

CARLYLE GARDENS

TOWNSVILLE

COMPUTER CLUB

KEEPING YOU ON LINE

April 10

WHAT'S NEW?

Those who attended the March *INFONITE*, when Sgt Glenn Lawrence and some Westpac bank officials presented information on computer fraud, identity theft and other related topics, may recall the advice that all private documents showing personal details should be shredded, rather than just thrown into the rubbish bin or recycle bin. The Committee has heeded this warning and has resolved to purchase a good quality shredder which will be placed in the Computer Centre and which will be available to all residents, Club members and otherwise. Once the equipment has been installed, all residents will be invited to make use of it to dispose of their personal documents that are no longer required. This includes phone bills, Telstra accounts etc, anything that contains information that a person of criminal intent may find useful if (s)he ever has the opportunity to rifle through the documents at the dump or elsewhere.

This action is being taken as a service to residents and will be free of charge. The only request is that users observe the instructions that will be placed on the machine. There is a bin in the Centre for the shredded material and users will be requested to empty the bin in the recycle bin outside the main office. Residents will be able to contribute even more to the recycling program.

Another initiative being taken by the Committee is the purchase and placement of a curtain to cover the entrance to the Centre. It has been found that light from the doorway interferes with the image from the projector when, for example, workshops are being conducted. The curtain will be retractable and will be used only when required, but it will be worth it. The present system of excluding light is cumbersome and even partly dangerous.

Bob Bowd has "volunteered" to manage both these tasks and the Club thanks him in advance.

INFONITE

The *INFONITE* on computer fraud was well attended and the Committee's assessment of it points to it being well received; President Clive has expressed the Club's appreciation to those visitors who gave up their own time to make the presentation (at least we gave them a good supper).

The next *INFONITE* will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday 25 May and will again be one with a difference. It is being entitled **TAKING STOCK**. One of our members, James Phillips, will demonstrate how he uses the computer to access information from the stock exchange, maybe to make a fortune. Now this may not be everybody's cup of tea, but the Committee is continuing with its policy of choosing a variety of topics designed to inform and entertain and maybe to be followed up.

An avenue for topics is being investigated by the Committee, that members with a very particular interest volunteer to present their pet topic in a short space of time, say up to fifteen minutes or so, with about four or five topics being presented in one evening. Through this approach, members can find out what their fellow members are doing and maybe take up an interest in it as well (or not, it doesn't matter). It will also get more members involved directly in Club activities.

Obviously, for this scheme to become viable, members will need to inform the Committee of their area of interest and their willingness to volunteer to make the presentation. Notification can begin immediately; contact President Clive (240) or Secretary Kevin (133) as soon as possible, with a view to conducting the mini-presentations later in the year.

WORKSHOPS

The current round of workshops on basic procedures has commenced and will run for a number of weeks. The first one, on basic procedures and creating files and folders was well attended, with some participants from last year turning up for a second round. There were a couple of hiccups with the projector and with one of the computers, but our Wal was able to solve the problems. The session seemed to be well accepted. An interesting situation occurred when one of the participants, Joan, turned up with an Apple computer: this presented problems because the instructions given were based on Windows programs. Fortunately, Joan was able to adapt to the situation. The next three weeks will be spent on **WORD** or its equivalents in WordPad or Open Office Letter. Members are invited to attend any or all of the sessions.

Meanwhile, Happy Computing

