

Thanks to the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts from ASCCA

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2015 ASCCA Competitions See Page 3



SMSA Director Carole O'Brien and SMSA Secretary Grahame Marks made a very welcome visit to the ASCCA Training Room to personally present a generous grant cheque to ASCCA's President Nan Bosler and Vice President Joan Craymer during ASCCA's March Board Meeting. Photo Melanie Ryan SMSA.

Perhaps some of our Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) Members and Visitors have wondered about the significance of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts (SMSA), from whom we rent our office space and training room on the lower ground floor at 280 Pitt Street, Sydney - and hire the Mitchell Theatre on the first floor, for many of our public events like our recent Seniors Week, "Meet Your Ancestors Forum".

The SMSA is an institution of great cultural and historic importance for the people of Sydney. It was founded on 22nd March 1833 to fill an urgent need for adult education with the stated objectives of; "The intellectual improvement of its members and the cultivation of literature, science and art." The SMSA followed up these goals with

the setting up and maintenance of a library and reading room, the delivery of lectures and the encouragement of many forms of social, intellectual and physical recreation, including public debates.

It was through the efforts of Rev. Henry Carmichael, the first Vice President, that the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts was founded in response to the needs of artisans and tradesmen he had tutored on his voyage to Sydney. Governor Burke supported the idea and became the first patron of the institution. The Mitchell Theatre is named for the Surveyor-General, Major Thomas Mitchell who was the founding President.

The SMSA quickly became the centre of colonial Sydney's intellectual, cultural and political

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ASCCA NOTICE BOARD

31 March & 1 April 2015 - you will be able to visit the Seniors Hub at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, where ASCCA will once again be represented

3 - 8 May 2015 - Privacy Awareness Week, NSW

11 - 17 May, 2015 - National Volunteer Week - The theme this year is "Give Happy, Live Happy"
<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>

17 May, 2015 - United Nations World Telecommunications and Information Society Day. 2015, marks the 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union <http://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/Pages/default.aspx>

18 - 24 May 2015 - National Consumer Fraud Week - "Get smarter with your data."

17 & 18 November, 2015 - **The 17th Annual ASCCA Computer Conference for Seniors** will take place at the Rydges World Square Hotel, Sydney - with the ASCCA AGM to take place at 3.30 pm on 17th November at the conclusion of the first day of the Conference

HAVE YOU PUT THE 17TH ASCCA COMPUTER CONFERENCE DATES IN YOUR DIARY ?

Continued from Page 1 **Thanks to the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts from ASCCA**

life and the provider of Australia's first technical education for trades in 1865. Just over a decade later, they established the Working Men's College which can claim to be the "ancestor" of our TAFE Colleges of today and the precursor to both the University of New South Wales and the University of Technology, Sydney. The early success of these technical classes contributed to the economic growth of the NSW Colony - and the library, the heated debates and the opportunities to explore new ideas, attracted many leading citizens of Sydney, including Billy Hughes and a number of up-and-coming Australian Prime Ministers.

The diversity of the interests of the prominent citizens of early Sydney who have been members of the SMSA points to a policy of social and cultural inclusion far ahead of the times. It was only five months after the school was started, Louisa Lawson, the activist for women's rights was admitted as a member - and the enrolment of women in classes dates from the 1860s. The names of the explorer Ludwig Leichhardt; poets Henry Lawson and Henry Kendell and the "Father of Federation" Sir Henry Parkes; all of whose exploits were part of our early schooling are in the lists of members.

Probably the best reasons for the continuing success of the SMSA, are that it has never abandoned its original roots and goals and has continued to support any person who wants to improve their life by embracing the opportunities of educating themselves and keeping pace with all the facets of an ever changing world.

Today you can still attend lectures, seminars

and workshops on issues of current affairs, literature, science and the arts and follow up with interviews and published papers arising from these activities. Today the library embraces new technologies like eBooks and eMagazines and has many titles available for borrowing by members. This means you don't need to physically travel to the library to borrow these "volumes".

Visit this link to find out about all the fantastic benefits of becoming a SMSA member.
<http://smsa.org.au/join/>

On occasion, the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts make grants of up to \$10,000 available to educational and cultural bodies whose work upholds their values. Recently, ASCCA has been delighted to receive a generous grant of **\$10,000 from SMSA**, to contribute towards the cost of preparing our tutorials and training materials which are constantly being updated and refined to help bring computer training to all seniors.



When our welcome visitors from SMSA dropped in to present the cheque, David Bennett included Jenny Willcox from Walpole, WA, David Numb from EuroSCUG, Moruya, NSW and Allan Mickelson from PC Users, Canberra, ACT, in the proceedings via SKYPE which we use for our Board Meetings.

