



Our next SAAUC meeting is...



**Friday July 6th
from 7:30pm
Creating a bootable macOS USB
plus more**

See location map on the last page.

A word from our President...

One of the MOMA exhibits currently on display in Melbourne's National Gallery is a video compilation from many old black and white movies of telephones. When a phone rings we pay attention, we



look at it in expectation, is it going to be good or bad, are we going to be happy, sad, angry or frightened. We each have a special way of saying hello and goodbye, of picking up the receiver and putting it down. I have memories of sitting by the phone waiting for a special call, not going out for fear of missing it. From the time the telephone first came into our homes they have dominated our lives. They ring and we immediately want to answer it - have you ever been in a place where the phone is ringing and no one answers, do you feel stressed? The little film in Melbourne made me think about phones in a new way. We think our smart phones are new and exciting. We think that smart phones have taken control of our children. The reality is that they, like the Triffids which lifted themselves out of the earth to walk, the phone has shaken off its cables, and, eleven years ago, when Steve Jobs held up the iPhone for the first time, it has surged into a new space and their power continues to grow. When we bemoan our children and grandchildren with their attention completely held by their phones, remember how they have always had that influence in our lives too.

Regards

Marie Good

SAAUC President

Mike's Musings



Solar Power Surge is Flooding the Grid

This was the heading of the article at the URL above. I've known of solar power for years. (In 2008, I was staying with a cousin in Adelaide; his house got its power from panels on the roof, and whose excess was fed back out to the grid, for which they were recompensed.) But I'd not heard mention before of the situation the article describes. It does have a faint feel of "scare-mongering" about it to me, but I can see a logic to what it contends.

Its contention is perhaps more acceptable if you think about how much the use of solar panels on domestic and industrial buildings seems to have increased in recent years. And why South Australia's acquisition of one of Elon Musk's "Big Battery" makes sense. I think we will see many more installations like this where electricity comes principally from solar and wind power.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/too-much-of-a-good-thing-solar-power-surge-is-flooding-the-grid-20180606-p4zjs7.html>

A Piece of Good Advice!

In late May and early June, several members reported that their machine or device was behaving unpredictably—e.g., email messages were there or not, or they

would disappear unexpectedly. It seemed to be happening on Macs, iPhones and iPads. All very annoying to those experiencing the problem! Then, Club Secretary Mike Laws offered a piece of very good advice in the Club's Google Groups page: "Turn it off!".

The basis for Mike's piece of advice is this: as a computer-type device operates, things in memory never work absolutely perfectly; tiny "hiccups" occur, "stuff" gradually accumulates causing the occasional error to occur. If it goes on long enough, the misbehaviour becomes a nuisance, the sort of thing these members described.

Now ... it doesn't mean things have "gone terminal"; the poor thing's memory (RAM) just needs a good cleaning or flushing. To achieve this, do as Mike said: "Turn it right off!" That means a *Shut Down* on your Mac, or holding down the button on the side of your iDevice and doing a *Slide to power off*. When you power up again, whatever is in RAM is overwritten with a fresh copy of the system.

I know that how often people shut down their machine/device can vary a lot. Many shut their Mac down every day, others leave it running for days. iPads and iPhones ... not so sure. Mike suggested "powering off" about once a month. This seems reasonable to me.

But don't leave it **too** long between "power-offs", eh?

AirDrop ... Transferring Files Easily

In releases of both *macOS* and *iOS* in the last few years Apple introduced a way of transferring files easily between adjacent devices. It's called *AirDrop*. Once permission has been set on devices initially allowing them to receive files via *AirDrop*, transfers can be performed. The only other requirement is that both devices be on the same Wi-Fi network, or both have *Bluetooth* turned on. With *AirDrop*,

you can transfer files without having to be logged into the destination device.

(I won't try to describe in detail how to move files between devices—Googling *AirDrop Files between Mac, iPhone & iPad and iPhone, iPad & Mac* will bring up articles that give needed information.)

Where *AirDrop*'ed files "land" on the receiving device can depend on the type of file and the type of device it is going to.

– From *Mac* to *Mac*: the file always goes into the *Downloads* folder of the user logged on.

– From *iPhone, iPad* to *Mac*: same as above.

– From *Mac* or *iDevice* to an *iDevice*: It depends on the type of file:–

Image-type files end up in the *Photos* app;

iWork files (*Pages, Numbers, Keynote*) and *MS Word* files will bring up a list of destinations on the *iDevice* screen—e.g., *Pages, Numbers, Keynote* and *Files*, and *Print* are typical.

When PDFs Must "Lose Weight"

I recently had to send copies of some paper documents to someone—nine pages in all. Scanning them using *Preview* to create PDFs of them so I could email them seemed the logical way to go. I scanned each page; they ended up on the Desktop as nine separate PDF files.

Preview has more than one option under its *File* menu for saving/exporting in several different formats; whatever I did, each page was a PDF file of over 2 MB in size!

When I combined them into a single PDF file for emailing, the file was just over 20 MB in size, far too big to email! Luckily, from the Web I downloaded a free app called *Smallpdf*. I fed my big PDF file into it; after just a few seconds out came a file of ... **2 MB**! This was perfect for emailing.

Using a HomePod with Your Apple TV

I found this article on the Web: <<https://www.macrumors.com/how-to/homepod-as-apple-tv-speaker/>>.

It looks to me the way to have the audio from anything you pull in using the ATV that you view on the TV will be played through the HomePod.

I know you may have tried this already. If not, I hope this info helps.

A non-commercial TV network we have here in British Columbia archives shows it has just broadcast but allows you to view them via a web-browser.

(You have to do it this way as they do not offer an app for the Apple TV!) I use our iPod for this, AirPlaying the signal to our TV so we get the full-sized picture.

