

Computer Club Newsletter

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EMAIL: sussexpcug@shoalhaven.net.au Web: <https://sussexinlet.info/newsletter.html>

MAIL TO: Sussex Inlet PC Users Group P.O Box 6014 Sussex Inlet NSW 3540



30 years after the initial release of the operating system, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) — the United States (US) government agency responsible for overseeing civil aviation throughout the country — has announced its plans to phase Windows 95 out of air traffic control systems.

The news came in a recent FAA budget hearing in which the agency's head explained the intent to fully overhaul the infrastructure, moving to a modern operating system while also moving on from floppy disks and other archaic pieces of tech.

Believe it or not, special versions of old Windows operating systems like Windows 95 and Windows XP are still used extremely frequently in tech infrastructure worldwide.

Microsoft Windows is at the heart of much technological infrastructure in both the US and the world at large, with the operating system used for everything from transportation and medical machinery to public ATM machines and government systems. However, a significant portion of these still utilize older versions of the software due to the enormous cost and difficulty of integrating newer releases and the hardware it requires.

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MEETING REPORTS

Computer Club Meeting Tuesday 10th February 2026

Users helping Users. If you need some help with your electronic device, be it a smartphone, tablet, computer or smart television, come along, we may be able to help you.

Colin opened our first meeting for 2026 at 10.15 am and welcomed returning members, and on behalf of the group extended our best wishes to Bob, who is getting a bit of panel beating on a hip issue. After repairs are completed, we expect to see him guarding the door again, and supervising the entry rewards.

Recycling:

David has been busy during the break keeping the neighbourhood computers in order. His fame must be spreading because complete strangers were referred to him for assistance as well. A number of donated computers have avoided the Sussex tip recycler. One Windows 10 Laptop proved capable of a Windows 11 upgrade after persuasion from the Flyoobe application. An "all in one" desktop PC also had a 'forced' upgrade using Flyoobe. It performs ok, but is a little slow, probably because of an *old fashioned!* mechanical HDD. David also reported that he has 're-energised' another 3 laptops. All these computers are available for free from the Computer Club & would be ideal for students & seniors.

One of Bob's' neighbours presented David with what sounds like a cubic metre of assorted cables, none of which are much use (*but copper is becoming a precious metal!*)

Vintage software:

Colin W asked for assistance with his malfunctioning copy of the Picasa photo indexing application. David suggested that, although the app is no longer supported he may solve his problem by downloading a fresh copy from the UptoDown website & reinstalling.

Generic Inks:

Some discussion regarding generics vs. genuine ink cartridges. For those who feel safer with genuine, JBHiFi behind Hungry Jack's, in Nowra, offers some meaningful discounts on a wide range of inks. Those who don't mind generic ink were reminded of one of our sponsors, Affordable Inks & Cartridges whose details are displayed in our monthly Club Newsletter.

Best Buys:

Welcome back Tom R! Open earbuds, with a clip round the ear (*reminds me I owe my grandson one*)- online for \$100 approx. Also a **very** clever USB cable with articulated ends. \$12.

David admitted buying an iPhone to replace his present (very) elderly iPhone 7. He bought an iPhone SE 3rd gen. from an online store called Reebelo for \$180 free p&p. It arrived in excellent condition & he easily transferred all apps & data to the new phone by simply placing them side by side & following the prompts.

The Mower Report:

David illustrated pleasing success with his robot mower by giving it a two thumbs up, and John C reported an interesting and active Christmas break, culminating in a garage on wheels for his robot mower, the roof of which (flat) forms the base of the dogs' beds.

AI:

David's Christmas can't have been **all** that busy, because he demonstrated some cultural treasures that he and AI developed, including the lyrics for a rousing and motivating Christmas Jingle with a Sussex Inlet Computer Club Theme that was then combined with vocals & instruments (he chose a Reggae theme). Perhaps our members can be encouraged to sing along before the next Christmas function.

The Software Report:

John C reported on software called Spytify, which enables ad free recordings of Spotify music streams, but not (so far) ad free podcasts. **And speaking of podcasts...** "If you're listening" from the ABC 24 features productions with industry standard citations backing each production. Sat. 2.30 pm. John C also praised the virtues of a site called "Medium", which offers a wide range of interesting and current discussions and articles.

Closure:

The meeting ground to a reluctant halt at 12.03, and we'll all be back next Tuesday. We meet on the second, third and fourth Tuesday of the month, 10.00am in Function Room 3 of the Sussex Inlet RSL Club. A link to our Computer Club can be found at "Contacts" at sussexinlet.info or view our Facebook page.

