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SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

September 5th

at 1:00 pm OPEN’s MONTHLY MEETING

at 7:00 pm LCG’s MONTHLY MEETING

**Followed by Dennis taking you on a “Short Trip To The Cloud”
using Dropbox to show how you can access files from any
computer, anywhere.**

**And if time permits, a brief update on the arrival of Windows 8 at
the end of October.**

FROM THE ACTING EDITOR—*Dennis Murray*

Well, you still have to put up with me for another month in anticipation of Newstream’s regular editor finally getting the thumbs-up from the medical authorities to present himself for that elusive operation.

Another couple of changes to the format of the newsletter this month prompted by suggestions from members—firstly you won’t have to go hunting through the pages for details of forthcoming meetings as the notices are included on the bottom left of this page. Secondly I have omitted the page containing Committee details in favour of an extra page of information that hopefully will assist you with your computer studies and interests. Committee details are still available on our website www.lcg.org.au.

Following on from my mention of Microsoft’s decision to produce their own Windows 8 tablet computer and the general influx of portable computing devices into the technology market we have decided to have a **PORTABLE DEVICES FORUM** on the morning of Wednesday, September 19 from 10 am to noon. In the session we are intending to demonstrate several of the different models (e.g. iPads, Android tablets, e-readers, net-books and ultra-books) and to hear from people who already use these devices. The objective is to inform you of the benefits, limitations and requirements of operating these devices.

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

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Membership

Single \$15, Family \$20 (Includes Email edition Newstream)

Printed & Posted Newsletter \$20 extra

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OPEN NEWSLETTER – September 2012

IF IN DOUBT ... PLEASE ASK!

Two Fridays, two very different results!

One Friday in mid-August I was asked to help work out why Internet Explorer was closing down on a member's laptop computer. No doubt there will be some among you who, have given up using 'IE' long ago, will simply roll your eyes and gloat that you changed over to Mozilla Firefox. But to be fair to Internet Explorer in recent times I have found that external forces can affect how IE performs—in particular 'add-ons' from other programs such as anti-virus tools and media players.

In this case I tried disabling some of the recent 'add-ons' but IE still bombed out! After consulting with the member in relation to when the problems started I decided to use the **System Restore** utility to 'wind back' the system a few days to see if that would solve the problem. Part of the System Restore process allows the user to determine which programs will be affected by the winding back. Having noted those details the System Restore process was completed and Internet Explorer worked in the expected manner.

Two important points to remember when using System Restore are that (1) any program installations and updates that occurred after the 'restoration date' will be negated, so you will need to repeat those installations and updates, and (2) in most instances none of your personal files, documents and pictures will be affected.

However, on the previous Friday the outcome was not so good for another member. I received a call that initially seemed like a case of a forgotten password but I was puzzled by mentions of having to create a new user account. Could it be a virus affecting the computer? Or perhaps one of those phone scams in which 'remote control' is given to the scammer.

Only when I sat down at the computer did I begin to realise the extent of the problem ...

IF IN DOUBT ... PLEASE ASK! *(continued)*

Having worked on the computer previously I was curious when a new user-name appeared on the log-in screen and I assumed that somehow the owner had managed to switch user accounts i.e. from the usual <christian-name> to another identity with a different name. After several incorrect passwords were tried I eventually logged in and was greeted by an unfamiliar desktop with very few icons on the display. I thought that all I would have to do would be to 'Switch User' to retrieve the situation.

But there was no other User, nor were there any Programs other than the standard Windows utilities, and **no Documents, Pictures or personal information.**

After much discussion I gathered that the owner was of the opinion that a System Restore had been performed but in fact a **System Recovery** was what had occurred.

System Recovery is a much more aggressive procedure that should only be performed as a last resort i.e. when the operating system ceases to operate and there is no other way of getting the computer to function **AND AFTER** every attempt is made to retrieve any personal data from the hard-drive (*See separate story on methods on how this can be achieved*).

System Recovery takes the computer back **to the configuration that existed when it was purchased.**

Many manufacturers set up a **Recovery Partition** on the computer's hard disk that includes the basic operating system and not much else. Some laptop manufacturers instruct or suggest that YOU create a set of Recovery DVDs soon after you purchase your computer. This too will only provide you with the basic configuration and not any personal information.

