

# SOUTHERN DISTRICTS COMPUTER USERS CLUB INC.



**May 2009**

Club Web Site <http://videocam.net.au/sdcuci/indexhtml>

Editor Jim Greenfield

**MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of the Month, at Christ Church O'Halloran Hill 1708 Main South Road O'Halloran Hill at 7.30pm**

**Visitors most welcome.**

Cost \$2 per person, which includes the Newsletter plus coffee/tea and biscuits.

Subscriptions for twelve months Single \$18

Family membership \$24

Novice and experienced computer users will be warmly welcomed

**Southern Districts  
Computer Users Club  
Inc.**

For further information about S.D.C.U.C. Inc.

Contact The Club President,  
Jim Greenfield 83824912

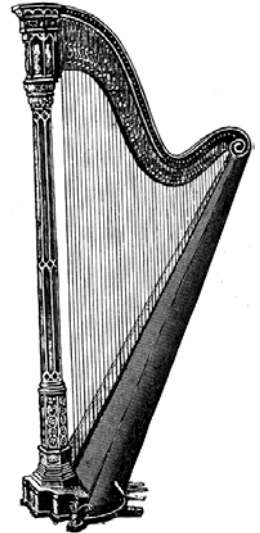
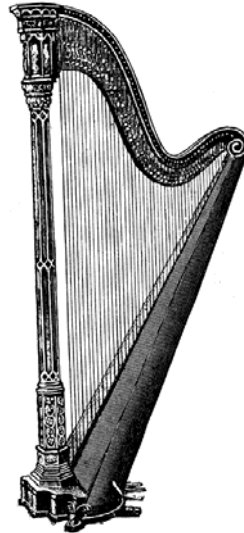
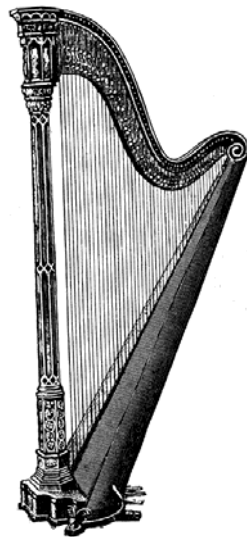
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May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lilly Steffe
Keith Jones	11 <sup>th</sup> May
Cynthia Wright	23 <sup>rd</sup> May
Carleen Stephens	26 <sup>th</sup> May



**HARP  
HARP**

**HARP**

Yes that's right

We keep on harping on the need to back up our personal data on our computer

You may be like me for various reasons do not get around to it.

We have no excuses.

Portable hard Drives ,memory sticks and DVD have come down in price

If you need help on the methods to Back-up your Data, please seek help from a club member

Do it now.....Tomorrow may be to late.

My recommendation is regularly back up.

Keep one back-up copy at a different location than the computer

Tonight guest speaker is Detective. Inspector Steve Atkinson from the SAPOL Helicopter Division.

His talk will be on the various aspects of the use of computers in Helicopter policing and other ways the computer is utilized in police work.

**On this Day 20th May 1927**

Charles Lindbergh took off from New York to cross the Atlantic for Paris aboard his airplane the "Spirit of St. Louis." The trip took 33 1/2 hours.

# Why Use Firefox Instead of Other Browsers?

There are many options for web browsers out there, but after trying several, there is only one I would recommend. There are many reasons as to why use Firefox instead of other browsers. I have created a list that details just a few of the answers the question: Why use Firefox instead?

## 1 Faster Browsing

Firefox is open source, so it is available for any programs to develop it for themselves and for all of us. That means Firefox has become the fastest browser available.

## 2 Tabbed Browsing

Having multiple windows open at once makes browsing annoying and confusing. Firefox has tabbed browsing, so you can open links in background tabs and read them when you're ready. Imagine surfing YouTube videos and being able to open five at once in separate tabs to let them load while you watch one. Then, just click on then next tab and your next video is ready to watch. To open a new tab, you just have to hold Ctrl while clicking a link.

## 3 Integrated Search Engine

[Firefox](#) comes with Google built in to the browser itself so that you don't have to open a Google search page. It takes up very little space on the toolbar and is extremely easy to use. With just a click, you can use that same search box to search Yahoo, Amazon, Ebay, Wikipedia, and almost any other site you use.

## 4 Popup Blocker

I set out to test Firefox's popup blocking capabilities by visiting a popup blocker test page. Firefox was able to close all 200 popups. For sites that you need to see popup windows, you can easily access the list of websites that the Firefox will allow.

## 5 Security

Most malicious plugins that bug your computer with viruses and malware are programmed for Internet Explorer. Firefox spares you the crashes and slow performance other browsers fail to protect you from.

