense on the future direction of the PCUG and has invited all sorts of authorities to inspect our premises and to consider what they could do for us and for the wider community.

John Hodge is another enthusiast who has spent many hours organising monthly meetings and, in our view, improving the quality of these out of hand. In addition, he has worked with Ken Ford and Allan Hepworth on the media facilities and helped many individuals. Again, a person who has spent excessive hours contributing to the well-being of the PCUG (I can't help wondering when he and Allan found time to sleep).

Ken Ford has also contributed in many ways, to monthly meetings, additional help to Lance Green, full of good ideas and, once again, someone fully committed to the future of the PCUG and who has really worked very, very hard to look after the PCUG's future.

Paul Free, another person full of good ideas and responsible for our survey which resulted in over 400 replies, which exceeded previous survey responses by about 1000 per cent (and resulted in, I seem to recall, 200 plus hours of analysis). A very commendable effort (and, of course, I thank our members for responding in such numbers and with such concern for the future of the organisation).

Many thanks also to Annette Fischer. Annette was only a recent appointment to the committee and showed the clear potential to contribute as much as the other members of the committee and I am only sorry that we haven't had the opportunity to use her skills as much as the others. I am sure that other organisations will poach her services.

I must also thank the group who call themselves "The Serfs" who have undertaken the job of updating and upgrading the PCUG web site. Over the last ten years the PCUG web site has become both out of date and tired. To bring it up to date is a very big task, but the Serfs have taken that task on with enthusiasm, and by the time you read this the upgraded web site will be operational. A very big thanks to those hard working volunteers.

Finally, I can't say much about Keith Sayers as he is standing for the new committee, but his sincerity and his commitment to communicating with the membership are to be much admired. Best wishes.

I wish to conclude by thanking once again all those I haven't named and I also wish the incoming committee all the best.

David Lewis  
pcug.president@pcug.org.au

## **Report on Committee Meeting September 2004**

The Committee reviewed the plans for the AGM to be held later in September. It agreed that a list of all nominations received will be circulated by email to all members after nominations close but before the AGM. It agreed to suggest a person for appointment as Returning Officer at the meeting. If there are more nominations than the positions available (four Officers and ten Committee Members) the voting will be on paper ballots. The Returning Officer will be responsible for counting the ballots and declaring the result of the elections.

The Committee agreed on the processes for receiving nominations and for receiving and approving proxies lodged according to the requirements of the PCUG Constitution. Either at the end of the meeting or during the counting of votes, Owen Cook will speak on Open Source software.

Brief plans for the October Monthly Meeting were discussed, but the responsibility for that and future meetings will lie with the Committee elected at the AGM.

Progress with the two surveys being conducted on behalf of PCUG by students from the University of Canberra was discussed.

The ISSC reported that the upgrade of the PCUG web site was going well, and that the new web site should be available to members before the AGM. Subscriptions to the P-DSL internet service were growing satisfactorily with ten subscribers now in operation.

The Treasurer reported that both income and expenditure were tracking close to budget. The financial situation of PCUG was somewhat precarious, but at this stage no urgent action was needed. He also reported that the auditors had issued the Audited Financial Statements for the 2003-2004 year. The result of operations in the last financial year was a surplus of \$16,500, compared with the deficit the previous year of \$15,700, meant that the finances of PCUG had turned around by \$32,200 in the past year.

The Committee received a report on inspection by some of its members of space offered in an ACT Government building at Spence. The space was suitable, and the annual cost would represent a saving of \$33,000 in the cost of the present Centre at Northpoint Plaza. There is adequate free parking on site. The only disadvantage is the location at the far North of the Canberra urban area.

The Committee decided that it would take no action on the location of the PCUG Centre, leaving that decision to the incoming Committee.

## **PCUG Needs Volunteers**

PCUG relies on the work of a team of volunteers to continue providing its many programs for members. We have a small but dedicated team of volunteers, but many have been working hard for PCUG for years. We need more people urgently.

Our internet service would not operate without the small group of dedicated and technically expert volunteers who manage our servers.

PCUG could not operate without the small group of dedicated members who volunteer their time to staff the PCUG Centre seven days a week (except on long weekends). The few volunteers who prepare the Computer Skills Centre for use by our trainers and training organisations which hire it do a critically important job.

Other volunteers run our stalls at the regular computer fairs in Canberra, organise our monthly meetings, print, envelope and mail our membership renewals, and do the many other small but important tasks that keep the club operations going.

We all owe them a big debt of gratitude.

But many of them are getting tired, so if you can give us up to four hours once or twice a month you will make a real contribution to the health of the Club. We will teach you the job and you don't necessarily have to be a computer expert. Please contact the President at email <pcug.president@pcug.org.au>.

The Club cannot function without volunteers

## Like-Minded Souls standing for the 2004-05 Committee

### Why?

We share a common concern that the Group we have enjoyed, is suffering through declining membership numbers - a situation that cannot be sustained for much longer. As a Committee, we intend to focus on reinvigorating the Group through our motto of "Users Helping Users", and by providing better value for money and services, in order to retain existing members and attract new members to PCUG.