ASCCA 2015 Digital Photography & Creative Writing Competitions Launch

Our 2015 ASCCA Digital Photography and Creative Writing Competitions are now open and we look forward to entries from members from every ASCCA Club in Australia. Although we do offer an award for the most successful club these are very much individual competitions. Our **Champion Photographer** or **Champion Writer** for 2015 could well be the only entrant from the smallest club in Australia - so we hope you make this the year YOU enter!

Our generous judges **Geoff Beatty** from **Still Photography** in the Blue Mountains and **Mike Murphy** a WA **Journalist**, were both very positive when asked if they were available to judge again this year.

Once again there are seven categories for Photography and each entrant may present one photograph for each category. All photographs must have been taken on a digital camera after 30th August 2014; by a financial member of an ASCCA Club - who is not a professional photographer.

Please Note that there has been a change in Category 7 for 2015

- 1. Photo Journalism**
- 2. Photo Travel**
- 3. People/Portrait**
- 4. Landscape/Seascape**
- 5. Landscape, Structural/Manmade**
- 6. Animal (s)**
- 7. Open** - In response to many requests for an OPEN Category which allows our members to enter subjects not necessarily covered in the other six categories.

Our Creative Writing Judge, Mike Murphy is very interested in encouraging writers and recognising their potential by awarding "Highly Commended" certificates and taking the time to write "feedback comments" for every writer who enters. This is an amazing commitment on Mike's behalf and a great opportunity for our members to discover their strengths and weaknesses.

This year Mike has suggested just three topics, with an opportunity to write one poem and one story for each topic. However you are also welcome to write just one or two stories or poems if that is your wish. This competition is not open to professional writers and entrants must be a financial member of an ASCCA Club.

The three topics are;

- 1. Open**
- 2. I remember ...**
- 3. The day the rain came**

For your stories there is a limit of 1,000 words or less and for the poems 300 words or less.



ASCCA is disappointed to announce that there will be no **Club Newsletter** or **Club Website Competition** for 2015. This decision has been reluctantly taken because the number of clubs who have entered the competitions has been consistently declining - indicating that this competition is not valued by the majority of Clubs. Thank you to all those who have been enthusiastic participants in the past and we wish you continuing success in the future.

Don't forget to visit the ASCCA Stand at the Seniors Hub at the Sydney Royal Easter Show - Hosted by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services and Telstra - at the Big Top Amphitheatre Lawn



Seniors Days - Tuesday 31 March & Wednesday 1 April 9am - 5pm

For the first time, Seniors can take advantage of great value admission prices on **Seniors Days**. **The Seniors Hub** will be a hive of activity, but will also provide plenty of shade and seating, with complimentary tea and coffee served between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

There will be great exhibitions, attractions and competitions for Seniors and they can also enter "The Show Through My Eyes" photo competition at the Seniors Hub to be in the running for great prizes and use their Seniors Card to get discounts and special offers around the grounds.

Go Digi - Digital Inclusion



People who attended the 2014 ASCCA Computer Conference on Day 2, will already have heard something of the concept of this very important new **Go Digi Digital Inclusion Program** and met Tegan from Infoxchange; shown here with Nan Bosler, exploring the latest developments at the recent launch.

The Go Digi Program was launched on Thursday 26th February at the National Library of Australia in Canberra and ASCCA's President Nan Bosler OAM was there, to represent and speak for our members and the needs of all seniors at the official launch in the morning and the Forum which was held in the afternoon.

There are still almost four million Australians who are increasingly disadvantaged by not being online, so this Go Digi joint initiative of **Australia Post** and **Infoxchange**, with support from partners like ASCCA, will tackle the key issues of digital literacy by improving the online confidence and building up skills for the one in five Australians who are not yet online. Research shows these people are missing out on the social, educational and health benefits, particularly for people who are isolated for a variety of reasons.

At the heart of the Go Digi program is an online platform that supports learners, mentors and network partners with learning guides, face-to-face learning, community pop-up events and a series of talks called Digital Conversations.

This is a four year program for national digital literacy with the ambitious goal of supporting more than 300,000 Australians to improve their digital skills.

Together Infoxchange and Australia Post are working partners and communities around Australia - focusing on the following audiences:

- Ageing community members
- Regional and remote communities.
- CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities
- Indigenous communities
- Small businesses

The Go Digi platform has 6 components to help people realise their online potential. The establishment of the Go Digi Network will amplify and accelerate the work that many organisations across Australia are already undertaking to improve online skills. These include, local government, libraries, neighbourhood houses and many other not-for-profit organisations who will be invited - as partners - to add their face to face learning events to the Online Platform and use the free Go Digi learning materials on a needs basis.

The Go Digi Launch was hosted by former Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett who said; "The participation of community partners will heighten awareness and understanding and drive wider digital engagement." To learn more about Go Digi visit www.godigi.org.au



**GIVE HAPPY
LIVE HAPPY** Just a few hours of volunteer work makes a difference in happiness and mood, so we are asking Australians to give as much time as they can!