## 6 Download Manager

Firefox's download manager allows you to control your downloads in a more streamlined fashion. For example, you can pause your download and continue it at a later time. The download manager also stores download information like size and location. It also gives a small notification at the lower right side of your screen after your download is complete.

## 7 Blocking Images

When visiting a site full of ads, your surfing is not only slower, but it is also very annoying. Firefox allows you the option to disable images on any pages you wish, preventing your browsing from slowing down. You can then unblock images with just a click.

## 8 Cleaner Interface

[Firefox](#) is not filled with clutter and buttons that take up space and make the browser look messy. It dedicates 4% more of its space to actual web pages than Internet Explorer does.

## 9 Page Previewing

When you right click on a page and select "page info" you can see a window that displays vast amounts of information about the web page including general information as well as all the links the page contains.

## 10 Less Hard Drive Space

Firefox is almost half the size of Internet Explorer which means that it takes less time to download and it takes up less of that precious space on your hard drive. That means your computer as a whole will run faster.

## Recommendation

I have found Firefox to be the best browser available. Downloading Firefox is free and fast and will make your browsing experience smoother and more streamlined. !

## Word 2003 Tips Keyboard short cuts

**Ctrl+U:** Standard underline

**Ctrl+Shift+D:** Double underline

**Ctrl+Shift+W:** Word underline

### Insert Date and Time

To insert the date and time into a Word 2003 document, there's no need to type it in. Just select "Insert" then "Date and Time" where you want this information to be in your current document. When the "Date and Time" dialog appears, choose the date or time format you want, then press "OK".

One other nice feature is that on this dialog, you can check "Update automatically". This way, every time you open and resave the document, the date and/or time are automatically changed to the current date and/or time.

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While every attempt has been made to verify that the information in this newsletter is correct, the Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc accept no responsibility for any inaccuracies.

Likewise no member of the committee or member of the Southern Districts Computer Users Club will accept any liability for any damage occurring to a computer, to any computer system and/or data from following instructions given in this newsletter.

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## **Firefox Keyboard shortcuts.**

It just takes a little while to learn these, but once you do, your browsing will be super fast.

( Here are some of the most common )

Shift-Spacebar (page up)

Ctrl+F (find)

Alt-N (find next)

Ctrl+D (bookmark page)

Ctrl+T (new tab)

Ctrl+K (go to search box)

Ctrl+L (go to address bar)

Ctrl+= (increase text size)

Ctrl+- (decrease text size)

Ctrl-W (close tab)

F5 (reload)

Alt-Home (go to home page)

## Have you recently acquired, or do you just want to learn more about operating, your computer?

The Club conducts classes on a wide range of subjects, at a very moderate charge.

The maximum number in class is five.

(Our aim is to conduct the classes in a friendly non-threatening atmosphere)

Some of the classes that are available:-

1. Basic Computing (Stage One and / or Stage Two)
2. Advanced Word
3. Internet workshops
4. Digital Cameras

**For more information contact a committee member.**

### TONGUE TWISTERS *BETTY BOTTER*

Betty Botter bought some butter,  
'But', she said, 'this butter's  
bitter;  
If I put it in my batter  
It will make my batter bitter;  
But a bit of better butter,  
Better than the bitter butter –  
That would make my batter  
better.'

So she bought a bit of butter  
Better than the bitter butter,  
And made her bitter batter better.  
So 'twas better Betty Botter  
Bought a bit of better butter.

# Dynamic Mechanix

## Automotive Repairs


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## MEETING RULES

NO SMOKING NO DRINKING NO SWEARING

We are allowed to use the facilities at Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill in return of a small fee plus respect for their property. We ask for your co-operation in respect to the above. While we can not control what our members do away from our club meetings, Piracy of copyright material can not be condoned at our meetings.

## I'M FINE, THANK YOU!!



There is nothing the matter with me.  
I'm healthy as I can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees,  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,  
**But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.**

Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
But every morning I find I'm all right.  
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin,  
**But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.**

The moral is this as my tale I unfold –  
That for you and me who are growing old,  
It's better to say, 'I'm fine!' with a grin,  
Than to let folks know the shape we are in.



How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well, my 'Get up and go' has got up and went.  
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin,  
Of all the grand places my 'Get up' has bin.

Old age is golden I've heard it said,  
But, sometimes, I wonder, as I get into bed.  
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the table until I wake up,  
'Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,  
'Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?'



When I was young my slippers were red,  
I could kick my heels over my head.  
When I was older my slippers were blue,  
But still I could dance the whole night through.

Now I am old my slippers are black,  
I walk to the store, and puff my way back.  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
Then pick up the paper and read the 'Obits.'  
If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead,  
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed.