### Who?

[John Saxon](#) - President  
[Jeremy Bishop](#) - Vice President  
[Anne Greiner](#) - Secretary  
[Keith Sayers](#) - Treasurer  
[Terry Bibo](#)  
[Ann Byrne](#)  
[Mike Dinn](#)  
[Rick Geary](#)  
[Al Kabaila](#)  
[Michael Lightfoot](#)  
[Ted Macarthur](#)  
[Allan Mikkelsen](#)

We are mostly long standing members of the PCUG, a mixture of experienced members of previous committees, TIP Administrators, and some new blood to help with the all important new ideas.....

So please vote for the LMS team members! Vote by attending the AGM – it might be interesting. Or if you can't attend, you can vote by proxy. Please contact [jsaxon@pcug.org.au](mailto:jsaxon@pcug.org.au) for details and a proxy voting form.

More information (an election manifesto no less :-)) and profiles of the members can be found by visiting the web pages at

<http://www.pcug.org.au/~jsaxon/pc/pcug/lms/manifesto.htm> or  
<http://tinyurl.com/6uoou> for short.

**Please – Get involved! This is a critical time for the PCUG**

## TO SP2 OR NOT?

With all the talk about the Windows XP update there's almost no talk about the other large update from Microsoft - for Office 2003. The last issue of WOW was devoted to the Office 2003 update but with the release of the Windows XP Service Pack 2 it makes updating even more worrying than usual.

Our advice for Office 2003 SP1 still stands - wait for a few weeks to see how it shakes out. There's already reports of SP2 problems. The usual crop of installation hassles that even the massive 70 plus MB download won't fix. Despite what Microsoft is saying it seems some people still need their Office 2003 install CD handy even when using the full size update.

In stark contrast to the secretive Office updates, the Windows SP2 update is well documented with problems being acknowledged fairly promptly and there's a long list of Windows programs that will have trouble with the new Service Pack.

What to do? That's a hard one for anyone who is cautious about Microsoft products and their updates. There's no doubt that both updates are worth applying, especially the Windows XP update. The real question is when?

We're inclined to update Windows XP first and make sure the operating system is stable before later applying the Office 2003 update.

Woody's OFFICE Watch

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## CHEAPER INTERNET SERVICE

PCUG Internet Service charges for dial-up Full Service users are now -

Broadband service via TransACT charges are as follows -

- Pay in Advance for 12 months or 7,200 Mb downloaded - \$240 (\$20.00 per month)
- Pay in Advance for 6 Months or 3,600 Mb downloaded - \$130.00 (\$21.67 per month)
- Pay in Advance for 3 Months or 1,800 Mb downloaded - \$70.00 (\$23.33 per month)

Dial-up Internet Service

- Pay in Advance for 3 Months or 90 Hours on line - \$ 39.00 (\$13.00 per month)
- Pay in Advance for 6 Months or 180 Hours on line - \$ 69.00 (\$11.50 per month)
- Pay in Advance for 12 Months or 360 Hours on line - \$119.00 (\$9.92 per month)

Members are encouraged to take advantage of these very competitive prices with the assurance that they will never pay excess charges and when internet prices come down further they will again benefit.



*now that's clever*

Using TransACT for Broadband?  
Connect through PCUG.

"Minimum payment \$70 for three months or 1800 MB."

## Local newsgroups on TIP

A number of local newsgroups are available on the TIP news server for the benefit and use of TIP members. The names and purpose of each group are outlined below.

<[tip.announce](mailto:tip.announce@tip.net.au)"news:tip.announce">[tip.announce](mailto:tip.announce@tip.net.au) Official announcements from the Internet Project Management Committee (IPMC), TIP Administration, the PCUG and AUUG Committees and other important announcements. This is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all postings to this newsgroup must be approved by the moderator before they are published.

If you subscribe to no other tip.\* newsgroups, PLEASE subscribe to tip.announce!

<[tip.general](mailto:tip.general@tip.net.au)"news:tip.general">[tip.general](mailto:tip.general@tip.net.au) Anything of general interest to TIP users. Examples might be questions about TIP pricing, connection policy, or tips on how to get the latest software, good places to surf the net, new software that others might be interested in.

<[tip.help](mailto:tip.help@tip.net.au)"news:tip.help">[tip.help](mailto:tip.help@tip.net.au) Questions (and hopefully answers) relating to using TIP, Internet connectivity and the Internet in general, problems with personal computers (hardware and software) and so on.

Please be aware that the tip.help newsgroup is completely separate from the TIP Help email alias ([help@tip.net.au](mailto:help@tip.net.au)). The email alias should ONLY be used for urgent TIP-specific problems, and only when a personal reply is needed, instead of a general reply that may be useful to others.

Please DON'T post to tip.help AND send email to the help alias - one or the other, but not both!

<[tip.pcug](mailto:tip.pcug@tip.net.au)"news:tip.pcug">[tip.pcug](mailto:tip.pcug@tip.net.au) Discussion of PCUG affairs other than TIP, particularly member services, voluntarism, group management, etc.