If there is a bright side to this story it is that the member had most of their personal information backed up on an external hard-drive. *And that is a lesson for us all!*

RETRIEVING PERSONAL DATA FROM A FAILED COMPUTER

When a computer ceases to operate normally and it seems that nothing will revive it the first thought that occurs to most people is that they may have lost all their documents, including precious personal photos. Fortunately it's not always the case.

As most of you know the primary storage component in most computers is the internal hard disk drive (HDD). Even though your computer may be rendered useless by an operating system failure or a failure of one of the main motherboard components there is a good chance that your HDD and all the information on it is intact. You can check that out by having an experienced person remove the HDD from your tower or laptop and attach it another computer in order to transfer the information.

In recent times 'attaching to another computer' has been simplified by having special adapters that connect to the host computer via a USB connection—much simpler than having to bolt it inside another tower! If all goes well and the HDD is intact it will appear as an extra drive on the host computer's Windows Explorer or My Computer screen. You can then start thinking about transferring your data.

Not all computer failures relate to hardware problems - a software problem might require reinstalling the operating system but prior to taking that step you would still probably prefer to retrieve your personal data if possible.

One of the ways of doing this is to 'kick-start' your computer with a temporary operating system (OS) that resides on a CD or DVD. The alternative OS called **Linux** can be run from a **Live CD** that can access your computer's hard disk and transfer the information to an external drive. There is no need to actually install Linux on the computer permanently.

Linux can also be useful if you have a USB device that can't be recognised by your Windows OS. Recently I was able to retrieve several Gigabytes of information from a USB external hard disk that Windows could not access. The owner had thought that all that data was lost forever.

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“MYTH-UNDERSTANDINGS”

From time to time I hear conversations or discussions around the club that make conclusions that I don't always agree with, so I have listed a few of my 'pet grumbles'.

Save or Save As? There is no hard-and-fast rule that states that you **must** only use the Save As option when you save a file for the first time. In fact if you go to the Help section in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel or PowerPoint) you will read that those programs **automatically** go to the Save As box when a file is created the first time—you have no choice in the matter!

So when you should use Save and not Save As? When you are **197.34% certain** that the file you are saving will be in the location where you expect it will be. I have seen so many instances of 'lost files' or documents that have been accidentally over-written that I would recommend using Save As for all 'saving' operations. On most keyboards you only need to press the F12 function key to go directly to the Save As dialog box.

Contrary to some people's opinions **Picasa3** (*the free image cataloguing program*) does not create multiple copies of files and folders. When you first install Picasa3 you will see an option asking whether you want Picasa to **search** the entire computer or just the Documents, Pictures and Desktop folders.

And that is exactly what Picasa does—it **searches for images that are already on your computer**. If you add new images or move images from folder to folder Picasa updates its catalogue the next time you start the program.

So why at times does Picasa seem to be like Noah's Ark and display two (*or more*) of everything? Well, it's usually because the **computer's user** has managed to duplicate images. In one recent case a member had somehow created SIX copies of their photos in various locations!

“MYTH-UNDERSTANDINGS” (continued)

In fact Picasa could well be your friend rather than your foe as its 'Locate On Disk' function will help find those folders that have been accidentally created in unintended locations.

More on the benefits of using the **Snipping Tool** in Window Vista and Windows 7.

Recently I heard someone make the comment that they still preferred to use the Print Screen function because the Snipping Tool does not allow screen 'snapshots' to be saved in common graphics formats. That's not true—the Save As option allows 'snips' to be saved in JPEG, GIF, PNG and HTML (*web-page*) formats. Here are a couple more examples of the Snipping Tool in action.

One of our members wanted to print out some images from a web-site but found that the 'conventional' method resulted in each image being spread over FOUR pages i.e. one-quarter of the image on each page. Solution? Firstly we magnified the web-page with the [CTRL +] keyboard shortcut until the required image was a suitable size; we then Snipped the image and saved it in JPEG format as a file that could be printed out later.

Another member was having difficulty printing out some text (*minutes of her craft club*) that was included in an e-mail message. Problems included unwanted content such as 'side-bars' – and adverts being printed, or the lines of text being 'chopped off' so much that the context of the minutes was hard to interpret.

The 'brain-wave' of using the Snipping Tool to select and save the required area of the e-mail page to a JPEG file did not enter my head until a few minutes after I departed the club, so we had to employ the time-honoured method of copying and pasting into a Word document.

Senior moment???

