

The Southern Highlands Computer Users Group Inc.

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

Monthly Newsletter

" Keyword

August 2020



2020 Committee

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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

How to join SHCUG.

Visit our Education Centre and drop in at one of our weekly activities to collect an application form. Payment can be made in cash or by cheque and handed to a tutor. Fees are \$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 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

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

Please note

Due to social distancing rules, members attending our Monday help sessions must have booked a place in one of our time slots, which are as follows; 10 am to 12 noon, 12 noon to 2 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm. A maximum of 10 members are allowed in any session. Email your preferred time slot to: shcugcontact@gmail.com

In this issue.

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By Martina Oprey
By your committee
By Martina Oprey
By Martina Oprey
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By Martina Oprey

Scott Hall Members Helping Members



From your committee

It has already been a month since we moved from unit 56 to Scott Hall to run our Monday help sessions. The transition has been much smoother than expected and everyone has adjusted well to their new routine. Due to equipment that needs to be set up beforehand, our co-ordinators go to Scott Hall a bit earlier than previously, also to switch on the heater. At the end of the day all needs to be put back in boxes and cupboard again, but it is manageable. There are usually a few extra hands available who chip in as well. Members have also adjusted well to the new setup, some even saying it works better than before.

Because the Corona virus is still around, we need to adhere to the social distancing rules. Therefore our Monday sessions are still divided into three time slots (see page 2). Members wishing to attend a session have to book a place in one of the time slots before coming in. We want the sessions to be as safe as we can possibly make them.

There was no committee meeting in July, so nothing to report on that front.

In this issue find some information about *Robots* and some you might even want to own.

There are still a few items that have not been sold yet, such as two good office chairs and a folding table. Before sending these to the tip, any reasonable offer will be excepted if anyone wishes to have them. There are also a number of free items, such as keyboards, mice, external CD player and more. Anyone interested please email to: shcugcontact@gmail.com

We have been given a double pack of cartridges for an older model Epson printer. Anyone interested in these free ink cartridges, email to: shcugcontact@gmail.com

From your committee.

My maternal grandfather, born in 1880, wrote in his memoirs about the changes he had witnessed during his lifetime and especially how the heavy workload of the rural labourers had been lifted from their hands by new machineries. Many he claimed never imagined nor thought possible. Two generations later the push for better and faster machines to increase productivity ever further, is still in full swing. The combination of machines and computers has opened up a whole new area for inventions, one of which has led to the birth of the *robot*. These *robotics* especially have and will continue to change our lives, just like my grandfather's, in ways we could not have foreseen either.

For those who love a bit of trivia, the following: The word *robot* derives from the Czech word *robota*, and it means *forced labour*, which was derived from the Proto-Slavic word *orbota*, meaning *hard work of slavery*.

In 1920, **Karel Čapek**, a Czech writer, playwright and critic, introduced the word *robot* to the world in his play *Rossumovi Univerzální Roboti* (Rossum's Universal Robots). The idea of the play came to Karel during a very uncomfortable tram journey when he started to imagine people not as individuals, but as machines and thought about an expression which would describe a human being only able to work, but not able to reason. With that in mind, he began to write a drama about the manufacture of artificial people from synthetic organic material who would free humans of work and drudgery, but finally due to overproduction those *roboti* would lead human kind to destruction and annihilation. The book, launched in January 1921, became a best seller and was translated in many languages.

The idea of automata is not new as it has been around for thousands of years. Ancient Chinese texts tell the story of a mechanical man presented to **King Mu of Zhou** (1023-957 BCE) by the artificer **Yan Shi**. **King Solomon**, who reigned from 970 to 931 BCE was said to have had a golden lion that raised a foot to help him to his throne and a mechanical eagle that placed his crown upon his head.



Heron ho Alexandreus; also known as **Heron of Alexandria**; (c.10 AD – c. 70 AD) was a Greek mathematician and engineer who was active in his native city of Alexandria, Roman Egypt. He is often considered the greatest experimenter of antiquity and his work is representative of the Hellenistic scientific tradition. He wrote an entire book about his automaton inventions and how hydraulics, pneumatics and mechanics could be used. His most famous invention was a wind-wheel, constituting the earliest instance of wind harnessing on land.

Picture to left shows the *title page* of a book (*1589 edition*) about Heron's inventions.

Some of the first robots as we might recognise them today, were built in the 1940s by the neurologist and EEG (Electroencephalogram) pioneer, **William Grey Walter** (1910-1977) in Bristol, UK. The robots he created looked a bit like tortoises so he named them Elmer and Elsie. These fully autonomous robots trundled about, attracted to light like moths and automatically went back to their station whenever their batteries became low.