We take this opportunity to say thanks to the many volunteers who help make our communities stronger. Their efforts and commitment are appreciated. Thanks to you all.

ASCCA'S Meet Your Ancestors Forum Inspired NSW Seniors



On **Friday 20th March** around 90 seniors were present when **ASCCA** presented its free **MEET YOUR ANCESTORS INTERACTIVE FORUM**. We certainly did our best to follow the Seniors Week theme and inspire our audience to either begin or continue with renewed enthusiasm to take up the fun of being detectives and looking for all the clues to pass on the stories of their ancestors to following generations.

Alan Craymer from Computer Pals for Seniors Epping was the MC and introduced our very favourite Seniors Week Ambassador, ASCCA's president, Nan Bosler OAM, who welcomed everyone to this event - which was her personal inspiration. As an enthusiastic First Fleeter, Nan is a very experienced Family History explorer who just loves to share her knowledge with others.

Mark Young, ASCCA's ever helpful Technical Officer, took the audience on a relaxed and fascinating journey through various methods and programs for working on different aspects of Family History Research and presentation. Sometimes we feel a little overwhelmed about what to do with our ever expanding collection of different bits of information, so this was a very useful way to begin our presentations.



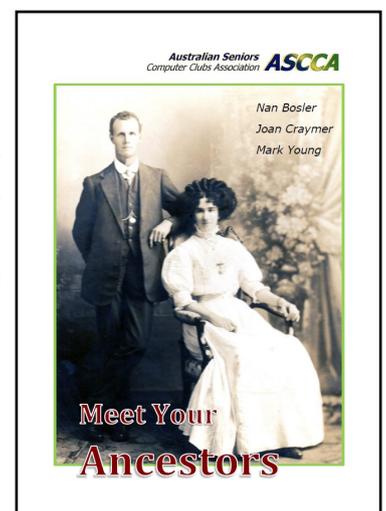
Nan returned to cover many interesting and sometimes overlooked resources and avenues for research into the day to day lives and times of your ancestors and the society and homes in which they lived and worked. There was some real inspiration about how to present the stories of real people and not just lists of names and dates.

Next we were entertained by ASCCA's Training Officer Diane Brentnall, as she took the audience on an adventure to discover and recapture their memories and feelings about the places they and other family members had lived in previous times. With the magic of Google maps we were captivated and inspired by our armchair journeys.

The final topic was more serious, but extremely topical as our ASCCA Vice President Joan Craymer shared her experiences in uncovering the military history of our World War 1 soldiers. She encouraged us to weave the official documents into the history of the battalions and units in which the men served as we place the stories of their lives and deaths in the overall fabric of the family story. The audience was encourage to make a memorial book to ensure our Anzacs are not forgotten after the Centenary is over.

Everyone who attended the Forum received a free copy of a 36 page professionally printed and bound book containing all the helpful information passed on by our Forum Speakers and more ... !

Copies of this "stand alone" Family History Resource can be purchased from ASCCA for \$25 + \$3 postage and handling.



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Membership of **ASCCA** is open to all Seniors Computer Clubs, Organisations with a membership including Seniors, and organisations that recognise the value of computer technology for Seniors.

Cost of **ASCCA** membership
Up to, and including, 40 members - \$110 Incl. GST
Over 40 and up to 100 members - \$150 Incl. GST
Over 100 members - \$250 Incl. GST
Corporate Membership also welcome.

If you fit one of those categories and are interested in joining **ASCCA** please go to our website www.ascca.org.au or email office@ascca.org.au to find out how to start a club or read some of the advantages of joining **ASCCA** if you are an existing club. An Application Form is available on the website.

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Newsletter Editor:
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Contributions are welcome. Remember this is **YOUR NEWSLETTER**. Please take special note clubs outside Sydney and NSW. Please forward contributions by email to the editor.

Pass on this issue of the ASCCA newsletter by printing copies for distribution, or make a list of all your club members with email addresses and forward it to them. It is of interest to each member of every club, not just Committee members.

The newsletter can also be read and/or downloaded from our website: - www.ascca.org.au You are welcome to copy items from this newsletter but acknowledgment of **ASCCA** is required.

An EXPO and a Concert to "Inspire" NSW Seniors

The NSW Seniors Week EXPO was held in the Qantas Credit Union Arena on Level 1 on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th March alongside the Premier's Seniors Week Gala "Viva Las Vegas" Concert. There were around 25 stands of interest to Seniors, including a stand for **ASCCA** within the "**TECH SAVVY HUB**" at the EXPO.

Our **ASCCA** staff and volunteers were kept busy supplying details of clubs in the local area of hundreds of visitors and answering all



kinds of questions, including some of a technical kind. There was a real "buzz" of excitement as many of the EXPO visitors looked around and moved on into the concert performances.

