**Making the Most of the Internet - References with Links**

**Semester length course of 5 two-hour sessions**

**Compilation of sessional monthly newsletter reports and references (some linked) .**

**These handouts can be accessed on the** [**http://u3anortheastdlw.weebly.com**](http://u3anortheastdlw.weebly.com) **website, allowing the opening of highlighted links. They can also be accessed, in blog format on the U3A Benalla and District website’s Making the Most of the Internet page -**[**http://u3abenalla.weebly.com/making-the-most-of-the-internet**](http://u3abenalla.weebly.com/making-the-most-of-the-internet)

**February**

An interested group keen to 'make the most of the internet' met with new U3A tutor Ian McLeod for the first of sessions on 11 February.  Terry Case introduced Ian, reinforcing to the group that Ian's course is for those keen to venture beyond basic use of the internet.  
  
Ian engaged us in exploring the nature of the internet; web browsers, Wikipedia and YouTube to establish a shared understanding of these topics.  He focused on what is available free of charge on the net, including links to international newspapers ([www.newspaperindex.com](http://www.newspaperindex.com/)), I-view ([www.abc.net.au/iview](http://www.abc.net.au/iview)), SBS on demand ([www.sbs.com.au/ondemand](http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand)) and 'apps' he uses which the group might think about using, such as Adblocker to filter ads  Lots of valued information was introduced along the way in response to questions and comments.  
  
A quick survey of learning needs of members resulted in a list of topics including strategies to reduce the frustration of using the internet when living in outlying districts; WIFI (what it is and how to access it); the 'Cloud'; internet safety and security and social media.  There was also some interest in how to supplement retirement income by making money using the internet!  Such topics, together with Ian's own plans for the course, will make for an interesting six sessions!

**References and links:**

Australian Govt  ['What is the Internet'](http://http/www.internetbasics.gov.au/getting_started_on_the_internet/what_is_the-Internet) Internet Basics  Dept of Communication, Australian Government   
WhatIsMyIPAddress.com  'What is a Web Browser'  
News - worldwide [www.newspaperindex.com](http://www.newspaperindex.com/)

Video on Demand -  ABC - [www.abc.net.au/iview](http://www.abc.net.au/iview)   SBS [www.sbs.com.au/ondemand](http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand)   
BBC Webwise ['What is Facebook'](http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/guide/about-facebook)  
Wikipedia  
[What is You Tube](http://digitalunite.com/guides/tv-video/what-youtube)

**March**

''Making the Most of the Internet' toolkits continued to grow during our March session.   Again prioritizing resources feely available on the net, Ian began by introducing free music streaming available at [Radio Tunes](http://www.radiotunes.com/)  (his particular favourite is ['Classical Guitar'](http://www.radiotunes.com/guitar)) and [Tune In](http://www.tunein.com/)  (which also has links to radio from around the world).    
  
The remainder of the session focussed largely on learning needs identified last session.  Ian explained that he particularly values and recommends  'YouTube' as a resource for lifelong learning.  He demonstrated how YouTube videos can be used to address learning needs such as [*'How do you attach photographs to an email'*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyagmERfImo) and [*'What is the Cloud?'*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gu4FYSFeWqg)   Viewing 'What is the Cloud?' led on to an informative discussion about Internet security and 'The Cloud'.  .        
  
[*'Metadata and data retention changes'*](http://www.smh.com.au/action/printArticle?id=62838751)  Ian explained the role of ISP providers, demonstrated how to access our Web Address, related web addresses to their use in the storage of data and reflected on questions the prolonged storage of metadata raises for him.   
  
[*'Social Media - Twitter'*](https://open.abc.net.au/explore/85310)  Admitting to not using his account a lot, Ian took us in a humorous, interactive way through Twitter's features, drawing on his own Twitter site, [Malcolm Turnbull](https://twitter.com/turnbullmalcolm)'s site and a parodied site ['Elizabeth Windsor'](https://twitter.com/queen_uk) (the official site for the Queen seems to come under <https://twitter.com/BritishMonarchy>).   
  
Questions related to computer speed concern many class members, particularly those living in outlying areas.  Ian introduced [CCleaner](https://www.ccleaner.com/), a freely available program he uses almost continuously to ensure his computer doesn't become clogged up with extraneous files and slow down.  When all else fails, it seems the Library and Macdonald's have publicly available WiFi (sorry, no cafe's), with motels usually having WiFi for travellers.   
  
Other topics included  'Memory and Storage', 'Streaming and Downloading', Ad blocking, Password Managers; Netflix; Picasa and more - there's never a dull moment!  
  
Next session - VPN (Virtual Private Networks) and an introduction to freely available, easy to use web page programs.    
  