Notes by John C Smith (apprentice scribe)

 <p style="text-align: center;">MAJOR CORPORATE EXPERIENCE</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">COMPUTER</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Repairs & Support <i>for your Business or Home computer</i></p> <h1 style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">4443 7732</h1>	<p style="text-align: center;">Affordable Inks and Cartridges</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Ink Cartridges both genuine and non-genuine XL range available</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Toner Laser Cartridges both genuine and non-genuine All at Club Prices</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We are here to help and support Club Members to save money</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office Hours Monday to Thursday 9 am to 4 pm -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(02) 6547 2817</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Email eastproducts@optusnet.com.au</p>
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MEETING REPORTS CONT'D

Computer Club Meeting Tuesday 17th February 2026

Users helping Users. We discuss the interests, issues and problems our members have in this digitally connected world be it with computer, tablet, smartphone or smart television.

We had some dramas with the visual connection to the big screen but with some help from the Duty Manager and a direct connection to the projector we eventually had a picture. Colin opened the meeting at 10.35am with 10 members attending. Our treasurer Bob is on a walking frame for another 6 weeks after his hip replacement operation.

Electronic Lounge:

On the Recycling Table we had a 2 speaker plus bass sound system and a palm rest as well as 2 APC magazines. In the refurbished computer department David has a laptop with a Linux OS a and Dell 24-inch All-in-One running Windows 11.

Problems:

John C Smith would like a session on how to drive a 3D printer, he has one but the user manual is in Chinese/English,

Learnt since last meeting:

As of late 2025 the Australian White Pages has officially ended online searches for residential listings. Thryx Australia, which manages the service continues to provide business and government listings online.

YouTube Video:

If you want to see a good parody of Donald Trump then watch the YouTube Video of how Donald Trump is going to make "Winter Great Again".

Learnt since last meeting:

As of late 2025 the Australian White Pages has officially ended online searches for residential listings. Thryx Australia, which manages the service continues to provide business and government listings online.

Graham Keast's laptop lost the Wi-Fi connect symbol on the taskbar. Dave plugged in a Wi-Fi dongle, Windows found the right driver and restored the Wi-Fi including the connect symbol. The Wi-Fi still worked after the dongle was removed.

Lorrae's Acer laptop would not boot into windows 10. The problem turned out to be caused by a flat CMOS battery. Unfortunately, Windows 10 had to be reinstalled after a fresh CMOS battery was fitted.

Tom Reece reported that a Microsoft Outlook mail account needs to be accessed intermittently otherwise it might be flagged as a dead account and removed .

Favourite App:

David, when Exetel passed their email service to a third-party provider with a subscription fee changed his email to Gmail. Another option is Atomic Mail which is a privacy focused, secure email provider based in Europe offering end-to-end encryption. There are free and paid versions.

ReadEra is an offline book reader application available for both Android and Apple devices. It supports multiple formats including PDF, EPUB, DOC, MOBI etc. It is free and there are no ads.

NBN Problems:

David was keen to upgrade his NBN to Fibre-to-the- Home to enjoy the Internet at 500 MB/sec for \$80 / month. He contacted his ISP Exetel and received emails saying the work was planned, then underway, then completed., but nothing had been done. He contacted Exetel to let them know that the work was not done. Apparently NBN had stuffed up and upgraded his neighbours NBN connection instead of his, a case of mistaken identity. David is still waiting for his upgrade.

The meeting closed at Noon.

We meet on the second, third and fourth Tuesday of the month, 10.00am in Function Room 3 of the Sussex Inlet RSL Club. Details of our Computer Club can be found at sussexinlet.info or on our Facebook page.

Richard Eggins

Computer Club Meeting Tuesday 24th February 2026

Colin opened the meeting at 10.20am with 10 members attending.

Electronic Lounge:

The only item on the Recycling Table this week was a Microsoft USB keyboard. If anyone needs a good laptop for browsing the Internet, sending emails or playing games David has an older HP Laptop with MX Linux installed. . He also has a Dell All-In-One desktop computer with a keyboard and mouse with Windows 11. His next project is to install Windows 11 on a HP Pavilion desktop computer, given to him by the CTC Centre, using the FlyOOBE tool.



