



Our next SAAUC meeting is...



**Friday June 1st
from 7:30pm
macOS tips, create a bootable macOS
USB, Printing, NBN and more**

See location map on the last page.

A word from our President...



If you are one whose email account is with Internode, you may have noticed a marked drop off of emails reaching your Inbox from the SAAUC Google Groups in the

past couple of weeks. Almost every Internode email address was showing as 'bouncing', and no others. It took some considerable persuasion to get Internode to 'escalate' the issue and sort out a filter they had put on accounts which stopped emails getting through to our members. All fixed now.

The incident focussed attention on the reliance we have on our Internet Service Providers (ISPs) providing a perfect service and how vulnerable and helpless we are when things don't go to plan. Last Monday Telstra's network was 'down' across the country affecting mobile and internet services for a number of hours - I was accompanying a relative to a medical practice at the time and they were unable to process payments and online services. This was the second major outage in as many months and I'm not aware of why it happened. Last Saturday morning, NAB terminals and ATMs were 'down' across the metropolitan area, causing considerable problems for retail outlets and customers alike. We hear that the new RAH is still grappling with their computer system. Then there are the stories about individual problems with the NBN, losing connections on landlines and internet and, no fault of NBN, as far as I know, last week 600 homes in Beaumont/ Glenunga area lost their landline connections for several hours.

What do we make of all this? I'm one of those people who hates it if I go out and forget to take my iPhone! I have all my information on my phone, I no longer carry a little diary in my bag. Everything is backed up on my Mac at home, but day to day, I rely on the iPhone and the 24/7 ability to access the wonders of the world on the world wide web. The recent revelations of the misdemeanours of Facebook and Google leaking information of their customers rings alarm bells about where our reliance on and trust in Social Media, and communications generally, may lead. It was good to hear Tim Cook's words - "We can make a ton of money if customers were our product. We have elected not to do that."

It would seem that, as individuals, we need to be vigilant and careful about who we give out information to, don't talk to people on the phone who say they are from the Tax Office, have noticed a problem with your PC or need information about your bank, telephone etc... There are a lot of wicked people out there! Will this make us reluctant to embrace the new technologies, Artificial Intelligence... driverless cars? We are but flawed humans.

Regards

Marie Good

SAAUC President

...and a word from our Vice President

 HealthEngine An iOS app that I just love is Health Engine. This app makes it so much easier to book appointments with a doctor, dentist,



physiotherapist, chiropractor, psychologist, audiologist, podiatrist, counsellor, optometrist etc. It displays a list of available appointments, whether it's with

a specific practitioner, or anyone available at a local or remote clinic. It even gives you the opportunity to find a doctor on a Sunday.

You can add appointments directly into your Calendar, and browse a history of all your appointments. It also allows you to create a profile for your children so you can book appointments for them.

You can also choose whether or not to add your current medications.

So no more telephone calls to try and pinpoint an suitable time, the app does it so much better in my opinion.

Rick Sarkanen

SAAUC Vice President

Mike's Musings



Apple Airports- Going ... Going ...

A while ago, Apple officially ended development of their *Airport* Wi-Fi base stations. Earlier this year, they said they would no longer stock them in Apple Stores, but would keep selling existing stock until all ran out. Apple would, however, provide service and parts for the next five years. In early May, the rumour mill reported that some Apple Stores had already run out of Airports, but that Apple dealers still had units on their shelves.

Recently Apple started offering the Linksys Velop Mesh(*) Wi-Fi System in their stores. There is a document Choosing a Wi-Fi router to use with Apple devices at <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT208753>.

Chez Millard here in West Vancouver there are two *Airport Express* routers and one *Airport Time Capsule* router/hard drive. Among them all, they provide more functionality than any of the alternatives. The Time Capsule contains a 2 TB hard drive, to which we back up both our Macs. An *Airport Express* has an *Audio Out* port; our two units are each connected to a stereo system, to which I *AirPlay* music from the iTunes library on my iMac. None of the suggested replacements have any of these "extras".

(*) Several makers have introduced Wi-Fi routers using the *mesh* system: two or more “equal” stations provide “blanket” coverage throughout a house or condo, much better than existing routers. Google *What are “mesh” Wi-Fi systems* for more information.

“My New Smart House”

(Just lately I haven’t had time to do much research, so I’ve dug up this article from a Vancouver magazine of 1997!)