**My thanks young Joan Casey for sending me this poem**

## Word 2003 Tip Add Blinking Lights Around Your Text

*Summary: Add lights and sparkles to make your Word 2003 document stand out.*

Designing a Word 2003 document and need to have certain text REALLY stand out? Highlight the text and then do the following:

1. Right-click and choose "Font".
2. When the "Font" multi-tabbed dialog box appears, click the "Text Effects" tab.
3. Now, choose from a variety of effects for your text:
  - \* Blinking Background
  - \* Las Vegas Lights
  - \* Marching Black Ants
  - \* Marching Red Ants
  - \* Shimmer
  - \* Sparkle Text
4. Click "OK" to close the

## Email Etiquette

**Don't forward virus hoaxes and chain letters.**

If you receive an email message warning you of a new unstoppable virus that will immediately delete everything from your computer, this is most probably a hoax. By forwarding hoaxes you use valuable bandwidth and sometimes virus hoaxes contain viruses themselves, by attaching a so-called file that will stop the dangerous virus. The same goes for chain letters that promise incredible riches or ask your help for a charitable cause. Even if the content seems to be bona fide, the senders are usually not. Since it is impossible to find out whether a chain letter is real or not, the best place for it is the recycle bin.

## From the Editor

Read this article on the Web

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2008/apr/18/vista-is-the-future-time-to-just-let-xp-go/>

I do not agree with some of the comments

This is proof that your Editor is not Bias to supporters of Vista

The authors comment about *Windows Millennium* in the second to last paragraph really upset me!!!!

(I just hope they will open their eyes to the real world of Computing)

Microsoft plans to discontinue sales of Windows XP on new computers on June 30, completing the company's transition to Windows Vista. The end of the XP era was originally planned for late 2007, but Microsoft gave its old operating system a stay of execution after listening to feedback from consumers and industry partners.

InfoWorld, a technology industry publication, is hosting a petition that allows consumers to pledge their support for Windows XP being sold beyond June. At press, more than 111,000 people have signed it.

Microsoft will continue providing tech support for XP through April 2009 and security updates through 2014. The significance of the June 30 deadline is that anyone purchasing a machine from Dell, HP or any other major manufacturer will be forced to adopt Windows Vista as the operating system.

I assure you, it won't hurt.

It's frustrating to read other technology columnists and magazines recommending that consumers keep installing XP on their new machines. XP was released in October 2001. As a point of reference, the original iPod was released in the same month.

The first generation iPod had 5 gigabytes of storage, a black-and-white video screen and was as thick as a pack of cigarettes. Today, it's much thinner and has 160GB of storage. Or, you can buy the more advanced iPhone.

The amount of innovation between Vista and XP is no less. Vista introduced improved search and browsing support in the Windows shell, improved stability and sidebar Gadgets. More important than the superficial updates, Vista is a more secure system than XP, which can help reduce malware and viruses.

Vista is the foundation for the future of Windows-based computing. Recommending to someone purchasing a new computer, one that he plans to use for the next three to five years, to install XP is irresponsible.

One of the main arguments against Vista is its speed compared with XP. Most PCs shipping today are built with a minimum of 1GB of memory and a graphics card capable of running all the bells and whistles offered by Vista. XP will run faster on these machines, but only because it was designed for machines running on 2001 hardware. Pentium 4, anyone?

Others argue that Vista isn't compatible with all printers and third-party accessories purchased in the past decade. Look at it as an opportunity to upgrade your antiquated hardware with the latest offerings.

If you're still using a peripheral that doesn't connect via USB, it's time to send it to the recycling center. For those who remember, the jump from Windows 3.1 to Windows 95 was just as substantial. We all survived then, and I promise we will get through Vista together.

Vista is not without its flaws, but it's not the worst operating system Microsoft has ever released (I'm looking at you, Windows Millennium).

If you are purchasing a new machine, stop fretting over Vista and start embracing it.

Justin Williams is a local blogger and the owner of Second Gear, a local Web and software development firm. He can be reached at [justin@secondgearllc.com](mailto:justin@secondgearllc.com).

### **Word 2003 Tip** **Raise or Lower Text**

*Summary: For emphasis, you can raise or lower blocks of text in your Word 2003 documents.*  
For emphasis, you may wish to raise or lower certain text inside your [Microsoft Word 2003](#) documents. While you can raise whole blocks of text, it may make sense to raise or lower certain words or phrases inside a paragraph.

1. Highlight the word(s) you want to raise or lower.
2. Select the "Format" - "Font" menu or right-click the text and choose "Font".
3. When the "Font" multi-tabbed dialog box appears, click the "Text Effects" tab.
4. Next to "Position", click the combo box and select either "Normal", "Raised", or "Lowered".
5. If you selected "Raised" or "Lowered", next to "By", enter the number of points (or your configured measurement unit) that you want the text raised or lowered.
6. When done, click "OK" to close the dialog box.

## Your Notes