Dennis Murray

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

September 5th

at 1:00 pm OPEN's MONTHLY MEETING

at 7:00 pm LCG's MONTHLY MEETING

Followed by “A Short Trip To The Cloud” - using the program 'Dropbox' showing how files can be accessed from any computer, anywhere.

And, time permitting, an update on Windows 8.

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Don't forget that 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

FINDING 'LOST' FILES (re-printed)

Windows Vista and Windows 7 are very good at finding misplaced files, folders and even programs.

Press the 'Windows' key, type in a few letters of the program you wish to locate and it should be displayed at the top of the Start Menu.

To find files in Windows Explorer view use the 'wildcard' method e.g. to find all the JPEG files on your computer type *.jpg in the Search box just below the Minimise button. The asterisk (*) symbol tells Windows to look for any combination of numbers or letters before the 'dot'.

“WINDOWS 8 FOR HUMANS”

There are times when I wonder if ‘we’ as a computer community over-react to the arrival of a new operating system. After all an ‘OS’ is just an environment in which you perform the computer tasks that are of interest to you.

For example, a Word 2003 document looks pretty much the same whether you are writing it on an XP computer or the latest Windows 7 machine. Those members with an interest in photo enhancement have probably found that Paint Shop Pro works on most OS’s although there may be some problems if you’re trying to run older versions on 64-bit computers due to technical limitations.

The first thing I do when trying out a new OS is to see how many of my ‘old faithful’ free programs will co-exist with the new OS e.g. Open Office, Print Artist 3 and 4 and the two that start with ‘I’ and ‘P’. As far as Windows 8 is concerned the answer is “Fairly well”.

The most radical change with Windows 8 is the **Metro Interface** where the ‘desktop’ appears to be a giant mobile phone screen. So instead of seeing the familiar stylised ‘W’ and ‘E’ icons for MS Word and MS Excel you will be confronted by somewhat bland squares called **Tiles** with the Programs’ names on them.

In its ‘native’ form the Metro interface contains many Tiles that are links to on-line Games and Services i.e. you need to be connected to the ‘Net to use them. Most of these were the first things that I removed from the Metro desktop to make room for my ‘freebies’.

I then discovered that it is fairly easy to switch between the Metro screen and the traditional desktop where you can set your own pleasant background if required. You can also have the icons that you’ve come to know and love but be prepared to do a bit of work—you’ll need to find your way to the respective Programs folders and manually create shortcuts.

Accessing some of the common Control Panel functions through Metro can also be a long-winded process so I created shortcuts to the most frequently used items and placed them in a desktop folder. The W8 Demo computer is on the front desk at OPEN. Please ask to have a look.

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT IN 2012 ALL OF JUDY’S
MORNING CLASSES WILL **START AT 10 AM**
AND NOT 9 AM AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS**

FAMILY HISTORY ON-LINE

September 12 — 1 pm to 3:00 pm

September 26 — 10 am to noon

Judy Hall and the team will guide you through the processes required to research your ancestry.

New 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 are limited to 8 people.

SPECIAL CLASS WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 19

10 am to 12 noon

iPads, tablets, e-readers, netbooks, and ultrabooks!

Honeycomb, Icecream Sandwich and Jelly Bean?

If you don’t have the faintest idea what all these terms mean then please come along to our special >>>>>

“PORTABLE THINGS” FORUM AND DEMONSTRATION

What are the benefits? What are the limitations? Can you do the same things on these devices as on your PC Mac or laptop?

See the devices in action. Hear the experiences of those members who use them. It promises to be an interesting two hours.

Session Fee :

\$5.00

BASIC GRAPHICS

Please check the registration sheets at the club to find out if there are places available.

The dates for the next classes are :
Graphics Workshop September 5
10 am to 12 noon

Graphics Workshop September 12
10 am to 12 noon

The aim of the Basic Graphics course is to equip participants with the skills required to enhance photos and includes transferring the images to a computer through scanning and from portable media devices. The Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8 programs are then used to restore the images to ‘as new’ condition.

LEVEL 2 & 3 GRAPHICS

With Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8

Wednesday September 19 1:00 to 3.30 pm

Paint Shop Pro XI Advanced Class
Wednesday September 26 1:00 to 3.30 pm

These classes are designed for people who have completed the Basic Graphics classes, and involves more advanced features of the Paint Shop Pro graphics programs.

