

Earlier this year the program changed from “Computing for Seniors” to the new program of “Be Connected”. The change differs little as both offered one to one and online tutorials for senior members of the community. I have supported 22 students in the past year and presented tutorials on specific topics to the hall museum volunteers and the Men’s Shed.

The Association has had a commitment to this program for the last two years, firstly upgrading the programs devices and computers, last year the Association agreed to provide funding for our internet connection. We are connected to the NBN and have set the connection up as a hub for other users in the old staff kitchen at the school site. At the time of connection, we were unable to connect to the cottage. Currently it is used by the Be Connected program on Tuesday and Wednesdays, the Museum e-hive people on Thursday, students from the various institutions who do placements with the Museum, Museum curators and volunteers.

With the introduction of the new program we were given a startup grant of \$1500 for the purchase and upgrade to new technology and other related incidentals. The “Terms of Reference” for the grant is for our kiosk to sign up 30 new members to the Be Connected program. I originally declined the grant as I believed I would not be able to meet the terms of the agreement. After some discussion with the organization they convinced me that I should accept the grant and endeavor to recruit as many as I can. The grant has been received by the Treasurer. I am still well short of the desired number of participants. My advertising has been limited to flyers and a regular ad in the Rural Fringe.

During the year I received a donation of an Apple all in one Pc, this now expands our ability to offer tutorials in all PC formats and tablets. I generally do smart phones on an ad-hoc basis.

Rod Roberts

Be Connected Coordinator