<[tip.coffee-chat](mailto:tip.coffee-chat@tip.net.au)"news:tip.coffee-chat">[tip.coffee-chat](mailto:tip.coffee-chat@tip.net.au) Discussion and announcements related to the Coffee 'n' Chat special interest group (SIG), and anyone else who's vaguely interested in relaxed conversation on a wide variety of subjects.

<[tip.test](mailto:tip.test@tip.net.au)"news:tip.test">[tip.test](mailto:tip.test@tip.net.au) THE place to test your newsreader, see what your signature looks like, and play with newsreader options without annoying the TIP populace.

Thanks to Noel Mathews for compiling this list.

## Problems Logging into the Internet Service?

**If you ever find yourself failing to log in to TIP, STOP and don't waste any more money trying to dial in again. The two major reasons for failing to login are firstly, you have run out of TIP or PCUG membership, or secondly, your Username and or your Password have become corrupt. Paying more money fixes the first problem, re-typing your Username and Password into the Log In dialogue fixes the second problem 99% of the time. If neither of those fixes works for you then telephone the PCUG Centre and ask for help (unless you can access someone else's email, in which case send an email to <[help@tip.net.au](mailto:help@tip.net.au)>.**



## STOP PRESS

Dear Members,

Nominations for the new Committee of the PCUG closed at 5.00pm Tuesday 21 September. At the close of nominations the nominations that I have received are as follows:

For the position of **President**: - **John Saxon** (unopposed)  
For the position of **Vice President**: - **Jeremy Bishop** (unopposed)  
For the position of **Secretary**: - **Anne Greiner** (unopposed)  
For the position of **Treasurer**: - **Keith Sayers** (unopposed)

For the ten positions of **Member of the Committee**:

Terence Bibo  
Jeremy Bishop (also nominated for Vice-President)  
Ann Byrne  
Mike Dinn  
Trevor Frew  
Richard Geary  
Anne Greiner (also nominated for Secretary)  
Al Kabaila  
Michael Lightfoot  
Edward MacArthur  
Allan Mikkelsen  
John Saxon (also nominated for President)  
John Telek

I hope that we will see you at the AGM which starts at 7.00pm next Monday night at 7.30pm at the Manning Clarke Theatre 3 at the ANU.

Note that profiles of all but one of the above candidates can be found by visiting the web pages at <http://www.pcug.org.au/~jsaxon/pc/pcug/lms/manifesto.htm> or <http://tinyurl.com/6uoeu> for short.

The one candidate whose profile is not at that web site is John Telek. John is a senior programming consultant at Telstra and has wide experience in software development and fault finding. John is one of the most active members of the PCUG HIT team and has helped solve problems for many of our members.

Tom Hayes  
Secretary.



**PC Users Group (ACT) Inc.**  
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 Belconnen ACT 2616

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 Fax (02) 6253 4922  
 Email pcug.execsec@pcug.org.au  
 ABN 94 130 344 129

**A Membership / Internet Service — New Application / Renewal**

Title	Given Name	Surname	PCUG Membership Number	
Postal Address			Postcode:	
Phone (Home)	Phone (Work)	Mobile	Fax	
Email address (1)		Email address (2)		
If new Internet application, enter three preferred user ids here, 3 to 8 characters:		If new Internet application, your Security question is:		
1. _____		Your answer is:		
2. _____				
3. _____				

**B) PCUG Membership**

(X) Annual Fees (incl. GST)	Fees / year	I would like to ( X one or more)
<input type="checkbox"/> General Member <sup>1</sup>	\$65	<input type="checkbox"/> Become a New Member for ____ years (1 to 3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner Concession Member <sup>2</sup>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew my Membership for ____ years (1 to 3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Member <sup>3</sup>	\$170	<input type="checkbox"/> Change my address details as above.

Notes

- General membership covers all members of a household.
- Concessions apply to full-time students and Social Security pensioners ONLY.  
**CONCESSIONAL RENEWALS MUST INCLUDE PROOF OF ENTITLEMENT.**
- Corporate membership covers up to three nominees. Additional corporate nominees may be added at \$65 each.

**C) Internet Service**

<input type="checkbox"/> New Start date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew / Upgrade
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in PCUG ADSL. Please contact me.	
<input type="checkbox"/> TransACT Broadband	<input type="checkbox"/> TransACT ADSL
Prices below are in addition to TransACT charges.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Months or 1,800 MBytes (minimum) \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Months or 90 Hours \$39
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Months or 3,600 MBytes \$130	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Months or 180 Hours \$69
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Months or 7,200 MBytes \$240	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Months or 360 Hours \$119

**D) Payment**

B) PCUG Membership \$ .....

C) Internet Service \$ .....

**TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \$**

<input type="checkbox"/> Cash (only if paying in person at the Centre)	Visa / Bankcard / Mastercard
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque made out to PC Users Group (ACT) Inc.	Card Number _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card	Expiry Date ____ / ____
Name on Card	Signature

Date paid:  
 Date database updated:  
 EFTPOS Transaction no: