

# The Southern Highlands Computer Users Group Inc.

Assisting all members to explore and enjoy the benefits of Information Technology.

Monthly Newsletter

## Keyword

February 2021



### 2021 Committee

President	Rodney Andrews	
Vice President	David Wills	
Secretary	Sue Ticehurst	Phone 4872-4173
Treasurer	John Oprey	Phone 4862-1584
Committee member	Phillip Reay	
Mail-out Officer	Lynette Reay	
Editor Keyword & Webmaster	Martina Oprey	Phone 4862-1584



Please note: We are not computer professionals and our expertise is limited.

## Scott Hall

Our weekly meeting place for activities for PC and Apple users.



HarbisonCare, 2 Charlotte St, Burradoo, 2576, NSW.

[www.shcug.org.au](http://www.shcug.org.au)

### How to join SHCUG.

You can join us at one of our weekly “Monday help sessions” and collect an application form. Payment can be made in cash or by cheque and handed to a tutor. Annual fee is \$40 single or \$60 couple. Alternatively use EFTPOS transaction IMB Bank: BSB number is: 641 800 and the account number is. 200456000, or send the application form and cheque, made out to SHCUG, to the following address: The Treasurer, SHCUG, c/- HarbisonCare, 6/2 Charlotte St, Burradoo, NSW, 2576.

### Renewing memberships.

Renewal forms are sent out each year in early December to all current members by email, with all the relevant information needed to renew membership for the upcoming year.

Correspondence: Letters to the committee can be addressed to [shcugcontact@gmail.com](mailto:shcugcontact@gmail.com)

Our Weekly ‘Members Helping Members’ sessions are held in Scott Hall , all members welcome.

The sessions start at 10 am and continue until 5 pm. We can help members with PC and Apple software problems. Assist with how to Navigating Android and iPhones and Tablets and iPads.

### Upcoming event:

### In this issue.

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By Martina Oprey  
By your committee  
By Martina Oprey  
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SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMPUTER USERS GROUP INC  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM  
(*NEW OR RENEWAL*)

Membership renewals are due on 1 January each year.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2021 are SINGLE \$40. COUPLE \$60

First Name.....  
(Include additional family member's name if applicable)

Surname.....

If paying by cheque send this with your fee \$..... Cheque No..... to  
The treasurer, Southern Highlands Computers Users Group Inc,  
c/- HarbisonCare, 6/2 Charlotte Street, Burradoo, NSW, 2576

If paying by Electronic Funds Transfer, enter your Membership Name in the  
TO ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION and transfer your fee to SHCUG's Bank details.

BSB 641-800 Account No. 200456000  
(be sure to include your name(s) in the account description).

Renewals can be paid on any Monday during our help sessions in Scott Hall  
between 10 am and 5 pm.

**FOR MEMBERS RENEWING:** IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY CHANGES TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S  
DETAILS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SECTION BELOW, OTHERWISE LEAVE BLANK.

Surname.....

Address.....

Town/Suburb.....

Phone/Mobile.....

Email address.....

## From your committee

Our AGM, held in Scott Hall on Monday 8 February, was well attended. About 12 members turned up. The meeting was short as there was not much on the agenda and no General meeting afterwards. We therefore presume everyone is quite happy with the way the club is being run. All committee members of 2020 did stand again and were voted in for another year, unchallenged. Rodney Andrews, we are pleased to announce, has again joined the committee and will act as President. David Wills offered himself as a committee member and has accepted the Vice President's position. All other positions stay with the same persons as for the year 2020. The new committee will have its first meeting of the year on 15 February.

Ron Cunnew made us aware of the dispute between Google and Facebook which could result in the loss of Google search for Australia (see page 5 for the full story). If Google search should ever be pulled out of Australia, which is highly unlikely, there are alternative search engines available. On page 6 you will find a few you might like to try out. Is anyone looking for a cheap computer??? Joseph has fixed up a donated Dell one-in-all PC which he has put up for sale. See page 7 for all the details.

Renewals are still accepted, so if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2021, you can still do so. Find on page 3 the required application form.

Your committee.





## Google and Facebook, paying or leaving.

By Martina Oprey



At present there is a battle going on between the search engine Google and Facebook and the Australian government, who are trying to force the tech giants to negotiate with Australian news media companies. Because this is a first attempt by a government to make these companies pay for the advertisement on their site, the whole world is watching.

Whether the Australian government will be successful in making these companies comply with their demands, or whether they choose to leave, either result will have consequences on how we do our searches in the future.

