

The Journal of the Launceston Computer
Group Inc
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EDITORIAL

Many people like the concept of portable broadband, whether it be wireless or USB format.

A portable wireless modem that sits in the palm of your hand, and which can be taken with you on your travels, has advantages over conventional modems (*and optional Ethernet cables*) that sit in your computer room and rely on telephone lines for connection to the Internet.

Users of tablet devices such as iPads and Androids need to communicate with a wireless modem as hardly any have an Ethernet port to connect them to a 'wired network'.

To get the best value 'plan' for your portable internet service you need to keep up with the frequent changes that are taking place with ISPs.

I thought I had a pretty good understanding of the various Telstra options until I had occasion to help a member set up a new service recently. I admit to initially being sceptical of the advice she received from her local Telstra shop who said that \$140 would provide her with a connection for **two years**.

But yes, it's true ... The new Data Pass system provides better value options for those people whose internet needs are minimal. No more worrying how you are going to use up your annual \$200 for 12 GB.

Even on my own 8GB monthly plan I can now get 1 GB data extensions for \$10 where excess usage of 1 GB would have previously cost me \$30.

Check it out for yourself. **Dennis Murray, Editor**

★ **VICTOR PHONE NUMBER 0487 108 198** ★
★ **Contact the Coordinator Rob Tierney for** ★
★ **assistance with computer problems at home** ★
★ **(Bookings are subject to availability of tutors.)** ★

JULY 2015 MEETINGS

**OPEN's next monthly meeting will be held on
Wednesday July 1, 2015 at 1:00 pm.**

**I will remind you that our Club is operated and
administered solely by club members so it is in
your interest to contribute to the running of the
club.**

**The Launceston Computer Group will conduct its
next monthly meeting on the AFTERNOON of
August 5th 2:30 pm—following the OPEN meeting.**

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The next issue of the Newsletter will be for July 2015.

CLUB-ROOM TELEPHONE NUMBER

The club telephone is available during class hours.

***** **6343 4928** *****

Members and tutors can be contacted at the clubrooms **during class hours** by telephoning the number shown above.

Monday to Friday 10am – 3pm

Tuesday evenings 7pm—9 pm

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

Editor's Contact email address
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Correspondence

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Membership

**Single \$20, Family \$30 (Includes Email edition
Newstream)**

Printed & Posted Newsletter \$20 extra

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OPEN-LCG NEWSLETTER — JUNE 2015

DON'T OVER-COMPLICATE MATTERS!

As I often mention, many of the articles I write for the newsletter are based on experiences I have had while assisting club members with their computing interests. The articles are written with the intent of preventing other members from being confused or concerned if they experience similar problems, and are not intended to 'have a shot' at the members whose cases are reported.

Recently I re-configured a computer for one of our members due to a problem with the internal hard-disk drive. Fortunately most of the personal information was recovered from the old hard-disk.

When handing back the computer to the member I advised that I had set a simple password (*the member's name*) so I was a bit surprised when I received a phone-call from them saying that they couldn't log in to their computer.

After some discussion it seemed that the member was clicking the '**reset password**' link just below the password box rather than simply entering their name.

As our member found out 'resetting' the password requires you to have your existing password saved to a flash-drive or CD **before** you need to reset it. It is protection against the possibility of forgetting your password.

Changing your password is a different procedure. You need to login first, then go to Control Panel> User Accounts and change it there.

The member also mentioned a difficulty they had when saving documents, which turned out to be a misunderstanding between the terms 'Library' and 'Folder'.

Rather than saving a document into a particular folder our member was trying to include the document into a Library.

Libraries are in fact collections of folders, with the common ones being Documents, Music, Pictures and Videos. So if you save a document in a folder that is part of the Documents structure it is automatically included in the Documents Library. You can create 'custom Libraries but that would be a specialised procedure. **Dennis**

TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS???

A few issues ago I wrote of my frustrations with Google blocking people from using certain e-mail programs to process their Gmail messages.

In fact I was one of the people on the receiving end when trying to import Gmail messages into Microsoft Outlook.

