

President's Report

Greetings,

Thank you all who were able to attend the AGM in September. It was a great opportunity to thank both Rod Roberts and Lynton Bradford for their contribution to the Computer Club over many years. Lynton in particular is retiring from active membership of the committee as past President and recently Vice-President.

This has meant some changes in the make-up of the Committee, in particular Neil Davidson moving to Vice President and myself moving to President.

A big thank you to those who nominated for the 2024-25 Committee and to those who have served last year and retired from committee duties. As a new President it will take a while to 'get up to speed' but the main focus will be in maintaining and improving the service of the club to all ARVCC club members. I would hope to maintain the Gatehouse Sessions and perhaps expand the offerings to some 'hands on' sessions for current topics of interest or refresher basics. Thanks to all who have renewed membership. We are here to help, so call in for assistance.

Brian McLauchlan

ARVCC Committee

Mowll

Brian McLauchlan (President)
Neil Davidson (Vice President)
Ruth Bunn (Reception)
Geoff Litchfield (Membership)
Merilyn Davidson (Supplies)

Warrina

Clare Hamilton (Catering)
Chris Keay (Reception)
Melanie Rankine (Welfare)

Nuffield

Elizabeth Pedersen (Treasurer)
John Gaffey (Genealogy)

Hopetoun

Rita Berryman (Reception)

Glenhaven Green

Jan Andrews (Village Rep)
David Makin (Secretary)

Bradford Rooms Ground Floor Lober House Phone 88531810

Email: computer.club@anglicare.org.au

Website:
<https://www.arvcc.org/>

The Club is open:
Tuesdays 0900-12 noon
Thursdays 0900-12 noon

For sales of cards, badges and other items just come in

Editor: Brian McLauchlan

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Bits & Bytes

October 2024

Anglicare Retirement Villages

Computer Club Inc. Newsletter



Connecting Residents with
Technology

What about AI?

Hello everyone,
There is a lot of talk about artificial intelligence or AI these days. Of course all of the IT businesses want to promote AI as another means of gaining income especially through sales of AI computers.

For most of us AI is probably unnecessary as we are not that concerned about a little extra performance of our computer. Be aware too that the apparent 'intelligence' of AI is just using logical rules to work out probable word positions in sentences. AI is NOT in any way thinking!

There are also many ethical and reliability issues that we all need to be aware of. Any commercial AI needs to be trained to recognise content that is relevant to its task. In most cases, the training material has been copied from existing internet material without any permission sought or granted. In anyone's interpretation, this must be

considered theft. One AI provider insisted that this was 'fair dealing' in a copyright sense. Fair dealing only allows for uses like study, review or news where some of the content may be quoted or read but not reused for commercial purposes.

There are current court cases against AI businesses alleging this theft. Actress Scarlett Johansson began a court case over duplication of her voice and the AI company quickly prevented any more 'Scarlett sounds'.

AI is also incapable of reliable discrimination between fact and fiction meaning there will be **mistakes** and what AI designers have called 'hallucination' where the **AI invents or creates information that is not factual.**

AI is also a prodigious user of electricity, estimated as 7 times more each time a new

version is developed. Many investors are worried that the billions spent on AI to date will not be converted into profitable returns to businesses that develop AI. Open AI, the ChatGPT developer was reputed to be within 12 months of bankruptcy before being bailed out by MS, Apple and others.

AI users and commentators have expressed the view that where AI is 'useful' it either requires extensive editing and checking or the results are able to be achieved just as easily by existing and simpler methods.

Windows 11 computers now have Copilot, an AI assistant. Apart from a few simple features, the big AI feature, called **Recall**, was recalled before public issue. This used AI to find stuff for you anywhere on your computer. Initial trials raised such big complaints about security that **the AI** was held back for improvements.

The likely real value in AI? In very targeted use like medical and other scientific research allowing many comparisons to be made and AI can do it quickly. But even scientists have been warned

about trusting AI models unless they can check results carefully.

So; AI: Use with care!
Brian McLauchlan

Cheap, cheap!

Worried about the cost of apps for your device? There are free or low-cost options but some of these may end up being a real nuisance. Some free apps are excellent with nothing to worry about. Some are great but might send you crazy with constant reminders to upgrade to the paid version or endless ads. There are also some excellent free alternatives to the paid software like MS Office if you do not need to use all the features.

Note too that some websites will sell you a normally expensive app for a much lower price than MS, Adobe or whoever. How do they do it? Apart from pirates with illegal copies, many are reselling what is known as OEM copies which are meant for computer builders and are supposed to be installed in a new computer as part of the purchase price.

The practice is not quite legal and if you buy from them you may have real problems if your computer

needs re-installation of the app. You may have problems with updates too. These copies may also be older versions of the software and so risk security issues when out of support. Likewise, if you are looking at apps for iPhone or Android mobiles, use the App stores where the apps have been checked. It is very rare for any security problems this way. Using a 'side loading' service may give you the app you want but it may also give you trouble like malware and identity theft.

Be aware that as mobile devices age, new apps may not install from the app store due to new technical requirements. If you need advice about apps for any device come to the Computer Club at Lober House and talk to us.

The Lighter Side of Tech



The Gatehouse Sessions

This Month:

Sat. 5th Octth Tech Session

Sat. 12th Octth Guest Speaker

Next Month

Saturday November 2nd

Tech Session Review

Speaker: Brian McLauchlan

Saturday November 9th

Launch of new ARVCC website. Bring your mobile or laptop and have a go!

Save the dates!

These are free technical and general interest presentations provided for members by Computer Club every month. Be there for a 10am start.

Where is it?

The Gatehouse is on Broughton Avenue in Mowll Village and is a meeting space where many clubs and groups meet.

The Computer Club has recently re-started regular sessions and hopes to maintain them if interest continues.

Club Website Coming Soon!

Geoff Litchfield our membership manager is also working hard on the final touches to our new club website. We hope it will add a new dimension of support and be a great source of information for all members.