(The audio comes through the sound-bar connected to our TV.)

I think you could do that, then set it up to have the audio go the HomePod ... for “a superior viewing experience” 😎 (as the cliché goes!).

I have also set up *Home Sharing* in iTunes on my Mac, so I can sit by the TV and have my “ripped” CDs play through the sound-bar in our TV set-up.

(You use the ATV’s Siri Remote to select what to play.) It should work to the HomePod, too.

A Club member has had this experience with his HomePod:

Once the ATV recognises the HomePod, Airplay needs to be ‘on’ in Settings and I have set it to allow access to Anyone on the same Network.

Go back a step in settings to Video and Audio. Go to Audio/Audio Output and tick both the ATV and HomePod icons. The sound now plays through the tv speakers as well as the HomePod.

Unfortunately free-to-air TV, being on a different line to the ATV, can’t play on the HomePod. I could also Airplay a TV program to the ATV from my iPhone or iPad to hear it through the HomePod but don’t see the need.

A recent article n the *AppleInsider* website described a comparison they ran between a pair of HomePods and a regular surround-sound system. It seems that, while HomePods can pump out a decent maximum volume with music from Apple Music, they have noticeably less “oomph” playing a movie sound track from somewhere like Netflix.

<<http://appleinsider.com/articles/18/06/17/can-apples-homepod-take-on-a-surround-sound-theater-system>>

Addendum: On June/18th, HomePods went on sale in Canada. They are charging \$449 CAD, but everywhere in Canada sales taxes are added at point-of-sale. That means that, here on British Columbia, I must add on \$22.45 for the 5% national GST and \$31.43 for the 7% B.C. provincial sales tax, for a total of \$502.88 CAD (about \$512.64 in AUD). Siri will understand Canadian English on the HomePod, with *Français Canadien* coming "later this year".

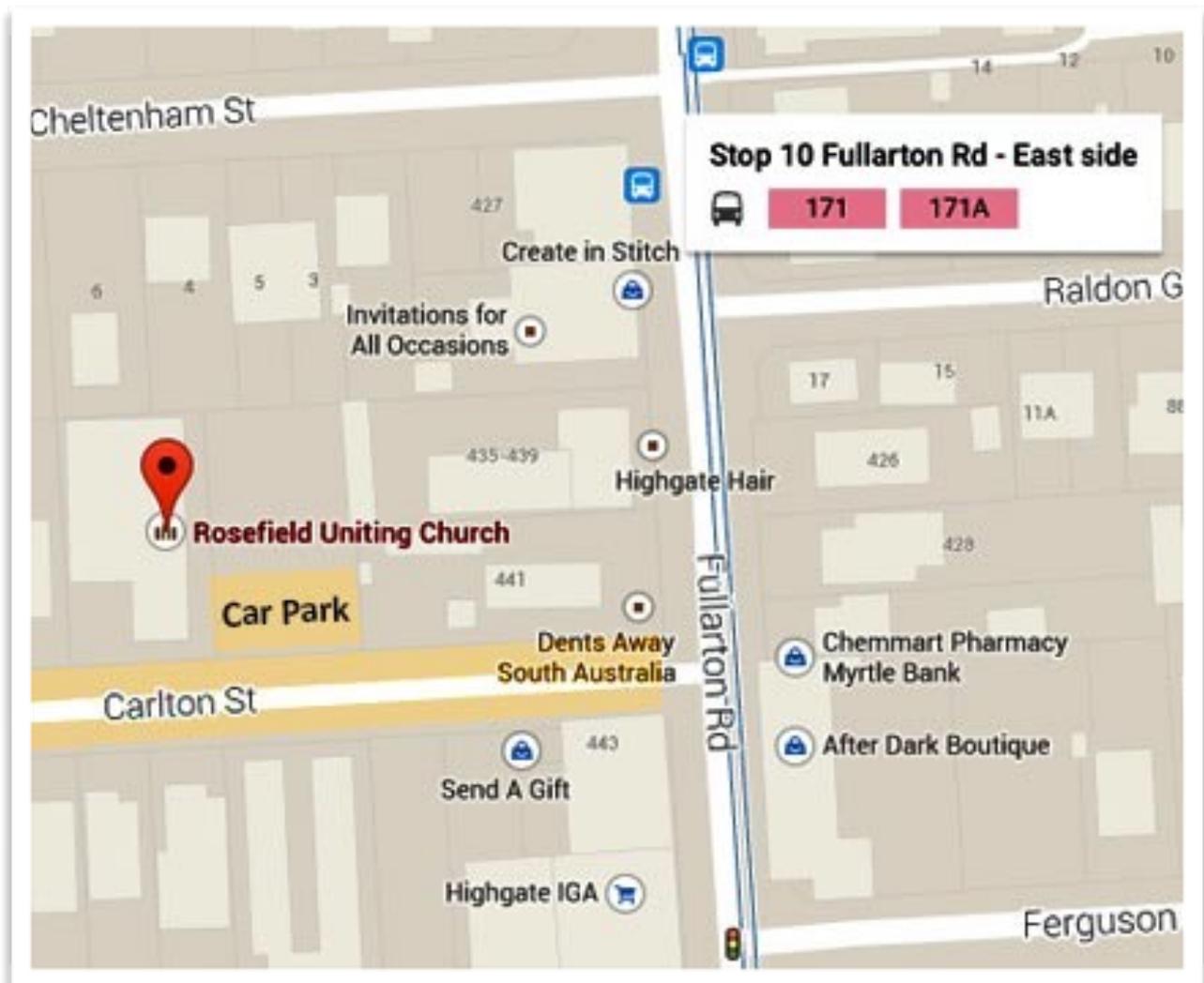
Cheers,

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>

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