After a great deal of time spent checking and re-checking account-names, passwords and mail settings it turned out that Google had blocked my email because 'someone had tried to log in using my name and my password'. Of course they had—***that someone was me!***

Does it ever occur to those clever people at Google that not every one who uses their products is a computer guru? Or that they don't spend their entire lives glued to the Internet?

Another of our members recently had to switch to Prepaid Broadband and asked me to set up a Gmail account that would download her messages to Outlook Express on her XP computer. All her 'historical' emails were in several folders in OE so it was understandable that she want to direct her new emails to those folders.

Initially I fell foul of Google's 'less secure apps' blocking procedure but in the end we sorted it out. Our member looked at me and asked "How is the average person supposed to handle this sort of stuff?" Good question!

The latest Google annoyances are the e-mails that repeatedly tell you that you've logged into your Gmail account on a PC, or an iPad, or perhaps an abacus, using Internet Explorer or Firefox or Safari browsers.

This seems to be an attempt to bludgeon users into switching to Google's Chrome browser. Sorry Mr. Google I don't like Chrome and I have no intention of switching.

Don't get me wrong—I love Google as a 'search engine' and like having Gmail as a free email service, but isn't there something more important that your company could be doing rather than pestering people?

FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCES

Released in 2014 this new resource is a collection of all the information from the archives web-site but now includes digital images of each record, including the following :

Births	Marriages	Deaths
Wills	Arrivals and Departures	
Census records	Convict records	Inquests

More information will be added over time.

Your convict record will take you to the immediate record without spending an hour sifting through a book or names. If at first you do not find the correct record try clicking on the next page or two.

The web address for this resource is very difficult to remember so I suggest you try the following procedure to access the site.

Type '**Tasmania Names Index**' into Google and when the search-list appears click on :

LINC Tasmania Online—Name Indexes

Scroll down the left-hand side panel and click :

Tasmania Names Index

Type in a surname and select records-type or year-range to refine your search, or enter a full-name in the following format : **smith,john**

Happy Searching!

NEW WAR RECORDS WHICH YOU CAN EDIT AND UPDATE.

"Discovering Anzacs"

<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/>

Be aware that misinformation may have been provided by others.

Judy Hall

FAMILY HISTORY 2015 JUNE-JULY CLASSES

Wednesday June 22
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

and

Wednesday July 8th, 2015
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

As demonstrated in the column on page 2 information is being added to our resources on an on-going basis to help you trace your family's origins.

Contact the club for more information.

Classes limited to 8 people.

Judy Hall, Margaret G and Sandra V will be 'on deck' to conduct these informative sessions.

ADVANCED GRAPHICS

With Paint Shop Pro XI

Wednesday June 22nd, 2015

LEVEL 1, 2 & 3 GRAPHICS

With Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8

Wednesday July 8, 2015

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

COMING UP IN JULY

July 1st (morn) Computer Maintenance with Bruce

July 15th (morning) to be advised

July 15th (afternoon) Android Training with Bruce

July 29th (morning) e-Books with Alex Bell

July 29th (afternoon) MS Publisher with Dennis

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POWERPOINT LEVEL 3

Wednesday June 17

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Rob Tierney's series of PowerPoint lessons continues with the 3rd instalment of the current course.

Ideally people attending this session should have participated in the previous two sessions.

Microsoft PowerPoint is a great tool for creating a slideshow of your own pictures or for presenting a multi-page set of 'how-to' instructions to assist your own computer learning.

ANDROID TRAINING SESSION

Wednesday, June 17th

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Regular attendees of the Android classes should have already received an email notification about the June session.

New members who are not yet on Bruce's mailing list can contact one of the senior tutors at the club to arrange a copy of the information.

If any particular Android technique is causing you difficulty please write it down and seek the answer from Bruce during this session.

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Friday June 26 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Come along and enjoy a social morning with other club members and help raise funds for the Cancer Council at the same time.

Each \$1.00 donation will entitle you to an entry for raffle prizes donated by West Tamar Woodcrafts. Please bring a plate of food to share.

EXPLAINING 'AUTOPLAY'

Autoplay is the facility used by Windows operating systems to control what your computer should do when external media devices are attached to the computer.