Robots can now carry out complex actions automatically. To be able to do this they generally need three elements: sensors such as cameras, microphones and actuators such as motors, pistons and controllers. Robots have contributed greatly to our industries, enabling most devices, appliances, transportation and processed foods to be made efficiently and cheaply. Today researchers are working towards even greater automation, with robots taking over more and more of the manufacturing processes. Robots can be remotely controlled by humans, but most of the time they are partially or fully controlled by computers, making them autonomous.

Gradually we are seeing robots designed for chores that can be done in our homes. There is already a vacuum cleaner that will do the job for you. Think about the Google and Apple home pods, they open doors, switch on/off the lights and more. If you are curious about robots and what they are capable of, keep reading.



The Gita Bot

Tired of lugging the shopping home in a bag? The Gita Bot might be your answer. This compact robot is designed to follow you around while shopping, out for a walk about town or on the way to work. The bot is capable of carrying the equivalent of two full bags of groceries or a fully loaded backpack. An ideal gadget that will free you of carrying the load yourself.



Romeo

Meet Romeo. It is the size of a human, designed and built to assist the elderly as they lose their ability to care for themselves. Romeo is capable of opening doors, climbing stairs and reaching for objects whilst going about its care duties. With Romeo by our side could mean that we [Seniors](#) could stay in our own homes much longer before having to move into an aged care home.



The Foldimate

Is doing the laundry a chore you don't like? This fully automated clothes washer and dryer might solve your problem. It doesn't only wash and dry your clothes but also automatically folds the washed and dry clothes as well. The only thing it hasn't yet learned is put it away in the cupboards.



Cafe X

Love a cup of good coffee? Look no further because this Cafe X device is an automated robot powered coffee bar built with the power to brew the very best in special coffee via advanced automation. You will now be able to make the very best cup of coffee in your own home rather than having to run to the nearest coffee bar.



Moley Robotic Kitchen

Don't like cooking? The Moley Robotic kitchen will do it for you as it is a fully automated cooking robot designed to cook all your meals. This robot is apparently capable of learning new recipes, cooking a variety of different meals. Best of all, it cleans up after itself. The makers of this robot claim that it can even mimic the skills of a full-blown master chef enabling it to craft world-class meals just for you.



Robear

Can't get up by yourself? Robear will help as it is a high-tech teddy designed to lift an elderly or disabled person from a bed or wheelchair. Robear is developed by the Toshiharu Team at the Riken-SRK Collaboration Centre for Human-Interactive Robot Research.



Buddy

Buddy is a revolutionary companion designed to improve your family life. Buddy is designed to entertain the family, help you with your every day activities, offers reminders when you need them, supports you with recipes in the kitchen and much more. You can use buddy to make video calls, keep an eye on your home while you're out, connect all your smart home devices together and even help your children learn.



Aeolus

Wished you had a fulltime housekeeper? Have a look what Aeolus can do! This robot is designed to help around the house with various chores. It is capable of delivering food, picking up clutter from around the house, finding things you have lost and more. Aeolus boasts Artificial Intelligent which helps the robot learn about your life, routine and layout of your home and therefore capable of improving how it serves you in the future.



Ubtech Robotics'Walker

Walker is a biped robot designed to deliver a home butler service by helping with the day-to-day chores of your home and workplace. This Robot can climb stairs, hand you a can of coke or pass you an umbrella when raining. It will also hang up your coat. Besides the afore mentioned tasks it can do a number of other ones, such as helping with video calls, conferencing, dance and keeping the kids entertained.



Samsung Bot Care

Samsung used CES 2019 to launch a range of care robots that it hopes to bring out in the near future. Bot Care, which is one of three robots announced at the Consumer Electronics Show in the US is able to do a number of tasks around the home like remind you when to take your medicine, act as a heart rate monitor, and if the worst happens phone emergency services for help.

It has been rather fun researching about robots and I was not aware that there are already so many robots to start working for us. The only thing preventing you and me from getting one, I bet is the price tag.

Some references taken from the website Pocket-Lint, article by Maggie Tillman, 15-1-2019.



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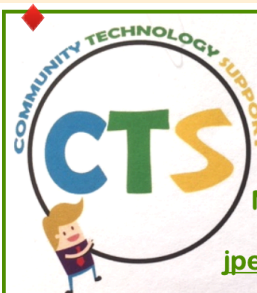
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