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions \$5.00

[Some special tutorial materials may incur additional charges]

Monday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Basics and Beyond
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
Additional afternoon sessions as shown at right —>		

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SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date	Time	Topic	Details
September 5	10 am—12 noon	Graphics Workshop	An extra session for members doing the Basic Graphics course.
	1 pm onwards	OPEN Monthly meeting	Have your input into how our club operates
	7:15 pm	LCG Monthly meeting	A quick meeting followed by aFREE workshop session in which we will explore the potential of 'The Cloud'.
September 12	10 am—12 noon	Basic Graphics	A class for members learning Basic Graphics techniques to enhance photos.
	1 pm—3.30 pm	Family History	With Judy and Margaret G. On-line assistance from Ancestry.com is available for a small fee.
September 19	10 am—12 noon	Portable Devices Forum and Demonstration	A special session to discuss and demonstrate the various types of portable computers—iPads, tablets, netbooks, ultrabooks and e-readers.
	1 pm—3.30 pm	Level 2 and 3 Graphics Class	Use Paint Shop Pro versions 7 and 8 to perform advanced graphics tasks.
September 26	10 am—12 noon	Family History	Use our the considerable range of resources to trace your ancestors.
	1 pm—3.30 pm	Level 3 Advanced Graphics	Advanced topics using Paint Shop Pro XI
EXTRA AFTERNOON SESSIONS for members on the Waiting List		Additional beginners classes are being held on Monday afternoons from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm and on Friday afternoons from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.	

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COORDINATORS CORNER

Hello Everyone,

Its been a little while since I last chatted with you, as I have not had much to report, but this month I am certainly making up for it.

First of all at the time of this newsletter going to print, on **Friday the 21st September** C.O.T.A (Council Of The Aging) is going to be coming to O.P.E.N to do two sessions.

One is **"Beyond Blue"** and the other is **"Cyber Security"**. As I mentioned those are the subjects at the time of going to print. The subjects for the sessions could change. So watch the notice board and posters for more info.

Obviously there won't be normal classes conducted on that day.

From Monday the 1st of October till Friday the 5th of October O.P.E.N will be hosting special free sessions to coincide with Seniors Week.

There will be no regular day classes during Seniors Week. The planned timetable is shown in the column to the right but be aware that it may be changed.

There will be a registration book at the club with places allocated on a 'first-in best-dressed' basis. Bookings will be available from Monday the 3rd September till Friday the 24th September.

To have room for people who are non-members to participate in Seniors Week there will be a limited number of places available to members .

We will also be looking for people to help with 'meet-and-greet' duties (hosts), and catering etc.

If you are interested please see me for more information.

Rob Tierney

SENIORS WEEK TIMETABLE

Date	Time	Subject
Monday 1 st October	10am-12 noon	How to buy a computer
	1 pm—3 pm	The Coming of Windows 8
Tuesday 2 nd October	10am-12 noon	"Android" and Tablet computers
	1 pm—3 pm	Apple Mac Demonstration
Wednesday 3 rd October	10am-12 noon	"Come and See" Members at Work
	1 pm—3 pm	"Come and See" Members at Work
Thursday 4 th October	10am-12 noon	The Coming of Windows 8
	1 pm—3 pm	Internet and You
Friday 5 th October	10am-12 noon	Mobile Phones for Beginners
	1 pm—3 pm	11th Birthday Afternoon Tea

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY CHARGES FOR THESE SESSIONS



Search engine giant Google has just announced its

Google+ social networking platform that's set to rival Facebook. At present there are over 100 social media sites on the internet so do we really need another? Check this link ...

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_social_networking_websites]

Well, for the Social Networking People Out There, This is a brief description:-

Each **Google+** profile will centre around the Stream, which is essentially the same thing as Facebook's news feed - where all of your info and updates from your chums are rounded up and constantly updated. The Stream will be joined by four core elements - Circles, Hangouts, Huddles and Sparks - with Google hinting that these are the starting block for future developments.

Circles

Google wants to make sharing online more like sharing in real life - different things with different people. For example, you might want to catch up with your pals about your drunken Saturday night out, but you don't necessarily want your parents in on your chat. You can keep your conversations separate by putting your contacts into 'circles' such as 'Work crew', 'Uni mates' and 'Parents'.

