

UCC::FresherGuide

The Ghosts of Committee Past[1]
<committee@ucc.asn.au>

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Contents

1	Finding the Clubroom	1
2	Setting Up Your Account	2
3	Dispense 101	3
4	UCC Events	4
4.1	UCC Fresher Welcome	4
4.2	UCC Annual General Meeting	4
4.3	Easter LAN	4
4.4	LANs	4
4.5	Cameron Hall Quiz Night	4
4.6	UCC Camp	5
4.6.1	FUCC Camp Scholarship	5
4.7	UCC 40th Anniversary Dinner	5
4.8	Cameron Hall Charity Vigil	5
4.9	UCC Tech Talks	5
5	UCC Groups	7
5.1	Wheel	7
5.2	Committee	7
5.3	Coke	7
5.4	Door	7
5.5	Webmasters	8
5.6	Winadmins / Sprocket	8
6	Clubroom	9
7	Communication Technologies	10
7.1	Mailing Lists	10
7.2	IRC	10

References**11**

1. Finding the Clubroom

To find the clubroom, follow the maps:

1. Starting from the carpark outside The Tav, follow the arrow on the aerial picture to get to the Cameron Hall door, then go up the stairs to the second floor and follow the bottom map.
2. If you see a coke machine and a snack machine, you are in the right place. The UCC clubroom has lots of computers and a couple of couches.
3. If you accidentally find yourself surrounded by books and a fridge, you're in UniSFA — try the other door in that corridor.

You can see if the clubroom is open online using the webcams (<http://webcams.ucc.asn.au/>)

2. Setting Up Your Account

Your UCC account is one of the most important things you can have as a member. It lets you log into any of our clubroom machines, as well as granting you access to our user servers, wireless network and online drink and snack machines.

You'll need to come into the clubroom to set up your account. Once you're here, ask around for a Wheel or Committee member and have your membership sticker (we normally put it on your student card on O-Day) to set up your account. You'll need a user name and a password to memorise, but it's a pretty simple procedure once you've found the right person!

Now that you have an account, you can use it to log into any of our clubroom machines. If you want to log onto one of our servers, you'll need to use the SSH program. If you're having trouble, just ask someone in the clubroom — we don't *byte*!

Changing your UCC password can either be done by Ctrl-Alt-Del on a windows machine or using the command `passwd` on a Linux/Unix machine. Accessing the UCC WiFi network can be a bit tricky (particularly on Windows machines). Ask someone if you need help, or refer to <http://wiki.ucc.asn.au/Wifi>

3. Dispense 101

At the same time as you set up your account, you will also have your dispense account set up. Dispense is the program that allows users to store credit and purchase items from the coke/snack machines (which are almost always cheaper than what you would find elsewhere on campus). Coke members can help you add credit to your dispense account. Call out for one in the clubroom if need be, there's always one around.

The easiest way to dispense a drink is probably the web interface (Figure 3.1). Simply enter your username and password and then select a drink.

Due to technical reasons, snacks cannot be dispensed using this interface. Getting a snack will involve typing a 5 digit User ID and a 4 digit PIN into the keypad. This allows you to dispense both drinks and snacks.

You can also use your Student Card or SmartRider as a log in device on the snack machine. To do so, log in to the Snack Machine and hold whichever card you want to use up to the card scanner (it's the thing with the blinking green light) and the card should auto- enroll. To log in using the card, simply hold the enrolled card up to the card scanner.

You can also access Dispense via shell login and using the `dispense` command. Dispense isn't installed on clubroom machines so you will have to use `ssh` to access one of UCC's servers.



Figure 3.1: The web dispense interface at <https://secure.ucc.asn.au/dispense>

4. UCC Events

(dates and times subject to change)

4.1 UCC Fresher Welcome

Friday, February 31st 5:00 PM Cameron Hall Loft (above the UCC clubroom)

The Fresher welcome exists to welcome you, a new UCC member, to the club. There will be a number of current members there to talk with and get to know, and all of your questions about the club and how to use it will be answered. As a bonus, all first time members get FREE pizza.