The most common forms of 'external media' that our members will encounter are :

CDs and DVDs USB Flash Drives External Hard Drives
Digital Camera Cards Floppy Disk Drives (not often)

Typical Autoplay instructions that we might expect a computer to perform could be :

Music CD? Play the songs with Windows Media Player

Video DVD? Play the movie with Media Player or an appropriate movie player such as Cyberlink

Software CD? Run an installation process or give the user the option to select an action.

How do you set the Autoplay actions? Go to the Control Panel and find Autoplay. Double-click and you should see the various forms of media listed, each with a drop-down menu that will allow the appropriate Autoplay action to be set.

Dennis Murray

WINDOWS 10 IS GETTING CLOSER

Microsoft has announced that Windows 10 will be officially released at the end of July 2015.

Users of Windows 7, 8 and 8.1 will be entitled to a **free upgrade** for a period of one year from the release date.

If you have Automatic Updates enabled on your computer you may have noticed a white Windows symbol near the bottom right corner of your computer's screen.

This is a link to 'pre-order' the upgrade but I would suggest that you don't rush in until you have spoken to one of our experienced tutors.

The upgrade could consume up to 3 GB of your Internet allowance but a DVD installation option may be available.

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions \$6.00

[Some special tutorial materials may incur additional charges]

Monday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Basics and Beyond
	2:00— 4:00 pm	Beginners Class
Tuesday	10 am –12	O-Learn & Beginners [all day]
	1 pm – 3 pm	Mac [all day]
	7 pm—9 pm	Basics (Night Class)
Wednesday		Special sessions or Meetings
		As for mornings (see rosters)
Thursday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	General & Beginners
Friday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Beginners Class including Windows 8

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SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date			
Wednesday June 17	10:00 am to 12 noon	Power Point Level 3	Rob Tierney continues his series of instruction sessions to teach you the techniques for Power Point
	1:00 pm onwards	Android Tablets and Smartphones	Bruce Dineen will continue his series of information sessions on how to get the best from Android devices.
Wednesday June 24	10:00 am to 12 noon	Family History	Use our extensive range of resources to help you compile your Family History project.
	1:00 to 3:00 pm	Advanced Graphics	Use Paint Shop Pro XI to enhance your photos and scanned images.
Friday June 26	10:00 am to 12 noon	AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA	Take part in this social event and help raise funds for the Cancer Council at the same time.
	1:00 to 3:00 pm	Android Tablets and Smartphones	Bruce Dineen will continue his series of information sessions on how to get the best from Android devices.
Wednesday July 1	10:00 am to 12 noon	Computer Maintenance with Bruce Dineen	Bruce will provide valuable information on how to keep your computer in top shape.
	1:00 pm onwards	OPEN Monthly Meeting	General business, financial reports and a general discussion on computing topics will be discussed.
Wednesday July 8	10:00 am to 12 noon	Graphics Levels 1,2 and 3	Judy Hall and her team continue the course to show you how to handle your photos and other images.
	1:00 pm	Family History	Use our extensive range of resources to help you compile your Family History project.

BRUCE DINEEN PROVIDES SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE ON MALWARE

It is very important to protect your PC from the thousands of Malware varieties that are present on the Internet today.

Every site you visit will deposit some form of spyware onto your PC so you should protect yourself by :-

**Blocking ads [i.e. Adblock plus for Firefox]
Running a good anti malware security program.**

The malware program I run is **Spy Hunter 4** and I can say it was worth the \$100 per year (*approx*) subscription.

Just recently I purchased a new PC and installed the latest version of Windows 8.1 and made a few changes so it looks a bit like my old Windows 7 PC.

One feature about Vista and Windows 7 I liked was the gadgets. The ones I use are the **All CPU Meter** and the **Top Process Monitor** which help me keep a check on how the system is performing.

I found a freeware program called **8GadgetPack** which put the gadgets back into Windows 8.1 and they work very well. The downside was that the "free" program came with a few unwanted extras which infected my PC with **3617** malware items.