SmartHouse:

Nov 28: Moved into my new house at last. Finally, we live in the smartest house in the neighbourhood. Everything’s networked. The cable TV is connected to our phone, which is connected to my personal computer, which is connected to the power lines, all the appliances and the security system. Everything runs off a universal remote with the friendliest interface I’ve ever seen. Programming is a snap. I’m, like, totally wired.

Nov 30: Hot stuff! Programmed the VCR from my office, turned up the thermostat and switched on the lights with the car phone, remotely tweaked the oven a few degrees for my pizza. Everything nice and cozy when I arrived. Maybe I should get the universal remote surgically attached.

Dec 03: Yesterday, the kitchen CRASHED. Freak event. As I opened the refrigerator door, the light bulb blew. Immediately, everything else electrical shut down—lights, microwave, coffee-maker—everything. Carefully unplugged and replugged all the appliances. Nothing. Called the cable company—but not from the kitchen phone. They referred me to the utility company, who insisted that the

problem is in the software. So the software company runs some remote tele-diagnostics via my house processor. Their expert system claims it has to be the utility’s fault. I don’t care, I just want my kitchen back.

More phone calls, more remote diagnostics. Turns out the problem was “unanticipated failure mode”: that is, the network had never seen a refrigerator bulb failure while the door was open. So the fuzzy logic interpreted the burnout as a power surge and shut down the entire kitchen. But because sensor memory confirmed that there had not actually been a power surge, the kitchen logic sequence was confused and it could not do a standard restart. The utility guy swears this was the first time this has ever happened. Rebooting the kitchen took an hour.

Dec 07: The police are not happy. Our house keeps calling them for help. We discover that whenever we play the TV or stereo above 25 decibels, it creates patterns of micro-vibrations that get amplified when they hit the window. When these vibrations mix with a gust of wind, the security sensors are actuated, and the police computer concludes that somebody is trying to break in. Go figure. Another glitch: whenever the basement is in self-diagnostic mode, the universal remote will not let me change the channels on the TV. This means I actually have to get up off the couch and change the channel by hand. The software and utility people say this flaw will be fixed in the upgrade—SmartHouse 2.1. But it’s not ready yet.

Dec 12: This is a nightmare. There is a virus in the house. My personal computer caught it while browsing on the public access network. I came home and the living room was a sauna, the bedroom windows were covered in ice, the refrigerator has defrosted, the washing machine has flooded the basement, the

garage door is going up and down and the TV is stuck on the Home Shopping Network. Throughout the house, lights flickered like stroboscopes until they exploded from the strain. There was broken glass everywhere. Of course, the security sensors detected nothing. There was a message throbbing on the screen of my personal computer:

WELCOME to HomeWrecker!!! NOW THE FUN BEGINS ...

(Be it ever so humble, there is not virus like HomeWrecker ...)

Dec 18: They think they have digitally disinfected the house, but the place is a shambles. Pipes have burst and we are not completely sure we've got the part of the virus that attacks toilets. Nevertheless, the Exorcists (as the anti-virus SWAT team members like to call themselves) are confident the worst is over. "HomeWrecker is pretty bad," one team-member tells me, "but consider yourself lucky you didn't get attacked by Poltergeist. That one is really evil."

Dec 19: Apparently, our house is not insured for viruses. "Fires and mud slides, yes," said the insurance adjuster, "Viruses, no." My agreement with the SmartHouse people explicitly states that all claims and warranties are null and void if any appliance or computer in my house networks in any way, shape or form with a non-certified on-line service. Everybody is very, very sorry, but they cannot be expected to anticipate every virus that might be created. We call our lawyer. He laughs, he's excited!

Dec 21: I get a call from a SmartHouse sales rep. As a special holiday offer, we get the opportunity, free, to become a beta test site for the company's new SmartHouse 2.1 upgrade. He says I will be able to meet the programmers personally. "Sure," I tell him.