**References and links:**

Music - streaming (free)  ﻿[Radio Tunes﻿](http://www.radiotunes.com/)  (eg. [Classical Guitar](http://www.radiotunes.com/guitar)); Tune In (includes radio stations worldwide)  
'What is an Internet Service Provider'   [*WhatIsMyIPAddress.com*](http://www.whatismyipaddress.com/)   
Griffiths, Emma (2015) 'Data retention plan could cost almost $400m a year, Tony Abbott says' *ABC News* updated Feb 18, 2015  
Grubb, Ben (2014) 'Metadata and data retention changes explained' *Sydney Morning Herald* October 31, 2014  
Swan, David (2015) 'Metadata no magic bullet: AFP' *The Australian* February 23, 2015  
ABC Technology (2011) ['Streaming vs Downloading'](http://abc.net.au/technology/techexplained/articles/2011/04/11/3158206.htm) *ABC*[Netflix movie and data usage](http://www.gci.com/kb/netflix-movie-and-data-usage)   
Yelp.com'What's the difference between memory and storage'  
Standen, Susan 'A beginner's guide to Twitter' ABC Open   (see also link in article to ABC Open Twitter Tip sheet)  
BBC Webwise ['What is wireless internet (Wi-Fi)'](http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/guides/about-wifi) BBC   
and  
Password Manager from Dashlane (https://www.dashlane.com)  
[www.howtogeek.com](http://www.howtogeek.com/) - 'Beginner Geek:  '[What does CCleaner Do and Should You Use It'](http://howtogeek.com/172820/beginner-geek-what-does-ccleaner-do-and-should-you-use-it/)  
mysurveys.com ['Make more money with paid surveys in Australia'](http://www.mysurveys.com.au/articles/make-more-money-paid-surveys-australia.aspx) (suggestion only)

**April**

Our toolbag of new ways in which to make the most of the internet continues to grow!  Ian began the session showing us visions of the Future with a you tube video on older people responding to the use of Google Glass.  I had to do some googling at home then watch the second video before I accepted Ian's Google Glass video wasn't a joke!   (Both videos take about 10 mins).

It's always good to have a reliable reference source - Ian recommended Koroush Ghazi's ['Tweaking Companion'](http://www.tweakguides.com/TGTC.html)  'the complete system customization and optimization guide for all Windows users'.  There is a free Regular Edition and a Deluxe Edition which is available as a PDF E-Book 'for around the price of a cup of coffee'.     
  
Safety issues were further explored, beginning with an introduction to malware and Malwarebytes Anti-Malware 2.0's  free product and Wickr, a combination of messaging apps which doesn't keep a record of users' communications.     
   [Netflix](http://www.netflix.com/) has arrived since we last met.  Ian gave us an article comparing different streaming services then demonstrated his trial subscription to Netflix - he's finding the quality good, no buffering, smooth streaming.  We can subscribe for one month free - if we don't want to keep it, we need to make sure we set a cancel date before the end date.  According to Ian, it's worth $9 a month not to have ads!  
  
Subscriptions to a streaming service such as Netflix and/or to a [Virtual Private Network (VPN)](http://u3abenalla.weebly.com/uploads/3/9/6/1/39611571/why_you_need_a_vpn.pdf) both reduce the possibility of being found guilty of illegal downloading or 'pirating'.  This has become of increasing concern to downloaders with producers of the [Dallas Buyers Club winning a case (to be appealed) against internet provider IInet](http://au.pcmag.com/piracy/29655/news/dallas-buyers-club-beats-iinet-in-landmark-piracy) this week.   Ian showed us examples of correspondence likely to be received by people found to have breached copyright by downloading files illegally.  
  
Broadly speaking, Virtual Private Networks (VPN's)  don't record who has been doing what and when.  They circumvent 'geoblocking'.  With a VPN network subscription of around $40 pa we can go to a server in most places in the world -  in London, for example - to select and watch eg. BBC I-view which would otherwise be geoblocked.    
  
In the final part of the session, Bev introduced three easy to learn web design platforms - Weebly, Wix and WordPress - available in free versions on the web (see [Bev's notes](http://u3abenalla.weebly.com/-diy-websites-1.html) and links).    Our U3A Benalla website is currently being redesigned using Weebly, which is easy to manage and learn by anyone with word processing skills.    Bev provided an overview of the website and encouraged class members to have a look at it-- the web address is [http://u3abenalla.weebly.com](http://u3abenalla.weebly.com/).  Feedback is important and welcome!  Next session will include some time spent learning how to develop a simple web 'blog'.    
  
Finally, on an ironic note as Benalla awaits the NBN, we read that Simon Hackett, the NBN Co director employed by the LNP Government to implement its cost saving change to fibre to the node technology, recently said he is a strong supporter of connecting premises directly to fibre!