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& COMPUTER NEEDS**

NOWRA
44 Berry St.,
Phone (02) 4423 0642

Jervis Bay Community & Mens Shed
Computer Training & Maintenance

12 The Basin Rd, St Georges Basin

First Thursday of the month
1pm to 3pm

Ring Colin Loudon on
0412 347 322 before attending.



MEETING REPORTS Cont'd

<p>Problems: John Smith has a Windows 10 laptop that keeps prompting him to upgrade to Windows 11 even though it doesn't meet the hardware requirements. These notifications are often generic marketing messages sent to all Windows 10 users, ignoring the specific hardware requirements. He should just continue ignoring these messages.</p> <p>ScamWatch: Tom has been receiving emails from his bank warning about scams and recommending that he change passwords regularly. According to the ACCC, romance scams remain one of the most financially and psychologically damaging financial crimes in Australia with more than \$28 million in financial losses reported in 2025. Scammers overwhelmingly contacted people through social media, dating platforms and online forums.</p> <p>Best Buys: Tom has bought a 14.5-metre-long cable to allow him to plug his headphones into his TV as the Bluetooth on his old Samsung TV doesn't connect to his headphone's Bluetooth. Richard recently wanted to improve his home Wi-Fi from his basic Telstra 2 Smart Modem. Through Facebook Marketplace he was able to buy a TP-Link AX800 Dual-Band Wi-Fi 6 Router for \$50 and a TP-Link AC2600 Wi-Fi 5 Range Extender for \$55. These work together seamlessly to extend the Wi-Fi coverage though his home.</p>	<p>Learnt since last meeting: Tom was watching the Winter Olympics, and is a fan of ice hockey. On the Milano-Cortina Winter Olympics home page he saw a link "Chat with Olympic AI" and so he asked for the men's ice hockey results. He received the detailed results of all the preliminary and group rounds, the semi-finals and the finals. Most Browsers have an AI component incorporated in them and generally give reliable results The key to getting good results is putting in as much detail as you can of the problem you are trying to solve. Wal shared with us some snippets about "Things you probably never knew your mobile phone could do". The most pertinent one is the emergency number worldwide for all mobile phones is 112 as an alternative to 000. In the Americas 911 is commonly used. It does not require a SIM card or a PIN but does require a signal from any available carrier.</p> <p>Favourite App: Tom found an app which he downloaded from the website Winhance.net and then installed on his computer. This app allows him to debloat, optimise and customise his Windows experience. He can select any apps that he no longer uses or that Microsoft has retired and uninstall them.</p>	<p>It also allows him to install or uninstall external software like VLC Media Player or FastStone Image Viewer etc. It is similar to the Winaero Tweaker and needs the Windows 10 Net Runtime installed. If you have a need to monitor your Internet connection in real time then you can download and install the Orb app (by the same people who developed the Ookla, Speedtest.net website). Orb measures responsiveness, reliability & speed, without disruption, with easy-to-understand scores. It is available for macOS, Windows, iOS, Android and Linux and you can install it on your first 5 devices for free after which there is a charge.</p> <p>NBN Problems: David gave an interesting update to his NBN fibre upgrade saga. Early last Friday morning the NBN arrived. They apologised for the recent mix-up when the installation was actioned at the wrong property. He showed them his preferred location in his house for the NBN box & it was installed to his satisfaction. He then faced a traumatic time that required multiple phone calls to his old provider, Exetel, who were unable to supply a plan that included a landline (VOIP) & his new provider Superloop who were just as incompetent, initially selling him a plan that included a free Router & then, hours later, advised him that they were out of stock. Eventually, his fibre service was activated. He is still waiting for his landline to be activated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Richard Eggins</i></p>
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YOUR COMMITTEE 2025-2026	
PRESIDENT	COLIN LOUDON
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR	DAVID BURNS
CATERING	LORRAE JONES
PUBLIC OFFICER	BOB HEDDLE

Meeting Dates for 2026			
	2 nd Tuesday	3 rd Tuesday	4 th Tuesday
	10 th March	17 th March	24 th March
	14 th April	21 st April	28 th April
	12 th May	19 th May	26 th May
	9 th June	16 th June	23 rd June
	14 th July	21 st July	28 th July
	11 th August	18 th August	25 th August
	8 th September	15 th September	22 nd September
	13 th October	20 th October	27 th October
	10 th November	17 th November	24 th November
	8 th December	No More Meetings	

PLEASE NOTE

IF YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE
ACCESSING ANY LINK
JUST COPY AND PASTE TO YOUR BROWSER