Hangouts

As the name suggests, this feature is all about hanging out with your buddies, virtually, or course. You can choose specific friends, or circles, to invite for a face-to-face video chat and anyone in the Hangout can invite others to join as well.

Huddles

You know when you're trying to arrange a night out by having several different text conversations with a number of friends? If so, you'll know how long-winded and confusing it can become. The idea behind a Huddle is that you can turn all these exchanges into one big group chat to save you time.

(continued on page 8)



(continued from page 6)

Sparks

Tell Sparks what sort of stuff you're into and it'll send you things that you might be interested in that you can then watch, read or share. For example, you could type 'Films' into the search box and see what comes up. If you like the results, then you can click the 'Add Interest' button to add Films to your list of important subjects.

Privacy

Most social networks, Facebook included, have run into trouble over privacy concerns at some point or another, so what is Google+ doing to address it? You'll be able to alter your visibility settings so that only your name and photo will appear online to people that aren't in your network. However, if you're in a circle on a friend's public profile, then your picture will appear on there (but clicking on it wouldn't go anyway if your privacy settings are on). You'll be able to assign different levels of visibility to different aspects of your profile. You can also choose whether your profile is indexed by search engines and, as with Facebook, you'll be able to block people.

Backing up data

One of the biggest worries with uploading photos to Facebook is that one day the site will retire from public life, taking our cherished memories with it. Obviously canny computer users already make sure that anything they upload is backed up at home and likewise, Google+ has recognised that we don't all want to live exclusively 'in the Cloud'.

Mobile

Supported by the Chrome, IE, Firefox and Safari browsers, Google+ will also be available on mobile devices - a vital element for any social networking platform. As well as sharing your thoughts and location from your mobile, you'll be able to check into places and make use of the group messaging feature, Huddle.

Bruce Dineen

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MICROSOFT DUMPS HOTMAIL

Microsoft has decided to retire a brand which has been with it for the last 15 years – free Internet-based email service Hotmail. The company took a decision to fold it in under the familiar name of Outlook.



Indeed, Hotmail was one of the first popular Internet mail services, but later had to face the competition from Yahoo, AOL, and Google's Gmail. This move looks like an attempt to consolidate the company's consumer and workplace brands: although Hotmail used to be an all powerful force on the Internet, and there are still a lot of active users, Redmond is about the simplistic approach in Windows 8 and decided to bring two brands in under a single and well-known name.

Press reports confirm that Microsoft wants to bring in a product refresh for a brand which has not seen changes for many years. Redmond (*Microsoft's home town*) is going to tie it in closer to other Microsoft services, like the Google and Apple models, thus introducing a central point for contacts, email, and non-Microsoft related services, such as Facebook and Twitter. In the meantime, the Outlook.com update shows an address book which brings in contacts from the 3rd party services like Gmail, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Like Google, Microsoft is going to include a cloud storage service tied in with Outlook.com. **(continued next column)**

MICROSOFT DUMPS HOTMAIL (cont)

The industry experts point out that the software giant seems to be taking a direct shot at Google, promising that it wouldn't show advertisements that fit with email considered "creepy" by the company. It is clear that Microsoft is riding the coat-tails of the privacy concerns surrounding Google and other Internet services, claiming they believe "that privacy matters".

As for Hotmail, it will continue working for now, but all of its users will be offered the option to transfer to Outlook.com, while keeping their current usernames. In the meantime, emails sent to Hotmail accounts will be automatically forwarded to Outlook.com. Gradually, the software giant is going to move all Hotmail users to another service.

The experts agree that the entire move looks like an effort to push a unified, simplified feel for Microsoft's new incoming Windows 8 and the Metro interface. The press also adds that this move is going along with the 'consumerisation of IT' trend. It's up to the users whether to move to Outlook.com now or wait a bit, but everybody will end up there, eventually.

Bruce Dineen

Editor's Note

It has been pointed out on some Internet forums that in the past there has often been some confusion between Outlook Express (*built in to the operating system up until XP*) and Outlook that is part of the Microsoft Office suite of programs.

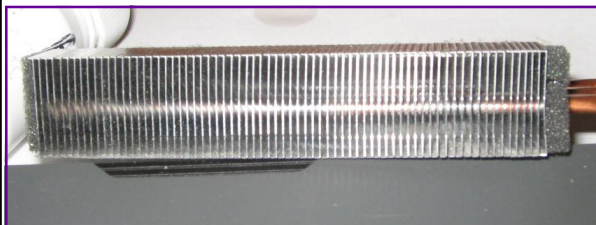
Will using the 'Outlook' name to describe the web-based e-mail program only add to the confusion??