4.2 UCC Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 11th 1.00 PM (common lunch hour of UWA) Guild Council Meeting Room

The AGM is the meeting at which the new UCC committee is elected for 2014. The only way to be represented is to attend on the day. As a Fresher, you should attend to either run for or vote for the position of the Fresher Representative, who will be your liaison for the committee. If you don't know where the Guild Council Meeting Room is, arrive at the UCC clubroom a little early to join the mass exodus.

4.3 Easter LAN

Easter Weekend 3:00 PM to the morning after

UCC runs a number of LANs throughout the year, some with proper organisation, some without. The Easter LAN is the first big LAN of the academic year, taking place over the Easter weekend, the first weekend of mid-Semester one study break. We play a number of different games, and of course you can organise your own. LANs are free for all UCC members, but you can bring a friend for around \$5 (though of course you should encourage them to join). Bring your own PCs, or use one of the limited stock in the clubroom.

4.4 LANs

Throughout the Year From Dusk til Dawn

The UCC hosts a number of more LANs throughout the year. As above, the Easter LAN is the first big one. Expect other LANs during the semester and breaks.

4.5 Cameron Hall Quiz Night

First Semester, probably in May Evening

Bringing together the various clubs of Cameron Hall, the quiz night is the only proper time to use your smarts throughout your degree. Likely to take place in the UWA Tav, tables and tickets will be organised closer to the date.

4.6 UCC Camp

Winter Break

The UCC goes camping! Without tents. Some time during the winter break, UCC will host a camp, probably at Camp Leschenaultia. This is a chance to get your computer out of the house for a few days, tinkering and playing games with a whole bunch of other members. Don't worry, you won't be without precious internet. For first timers to the camp, some old members may offer a "scholarship" to the camp if you can't afford it. Expect more details closer to the date.

4.6.1 FUCC Camp Scholarship

A message from James Cox and Lionel Price:

For new members to UCC, Lionel and I would like to tell you about our full-ride scholarship program. We realise that Camp is fairly expensive, but as once-freshers made good we are financially able to provide unto others. Previous recipients of these scholarships have gone onto great things so we are proud to offer it once more in 2014. I would encourage everyone who is interested to take advantage of this offer - I had a great time my first UCC Camp which is part of the reason why I now offer this scholarship.

Two first-time UCC Campers will have their entry fee paid for by us. As before, you will also obtain the privilege, if you should so wish, to add a pink F to your UCC tags, denoting sophistication, intellect, and exclusive membership of an elite group of teamkilling imbeciles.

To be eligible for this award, you must be a UWA student, member of UCC, and to not have attended a previous UCC Camp. Applicants will also need to declare in writing that they will participate in at least one game of DotA0 during UCC Camp, and that when we play ET you will not be a noob in the back with a mortar accomplishing nothing all match.

4.7 UCC 40th Anniversary Dinner

Saturday, September 13th 7.00 PM til late(r) South of Perth Yacht Club

The big non-tech event of the year, the 40th Anniversary dinner is an opportunity for new members to meet the old blood of UCC, the ones that are still kicking on. Taking place in the lovely South of Perth Yacht Club, this fully catered dinner will be a good celebration of 40 years of computing. Expect entry prices to be around 60to80, which should cover dinner.

4.8 Cameron Hall Charity Vigil

Semester 2 - around mid-semester study break From Dusk til Dawn

Once a year, all of the clubs in Cameron Hall get together and hold a night of fun and games to raise money for charity. While the details of the night are still to come, the UCC will probably host a LAN. There will be an entry fee for this event, but expect it to be fully worth it.

4.9 UCC Tech Talks

Throughout the Year At Various Times

Tech talks are a chance to demonstrate your own tech-y knowledge, or learn from someone else. Taking place throughout the year, as interest demands, the talks will cover a variety of topics, previous ones including introductions to TOR, learning basics, and the magic of data compression.

Early on in the semester, a number of tech talks will cover learning to use the various machines and servers of the club.

5. UCC Groups

The UCC committee delegates specific duties and responsibilities to other people in the club. These groups, traditionally modelled after UNIX groups, are referred to often. It pays to be aware of what the responsibilities of each group are.

You can see who's in each group online (photos are included). Alternatively, if you're looking for a member of a certain group, shouting out 'is there anyone here in group?' will usually get you an answer.