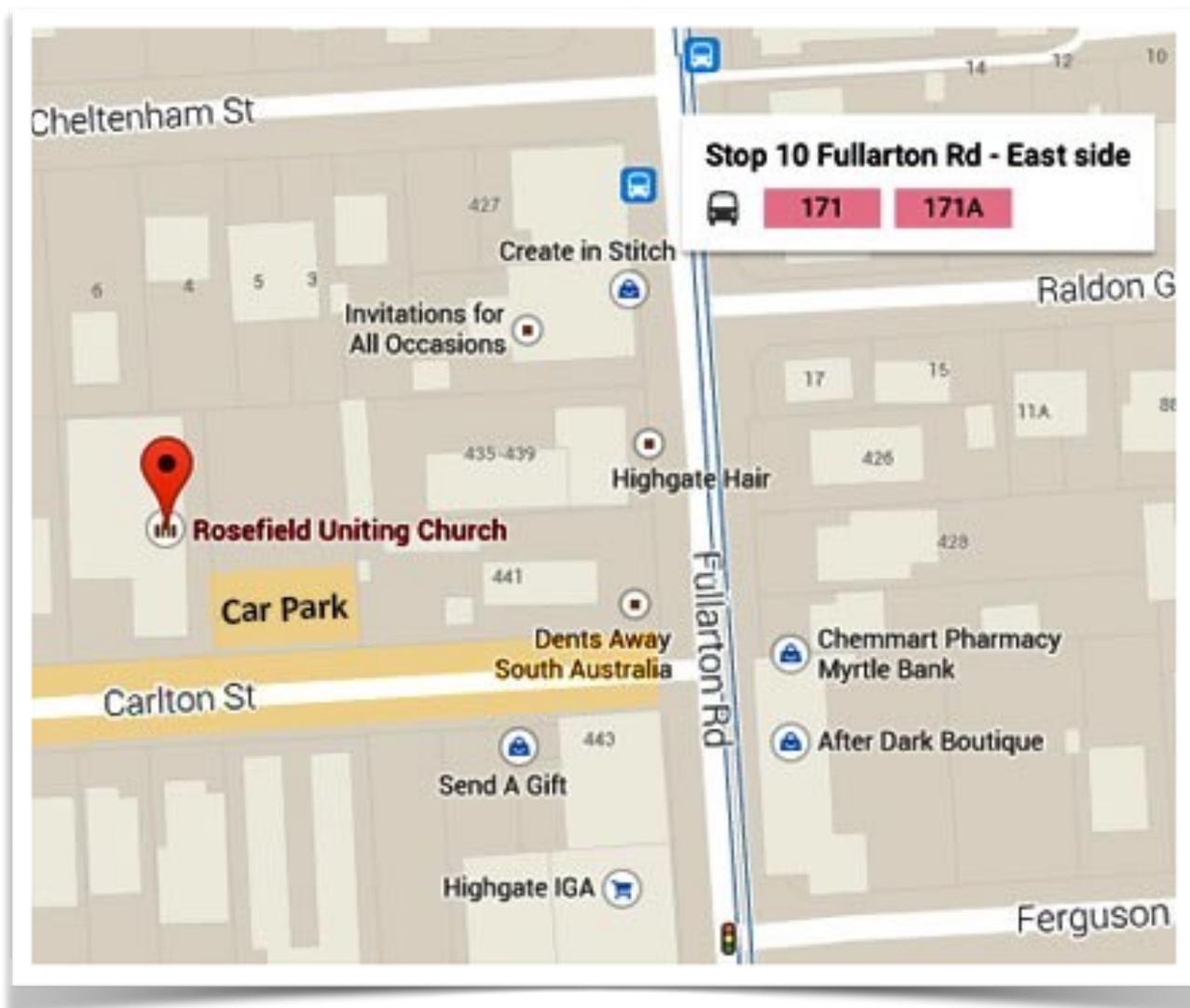
Cheers,

Mike Millard

SAAUC Meetings 2018

Fridays @ 7:30pm

February	2
March	2
April	6
May	4
June	1
July	6
August	3
September	7
October	5
November	2
December	7



Meetings at Rosefield Uniting Church
2 Carlton Street Highgate
(off Fullarton Rd, between Fisher Street & Cross Road)
Street View <https://goo.gl/maps/3Zj4RFTpSHk>

SA School Holidays, Public Holidays and Observances
<https://bit.ly/2LCz0Ur>

SAAUCery is the monthly newsletter of
South Australian Apple User Club Inc.
<http://www.saauc.org.au> – <https://www.facebook.com/saauc>
Editor: Rick Sarkanen

If you do not want to receive copies, please email us.

Images, Trade Marks, company and product names are the property of the respective owners and are used for educational, information and descriptive purposes only.
Original content © SA Apple Users' Club Inc.