OPEN NEWSLETTER — September 2012 "LAP-TOPICS"

SPRING-CLEAN YOUR LAPTOP

How long have you owned your laptop? Has it ever been serviced? Although laptops are 'sealed units' they may still be prone to the ravages of dust and fluff just like towers and desktop computers.

The picture below shows the CPU heat-sink of my aged Toshiba Satellite A40. This view is what I could see from the outside looking in—looks fairly clean, doesn't it?



However, the view of the inner side of the heat-sink tells a different story ...



The dust and fluff that had built up over several years would be most likely to cause over-heating as the airflow from the fan to the 'outside world' would be seriously impeded by the blockage.

Servicing laptops is a job for a professional computer technician—the circuitry and systems inside the case are quite complex and you should not attempt to do the job yourself.

For a detailed look at the procedures involved check out the video that I have placed on the OPEN server.

BE KIND TO YOUR LAPTOP

After you have taken a look at the video "**Disassembling An Acer 3680 Laptop**" that I mentioned in the previous column you should be able to appreciate why computer technicians often charge hourly rates of \$100 and above.

I chose the Acer 3680 video because I recently decided to disassemble one myself. The scenario was that the connector socket on the laptop had broken and therefore it was not charging the battery—it would be only a matter of time before the battery was completely flat.

As the owner had already decided to replace the laptop there was (*thankfully*) no pressure on me to restore it to working condition. The hard-drive had been removed so that the data on it could be transferred to the new laptop.

I haven't kept track of how many hours I spent on the disassembly procedures—just let's say that if you had to pay me \$100 an hour for my time you would definitely be better off to buy a new laptop. At the end of the process I found that I could buy a replacement power connector board from the USA for about \$20 including freight.

So you can see that even replacing a fairly cheap component can be an expensive process when you factor in the labour costs. I'll let you know if I get it fixed.

Tips for keeping your laptop safe?

1. Be careful not to knock the power connector socket—the internal pin of the socket is often thin and quite fragile.
2. Be careful not to bump any plug-in USB devices – you may damage the device or the port that it plugs into. Connect with a hub or short USB cable.
3. NEVER, EVER place drinks or liquids close to your laptop. The motherboard is just under the keyboard and permanent damage may be caused by spillage. If the unthinkable happens turn your laptop upside down, turn it off, disconnect the power cord—and the battery (*if you know how*). You may be lucky.

BE WARY OF "RUN-AWAY" TOUCH-PADS ON YOUR LAPTOP

In the page 3 article on 'Myth-Understandings' I mentioned that I had seen a case where a member had several copies of entire folders of Pictures in some locations that can only be described as **bizarre**.

Until quite recently I had no idea of how this could occur—until I was both a victim and an observer of the problem!

As some of you know I have a 'net-book', a small laptop with a 10-inch screen. It's so light and so easy to hold with one hand that I've become prone to using the dash thing while I'm in bed. Obviously if I'm holding it with my right hand that only leaves the left hand for operating the touch-pad and the keyboard.

Trying to hold down the 'mouse' button and roll across the touch-pad with one hand while propped up on the opposite elbow is not an easy task, and at times I've noticed (*some time later*) that I've accidentally moved a folder to a location where it shouldn't be.

I've also noticed this happening when I've been tutoring student members — the exercise we're working on might be a simple drag-and-drop but then out of the blue I notice the computer flashing a message that **IT** is about to do something that **WE** hadn't intended—such as moving an entire folder rather than moving just a single file.

Imagine you are about to Save (As) a file into your main Documents folder but find that the 'path' shown at the top of the dialog box is something like Libraries>My Pictures>My Documents—"How the heck?" you ask, "did the My Docs folder get inside the My Pics folder?" Having seen it happen in class I now have a better understanding.

I blame the design of touch-pads on modern laptops in which there is so little space between the 'clicking area' and the 'moving area' that it is possible to accidentally move and click when you only meant to move the pointer.

Older laptops had their mouse buttons placed a reasonable distance away from the touch-pad, but on many modern laptops the two areas are not as well-defined. On some there is no demarcation at all with 'mouse buttons', touch-pad and the surface of the laptop merging in to one area.