**References and links:**

Ghazi, Kouroush 'The TweakGuides Tweating Companion' *Tweakguides* <http://www.tweakguides.com/TGTC.html> (accessed 12/04/205)  
Idato, Michael (2015) 'Netflix v Stan v Presto v Quickflix v Ezyflix v Foxtel Play:  Your guide to streaming video services in Australia' *Sydney Morning Herald* March 24 2015 <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/tv-and-radio/netflix-v-stan-v-presto-v-quickflix-v-ezyflix-v-foxtel-play-your-guide-to-streaming-video-services-in-australia-20150324-1m6h46.html> (accessed 12/4/2015)  
Newman, Jared (2014) 'Wickr brings its self destructing messages to Windows, Mac and Linux'  
Ramli, David (2015) 'NBN's Simon Hackett slams fibre-to-the-node technology' *Sydney Morning Herald* March 25  
Rubenking, Neil 'Malwarebytes Anti-Malware 2.0' *PC Magazine* <http://au.pcmag.com/security-reviews/386/review/malwareytes-anti-malware-20> (accessed 12/04/2015)  
[Waddilove, Roland (2013) 'Why you need a VPN: here's what a VPN can do for your online security'](http://u3abenalla.weebly.com/uploads/3/9/6/1/39611571/why_you_need_a_vpn.doc) *PC Advisor* <http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/features/internet/3469301/why-you-need-vpn/>

**May**

A very perceptive and comical Youtube clip 'A Senior Moment' featuring 'seniors' in a residential setting texting on their mobiles, (and even, somewhat comically, 'sexting' in error...) was a highlight at the start of this month's class.  We had a great laugh together.  ([There is a link to this video on Ian's blog.)](http://u3abenalla.weebly.com/-ians-blog/senior-moment)  
New internet tools introduced this month by Ian, again focusing on the freely available, included using a general search title in Youtube such as 'Classical Music' to stream playlists of music throughout the day; the [Rainlendar desktop calendar](http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/index.php); the [Gadwin screen capture tool](http://www.gadwin.com/printscreen/); [Paypal](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=qrnXGb-tJoU) (which is preferred by eBay); and [Picasa3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4g8G-TKEyU&feature=player_embedded) for storage and organisation of photograph collections using the cloud.   
  
Class member Margaret Jenkin, from Investment Group 2, gave a most informative presentation on the use of the internet when investing in the stock market. Margaret began by reflecting on the benefits on-line banking and the ways in which the banking system works to ensure online security, then described her practice of using a separate bank for her online purchases.  Using the [ComSec](https://www.commsec.com.au/why-join-commsec/learn-about-the-markets.html) website, Margaret introduced tools available for analysing trading possibilities such as indexes, charts; price; volumes; stock announcements; peer guides; comparative trading ranges; watchlists; tools for managing orders and more.  Margaret explained that each of the major banks has a similar website; and Ian added that the [ASX site](http://www.asx.com.au/products/shares.htm) also provides similar information.   
  
Class member Bev Lee then provided an introduction to developing a free website using [www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com/), the platform chosen for this website.  Neville was happy to throw his hat into the ring in setting up a website address - after which a theme was selected; pages were added and moved around; a title and some text were added using the 'drag' feature in the build page, and the tool bar was used to change font colours and sizes.  We finished with a demonstration of how easy it is to delete - in this case the dummy - website!  The [class handout](http://u3abenalla.weebly.com/uploads/3/9/6/1/39611571/notes_on_opening_a_website_using_weebly.pdf); information on the 'Website' page under 'Newsroom'; the two blog entries below and the resources and videos in the support section on Weebly.com will hopefully be useful to clss members keen to 'have a go'.  Bev is happy to provide support and mentoring.

**References and links:**

*Youtube videos:  (refer also to Ian's Blog entry on 12/5/2015)*  
'A Senior Moment'  
'Paypal'  
'Picasa'   
Windows 8 Cheat sheet - 'Keyboard Shortcuts' *'makeuseof'*  
Rainlendar 'Desktop Calendar' <http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/index.php>  
Gadwin 'Print Screen Capture' <http://www.gadwin.com/printscreen/>   
'Getting Started with Picasa'   
'How to Buy Shares in Australia' <http://www.absoluteinvestor.com.au/how-to-buy-shares.aspx>   
*Comsec Securities* *Website*   
Metadata and VPN update - ['Metadata, privacy concerns drive users to virtual private networks'](http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/digital-life/digital-life-news/metadata-privacy-concerns-drive-users-to-virtual-private-networks-20150429-1mqm9o) *Brisbane Times* April 29  
Weebly  [www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com/) - including introductory video  
Handout - notes on the first stages of using a website using Weebly.com.   Edited from Phi delta Kappa (2014)  
['Creating a Website Using Weebly'](http://u3abenalla.weebly.com/uploads/3/9/6/1/39611571/instructions_for_using_weebly_from_phi_delta_kapper_useful.pdf)

**June**

The Semester 1 'Making the Most of the Internet' course finished on June 9. Our tutor Ian McLeod's internet knowledge has provided the basis for a great course, but he would like to 'regroup' before running another course.   Ian's approach has been most engaging and he has left us with lots of ideas, handouts and Youtube links to follow up as lifelong learners.  The final session included a presentation on the many features offered by Windows Club; an introduction to Windows 10; Open Office and  Google Maps. Youtube videos drawn on during the session will continue to be available on 'Ian's Blog' to help us to continue to 'Make the Most of the Internet'.  Thanks Ian for all your work!

**References and links:**

[Windows Club](http://www.thewindowsclub.com/list-freeware-releases-from-the-windows-club)   
[Windows 10](https://youtu.be/Wwc5jKc-EgE)   
Open Office  
Google Maps