To understand the issue, consider the following: The Australian government tabled a world-first media legislation in parliament in the last sitting week of 2020, that will force Google and Facebook to negotiate a fair payment with news organisations for using their content in Facebook's newsfeed and Google's search. This law was seen by the government as necessary in order to protect the news industry in Australia. Google and Facebook earn huge amounts of money from ads: for every \$100 of online advertising spend, \$35 goes to Google, \$28 to Facebook and \$19 to everyone else. The loss of advertising revenue has been partially offset by subscriptions but hasn't been enough to stem the cuts to newsrooms, journalists leaving the industry and media outlets going to the wall. Meanwhile Google and Facebook are doing very well: In 2020 Google made \$4.3bn in advertising revenue in Australia and Facebook made \$0.7bn, according to documents filed with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Newspapers claim that Google makes money from news and analysis provided by media organisations, and users would find Google and Facebook much less helpful if no news appeared on their feeds or in their search results.

The draft code was made more urgent as it was released in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, as News Corp Australia stopped printing 60 of its local newspapers and regional newspapers in Victoria, some older than 100 years. The code aims to ensure that news media businesses are fairly compensated for the content they generate, helping to sustain public interest journalism in Australia.

Although the recommendations were welcomed by media companies and advocates of public interest journalism, Google and Facebook feared it would set a global precedent. Google took the extraordinary step of encouraging its users to fight the proposed legislation by adding yellow warning signs onto their site saying, "The way Aussies search every day on Google is at risk from new government regulations". Google also took the campaign to YouTube, telling creators to swamp the ACCC with objections.

Managing director of Google Australia, Mel Silva, said if the government's proposal goes ahead, "We would have no real choice but to stop making Google search available in Australia". Should this happen then what are the consequences for users like ourselves?

It is important to point out that Google is not just "web search". Google's parent company Alphabet Inc also runs key web portals such as YouTube but also productivity tools such as Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Docs and Google Maps. These services are not going to be removed from the Australian market, even if web search does get pulled out. Online advertising is another sector in which Google is the market leader and where it makes money. Pulling Google web search from Australia does not mean businesses would no longer be able to advertise using Google's services. But with no Google search here, those adverts would no longer appear ahead of any other search result and be visited by Australian users.

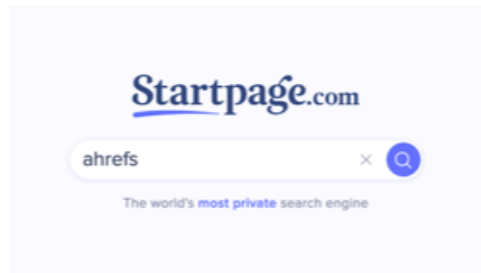
On Friday 22 January, Google threatened to remove Google Search from Australia if the government's bargaining code should be passed. Today, it is still here and negotiations are continuing. Although Google is the dominant search engine in Australia, having 94% of the web search market, there are other search services. See the following page for details.

References are from "The Conversation" 29 January, 2021 and other websites.

# Alternatives to Google Search.

By Martina Oprey

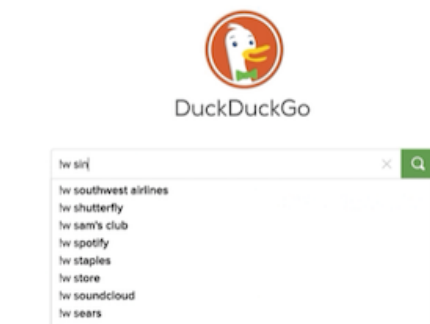
To find the answer to my question “best alternatives to Google search” I found a website by Si Quan, written 17 December, 2020. He tried seven alternative search engines for a day. Find below some of his findings of the search engines he tested.



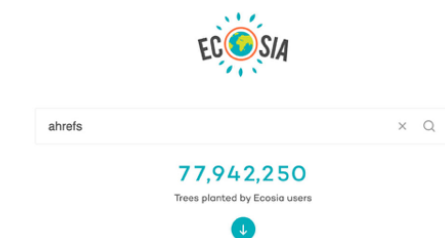
According to Si Quan, Startpage was his first choice. Reason given was that Startpage uses results from Google, so it is effectively Google without the tracking. Based in the Netherlands, it complies with the GDPR that protects users data. One cool Startpage feature is called “Anonymous View” and protects you from website fingerprinting, cookies, social media tracking pixels and other invasions of privacy when visiting websites.



Qwant, started in 2013, is another European search engine based in Paris. Its search results are powered by Bing and supplemented by those collected from its own web crawler. Qwant does not collect data or uses tracking cookies. It also dissociates your query and IP address for further anonymity. Qwant also offers “search shortcuts” that allows you to search for results from specific websites.