Unlike committee, obtaining membership to one of the UCC groups does not involve being elected. Membership of these groups entails a certain amount of trust, so you may not be allowed to join them straight away.

The exact entry requirements are often vague and it is generally accepted that you will nominate yourself once you feel you meet those requirements. Members join Wheel by invite only, and will be asked to attend a Wheel Meeting, where they too will be taught the Secret Wheel Song. Do not despair if you're not made a Wheel member immediately. Sticking around and showing an interest through contribution is more important than just having the skills.

5.1 Wheel

wheel@ucc.asn.au Wheel is in charge of maintaining the club's machines. They are the best people to see if you're having problems with the computers. Wheel maintains its own membership, but works hand in hand with Committee on issues relating to account policy. If you abuse your account, it will be locked by a Wheel member. The unlocking of accounts is at the discretion of Committee. Wheel have infrequent meetings, where they sing the secret wheel song.

5.2 Committee

committee@ucc.asn.au Fresher Rep: fresher@ucc.asn.au The Committee is appointed each year by the members (that's you) at the AGM. They handle the day-to-day running of the club, managing money, events and holding grumpy meetings each week, which members like yourself are welcome to attend. The Fresher Rep is your voice on the Committee. Get to know them and let them know how incredibly happy you are! If you have problems, they'll always be ready to listen.

5.3 Coke

coke@ucc.asn.au (appointed by committee) The Coke group are the people to talk to if you want to add money to your dispense account (see the section on dispense). They can also credit your account for bad dispenses and other tasks related to dispense.

5.4 Door

door@ucc.asn.au (appointed by committee) The Door group is responsible for the clubroom itself. Only a member of door group can unlock the clubroom and keep it open for members during the day. This means that if the only Door group member in the room has to leave, then everyone will have to leave until another Door group member arrives.

5.5 Webmasters

webmasters@ucc.asn.au The Webmasters are charged with maintaining the UCC web presence. Becoming a Webmaster usually involves showing some interest in the UCC website, as well as approval from an existing Webmaster or member of Wheel.

5.6 Winadmins / Sprocket

winadmins@ucc.asn.au

In response to the decreasing availability of Wheel members during the day, the Winadmins group was created to give trusted members administrator access to the Windows desktop machines in the clubroom. Sprocket is the equivalent group for Linux desktop machines.

6. Clubroom

The clubroom is usually open from about 9am (after the first door group member arrives from 8am lectures) until 11pm (when UWA security kick us out). It is also sometimes open on weekends, and most days during university holidays. There is a map to the clubroom in Chapter 1. If you want to check the clubroom is open and who is there, check out <http://webcam.ucc.asn.au>

The clubroom has a heap of desktop computers, a server room, a projects area with tool cupboard, and assorted storage areas for parts, books and components. These things are all there for members to use — the locks on everything are to keep thieves out, so please don't be put off, and just ask if you need to get into something.

We don't have cleaners, so look after the clubroom! There is always a door group member in the room, AND YOU WILL DO WHAT THEY DAMN WELL TELL YOU TO DO AS THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE TO COME TO CLEANUPS IN THEIR FREE TIME. OF COURSE, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT NEEDS DOING SUCH AS CLEANING UP, FEEL FREE TO DO IT!

7. Communication Technologies

7.1 Mailing Lists

UCC has a series of mailing lists that its members use to communicate. These include:

UCC-Announce - An announcement list through which we let members know about Events and the like. You are automatically subscribed to this list when becoming a member.

UCC - Having a party that you want to invite UCCans to? This is the list for you! Most UCCans subscribe to this list so it's a great source of information and discussion on both the club and general technical things.

Committee - The list where committee matters are dealt with and circular discussions occur. If you are interested in the running of the club then you should subscribe to this list.

Tech - Technical question? Suggestions or discussion around UCCs setup? The list used to discuss UCC's hardware and machines.

If you want to subscribe to any of these lists, you can do so at <http://lists.ucc.gu.uwa.edu.au>

7.2 IRC

Without a doubt, the easiest way to waste time in or out of UCC is chatting on our Internet Relay Chat (IRC) server.