This is the worst attack I have ever seen from a single download and it included browser hijackers, root-kits and very dangerous spyware [*rated 10/10 on the 'nasty scale'*]. The rule is, if you download "free" software you also accept what is attached to it.

I am glad I made the decision to purchase Spy Hunter 4 otherwise it would most likely have required a complete re-install of Windows. Manually removing all these items would have taken a long time and some are very hard to find - you think you have removed them and when you re-boot they are back again.

Spy Hunter 4 removed all the malware and returned my browser to the same as it was before the malware attack.

Bruce Dineen

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CARE FOR YOUR LAPTOP

Laptop computers are very specialised pieces of equipment. There is little that the average user can do in terms of maintenance, modification or repair. Service charges and replacement parts (*even if available*) can be extremely expensive.

Some time ago I advised of the need to be very careful when attaching external devices to the USB ports on laptops. Relatively heavy devices such as USB modem 'dongles' can result in the USB ports becoming damaged and thus unusable.

In a recent case a friend wondered why neither of her USB 'mice' would work with her laptop. A quick check of the ports on one side showed that the metal connectors of one USB port were bent and it is possible that this had affected the other port. Fortunately the single port on the left-hand side of the laptop was still functional but this will prove very limiting for the owner unless a 'hub' is used to provide additional USB connections.

Even a laptop that appears spic-and-span on the outside can be dirty internally and cause over-heating. (*see pictures of fluff build-up on the heat-sink below*)



To access this heat-sink and clean it required an almost total disassembly of the laptop. In another instance the screen had to be removed from a laptop in order to gain access to the cooling system.

For me there is always a sense of trepidation when re-assembling a laptop. Will it work? Or won't it?

That's why I only work on my own equipment or old laptops that the owners have replaced.

Dennis Murray

WHAT'S INSIDE A LAPTOP?

Here are some photos of a 10-inch netbook that I disassembled recently.

The previous owner had no further use for it as the hard-drive was not functioning. I bought it for spare parts as I needed a power supply for my own netbook.



Above is the netbook with the screen and keyboard removed. The hard-drive and memory are mounted beneath the silver plate. Unlike most larger laptops there were no removable inspection plates to allow access to HDD and RAM from underneath the bottom cover.



Here's the motherboard after all the components, and top and bottom covers had been removed.

LCG Committee 2015/16

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Vice President: Ivan Turmine

Secretary: Iris Meek

Treasurer: Dennis Murray

Ass. Treasurer: Laraine Rist

PC Librarian: Vacant

Mac Librarian: Vacant

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Public Officer: Judy Hall

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Publicity Officer: Iris Meek

"V.I.C.T.O.R." Co-Ordinator: Robert Tierney

LCG Committee: Glenn Gilpin, Reinhard von Samorzewski, Ron Baker, Bruce Dineen

OPEN Committee 2015/16

O.P.E.N. Co-ordinator: Karia Wicks

Responsible for the smooth running of the Centre on a daily basis

O.P.E.N. Chairperson: Laraine Rist.

Chair all meetings of OPEN and ensure that they run smoothly

O.P.E.N. Assistant Chairperson: Eleanor Horder

Chair meeting when the Chairperson is unavailable.

O.P.E.N. Minute Secretary: Heather Loffel.

Handles all incoming and outgoing communications

Responsible for the documentation and distribution of all meeting minutes

Treasurer: Dennis Murray.

Responsible for all monies and banking

Assistant Treasurer: Laraine Rist.

Help the Treasurer where necessary.

Newsletter Editor: Dennis Murray.

Publicity Officer: Iris Meek.

Responsible for all advertising

Membership Co-ordinator: Sandra Viney

Keep Membership database up to date.

Tutor Co-ordinator: Laraine Rist, Dennis Murray, Karia Wicks.

Keep regular contact with Tutors to bring ideas and concerns to meetings

Maintenance Co-ordinators: Dennis Murray.

Responsible for the maintenance and repairs to all computer equipment

"V.I.C.T.O.R." Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney.

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen. <mailto:webmaster@lcg.org.au>

OPEN Committee: Janet Headlam, Margo Housego, Irmgard Rosenfeldt, Bruce Dineen, Kay Dawson