DuckDuckGo was launched in 2008. It is possibly the most popular private search engine which has positioned itself as “anti-Google” since its creation. DuckDuckGo sources its results from over 400 different places, including its own crawler (DuckDuckBot), crowdsources sites such as Wikipedia and partners Bing. According to Si Quan DuckDuckGo’s search results were good but not exceptional. DuckDuckGo claims that it doesn’t store personal identifiable information such as IP addresses nor uses cookies. DDG is based in the U.S, which means it is part of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance which conducts mass surveillance programs and collects data from various Internet companies.



Ecosia is not your average search engine. It donates 80% of its profits to tree-planting projects. This equates roughly to financing the planting of one tree for every 45 searches done. Ecosia is powered by Bing and is enhanced by its own algorithms. Although Ecosia claims to be a private search engine, they are not that privacy-orientated as they collect search data, used according to them to improve their web services. They delete all personal information after holding it for seven days. If you value your privacy then according to Si Quan Ecosia might not be for you.

Other search engines mentioned by Si Quan are Swisscows, Bing and Yahoo. Swisscows is a search engine based in Switzerland. It has its own index for German queries but uses Bing results for other languages. Bing, owned by Microsoft, is the second largest web search engine in the US, having a 6% market share. Should Google decide to pull its search engine out of Australia, Bing would likely be your best option as it has similar features. Yahoo, once one of the largest Internet companies in the world, has lost some appeal. Most likely because of the data breaches on the Internet that belonged to Yahoo.

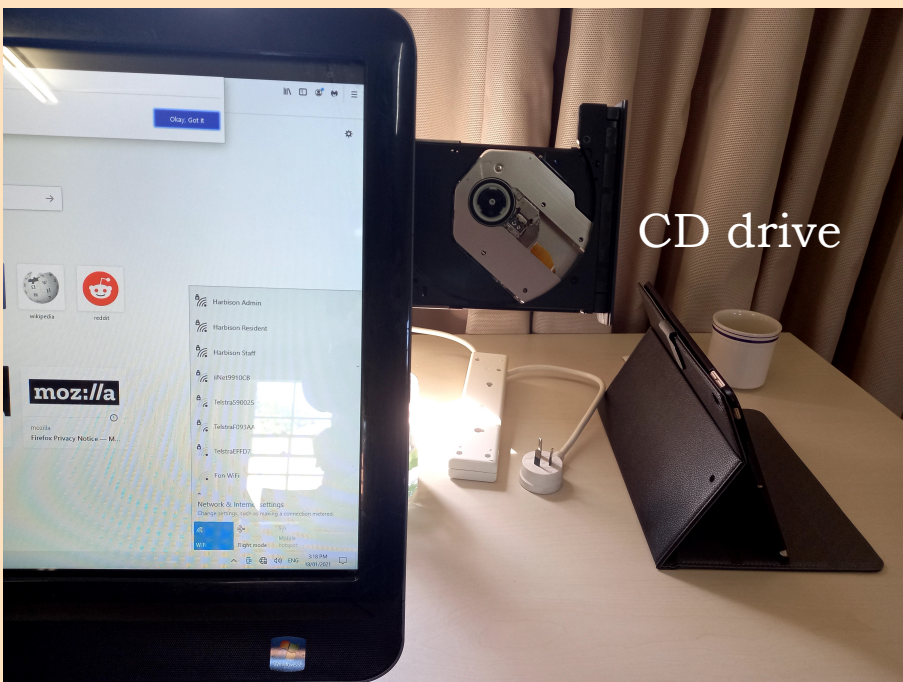
References are from ahrefsblog by Si Quan Ong, 17 December, 2020.

# FOR SALE, 1 x Dell INSPIRON ONE 2320 AIO.

Windows 10 installed with Avira and Firefox preinstalled.  
27" Touch Screen, 250GB SSD 8GB RAM, Built in WiFi, Webcam and CD/DVD/BluRay drive.  
All buttons and USB ports working. With SD Card reader. Can be used with second VGA screen.



Available ports



If interested, contact Joseph Pearcey.  
See page 8 for contact informations.





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### Wanted

Have you got an article that you wish to publish in Keyword.

Or you might have a suggestion for an article.

Have you got something to sell, want to swap or give away, advertise it in Keyword.

Please send it to

[shcugcontact@gmail.com](mailto:shcugcontact@gmail.com)



Need Tech support?  
Call Joseph Pearcey

Mobile/SMS: 04 22 955 843

Email:

[jpearcey@comtechsup.com.au](mailto:jpearcey@comtechsup.com.au)