<u>COMPUTER CLUB</u>

This meeting was held on Saturday, 8 September 2007.

<u>Feature Topic</u>: Potential dangers for children whilst online – presented by Mike Kroon

Exposure to inappropriate material There is a risk that children may be exposed to material that is pornographic, sexually explicit or offensive, hateful or violent in nature, or that encourages activities that are dangerous or illegal. Access to such material may occur inadvertently through Web searches.

Physical danger 'Stranger danger' is also a risk associated with the internet. It is possible your child may physically meet a person who may claim online to be someone they are not.

Unwanted advertising and marketing towards children Scam websites have been set up to deprive people of money or opportunity. Some websites may be bogus or dummy sites—for example, websites supposedly belonging to banks which have been developed to deceive people into providing credit card details (known as 'phishing').

Financial risks Another financial risk related to internet use is called 'dumping'. Internet dumping occurs when somebody is tricked into disconnecting from the internet at the normal cheaper rate and unknowingly reconnecting at a more expensive rate.

Harassment and bullying Cyber bullying can be carried out through internet services such as email, chat rooms, discussion groups, instant messaging or web pages. Cyber bullying can include teasing and being made fun of, spreading rumours online, sending unwanted messages and defamation.

Unreliable information Information on some websites may misrepresent the truth, be misleading, be out of date, biased or just incorrect.

Spam Spam is the email equivalent of junk mail or nuisance telephone calls. Spam is simply any unsolicited electronic mail sent in bulk to individuals or organisations. It can include viruses or pornographic content.

What can you do

You can download one of the three programs offered by the Australian Federal Government found at http://www.netalert.gov.au/forms/process-download.php (above material summarised from this site) or you can go to the Microsoft site and download Family Safety from Windows Live OneCare found at https://fss.live.com/

Our next meeting is Saturday, 13 October at 3pm. Everyone is welcome.
Secretary, Edward Caruana