

Bairnsdale Personal Computer User Group, Inc

*** * * * ABOUT the B.P.C.U.G. * * * ***

The Bairnsdale PC User Group Inc. is a voluntary, not for profit, association of local computer users.

Its members come from a broad variety of backgrounds and age groups, have experience levels ranging from beginner to “expert”, and both sexes are represented.

The stated purpose of the Group is to “*provide a forum for the interchange of ideas and experiences between computer users and between users and the computer industry and to keep members abreast of developments in computing and information technology*”.

The Group conducts regular general meetings and also produces a monthly 12-page newsletter which is distributed by e-Mail to every financial member.

The following notes are presented to help members, and potential members, to better understand the functions of the Group.

How often are the meetings held ?

They are held at least once in every calendar month (normally on the third Tuesday), except December.

What time are they run?

They start at 7.00 pm and usually finish by about 9.15 pm .

Where are the meetings held?

In the function room at the Bairnsdale Bowls Club, corner Pearson and Grant Streets, Bairnsdale The venue is modern, comfortable and separate from the gaming and licensed areas of the Club.

How do I get there?

There is plenty of off-street parking in the Bowls Club car park and the function room is reached via the covered walkway which runs along the outside of the building between the bowling greens and the bistro. (The Bowls Club has requested that our members park in the northern car park not in the street to avoid inconvenience to their members and patrons).

What are they about?

The BPCUG meetings are broken into sessions which cover a broad range of computer subjects including Trouble-shooting, E-Mail, Internet, Downloading, File Management, Scanning, Photo Manipulation, Multimedia, Craft Projects etc.etc. The presenters are mostly experienced BPCUG members although less-experienced members are encouraged to give presentations where they have experience in some particular subject. We are sometimes fortunate enough to get the services of Guest Presenters on subjects of special or unusual interest. The first session at each meeting is usually “Questions and Answers” where members can air their computer problems and hopefully get some solutions.

Do I have to be a BPCUG member and can I bring a friend?

No, you don't have to be a BPCUG member and you can bring a friend; visitors are always welcome although it is expected they will eventually apply for membership after becoming aware of the benefits.

I am a beginner, will I be swamped?

Sessions are designed to include material for beginners as well as catering for those who are looking for more advanced ideas. Content varies according to the subject being discussed, but there are always lots of practical examples. We do not have the resources to give one-on-one training for raw beginners but you are still welcome to attend. We may be able to suggest how and where you could access some basic training to enable you to then get more benefit from our sessions.

How much does it cost to join the Group?

The membership subscription is now \$22.00 for a full year commencing on 1st July but reduced fees on a pro-rata basis are payable by persons who become new members at times during the second half of a financial year. Special rates are available for family groups.

Can I ask questions?

Yes, and there are also opportunities to network with other users during the breaks.

How are the sessions run?

The format involves presentations run on a computer with the image being projected via a multi-media projector onto a screen. Hence the participants get to see exactly what is being presented. The BPCUG equipment is modern and designed to present clear information. Microphones and a sound system are used so that everyone is able to clearly hear the presentations and discussions.

Do I have to bring my computer?

No, all the equipment being used on the occasion is set up by the Committee. It is a good idea to bring a pad/clipboard etc. to take notes. It is also useful to bring a memory stick onto which certain types of information or small programs can be copied for you to take home. For larger items, the Group sometimes has CDs available for a small fee.

Are there handouts?

This is up to the individual presenters, but mostly don't count on them. Sometimes handouts are posted to the BPCUG website (at <http://www.bpcug.org.au>).

Are refreshments available?

Tea, coffee and biscuits are available (at no charge) during a social break between sessions. Bringing drinks into the function room from licensed areas is discouraged.

Where can I get updated information about upcoming sessions?

In the monthly newsletter or go to the BPCUG website at <http://www.bpcug.org.au/>

Will I learn more?

Yes definitely! The sessions are fun and friendly and we feel sure you will enjoy them and get a lot out of them.