You'll get to chat with some of the older members of the club who may not even be in Perth. Some of these old guard may seem a little grumpy or intimidating at first, but give them a chance, they are gold mines for information about the club and all things tech! We also have members from CASSA and ComSSA, clubs at other WA unis.

You can connect with an IRC client to `irc://irc.ucc.asn.au:6667` and join the channel `#ucc`, or with a web browser go to <http://irc.ucc.asn.au>

References

- [1] A. Murphy, “Committee.” <http://www.ucc.asn.au/infobase/committee>.

Glossary

Words and phrases that are (or were) useful around the club.

Term	Meaning
Dr ACC Murphy	A Computer Called Murphy. Dr ACC Murphy is infamous around the UCC. He even rec
BSD	Berkeley Systems Distribution â€” a UNIX developed at Berkeley, now better known thr
blog	aka. weblog â€” sort of like a journal on the Internet (you don't have one?). Think of it
Coke credit	If you gotta ask, you ain't got it! Coke credit is how people usually refer to money in you
Coke Group	The people who can put money (Coke credit) in your dispense account.
Debian	a Linux distribution popular in the UCC due to its community nature.
DEC Terminal	A dumb serial terminal, useful for plugging into the serial console on servers (possibly via
dispense	dispense started off as a way to dispense Cokes from the online Coke machine, and has si
Door Group	the group of people charged with keep the room open, tidy and safe.
Firefox	A web browser by the Mozilla Foundation, arguably the second-worst Internet browser â€”
Flame	Flame is the UCC's MUD (Multi-User Dungeon) and may or may not be haunted.
Fresher	A new university student, usually also a first time UCC member.
Fresher Rep	Fresher Committee member, usually chosen because they look like they'll make a good w
GNOME	GNU Networked Object Model Environment â€” an open source desktop environment ai
GNU	GNU is Not Unix â€” a layer of libraries and utilities to implement a UNIX like operatin
Internet Explorer	Just use Firefox. No, really.
IRC	The lifeblood of UCCan communication. Internet Relay Chat lets you share news, stories
KDE	The K Desktop Environment. A rival of GNOME which some members prefer. Contains
kernel	The core of an operating system. All operating systems have a kernel, some popular ones
LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol: the black magic used for authentication at the UC
Linux	the kernel (basis) of an open source UNIX operating system that has developed quite a fo
loft	the area above the UCC that looks down into the UCC clubroom. LAN gaming and othe
machine room	The UCC data centre. This is the small room with the glass doors that is located within
mailing list	a way of communicating with a very large number of people via email. The UCC has sever
Mozilla	develop several open source web related products, such as Firefox and Thunderbird.
OCM	Ordinary Committee Member â€” the worker drones of the UCC Committee, they do lot
Oligoboot	boots more then one operating system (selectable when you boot).
OpenSolaris	A UNIX developed by Sun Microsystems, and abandoned by Oracle.
NeXTStep	An operating system developed by NeXT before they were bought out by Apple. Lots of
open source	A software ideology, where the source code to software (what is compiled into the progr
Planet	A web page that syndicates blogs. UCC has one at http://planet.ucc.asn.au/
Secret Wheel Song	The song that is supposedly sung at the beginning of each Wheel meeting.
SLA	A Service Level Agreement. A document describing how reliable services are. UCC does n
terminal server	Sort of a router for serial ports, allows you to connect to one serial port from another. Us
theft book	this is where you write down that you borrowed tools from UCC. It is not for borrowing l
TLA	Three Letter Acronym â€” a way to refer to UCC members, often used in the minutes of
Ubuntu	A Linux distribution derived from Debian. Funded with space money.
UCCan	someone who spends a lot of time in the UCC. Some UCCans pass their units.
Unifi	The University wireless network. Available around campus where UCC's wireless is not. Y
UniSFA	the University Science Fiction Association, the ones down the hall.
VM	A VM or Virtual Machine is a computer emulated on top of another computer. Many of t
WAIX	WA Internet eXchange â€” a group of ISPs and interested bodies who peer resources on
Wheel Group	the group responsible for maintaining computers, accounts and services in UCC.