



University Computer Club
2013 Fresher Guide

Presidents Welcome

Well, this is the president's welcome...

Welcome freshers! ("That good? No? I have to say more!?)

Anyway, welcome to the UCC, hopefully you'll find it a lovely place to relax between classes and get some work done (or just veg out playing games).

The UCC has a place for every part of computing, from gamers to developers to sysadmins, there's something fun to work on. We try to run a LAN a couple of times a semester, there's the camp during midyear break, tutorial sessions on how to use Linux and the UCC Talks will hopefully run again to show curious people the fun parts of computer science that are not taught at UWA.

I've tried to keep the above brief, because I was a fresher once too and knew how intimidating a wall of text can be. Have fun at the UCC, and enjoy life at University.

John Hodge [TPG]
UCC President 2012

Acknowledgements

This guide is published with the (sometimes thankless) work of our members. This year, thanks go to Jeremy Cole, Sam Shenton and the 2012 freshers. Thanks also to the 2012 Committee and those who have previously worked on previous editions of this guide (there's a lot)

We'd also like to thank UWA Information Services for our continual (free) access to the Internet, potentially lifesaving!

Thanks also deserve to The Guild for our clubroom and all those grants that we wouldn't be here without.

About UCC

The UCC is a social and technical club going into its 39th year of existence. We've had quite a colourful history and our members have ended up in positions and jobs within some of the most well known tech companies in the world.

Our members are a fountain of useful information and are almost always willing to help you out with any questions you may have (we can't stress this enough) about almost any topic you can dream up. We also have pretty regular social events in the way of LANs and Camps, but just as much comes from last minute drinks/clubroom socialisation.

Over the years, we have compiled quite a wide variety of hardware and software for our members to tinker around with, we've even got internet connected snack and coke machines (along with custom software written by members to run said machines and coke/snacks to fill them). Chances are you'll be able to cut your teeth on technology you will either have never heard of or that you never would have dreamed of getting your hands on!

Members also have a tendency to go project crazy. Many members are active in the Open Source Community (Mozilla, Free BSD and GNOME to name but a few) as well as providing lots around the clubroom to tinker with (you should see our tool cupboard)

If nothing else though, UCC provides its members a free internet connection around the clubroom (yes, this includes down at The Tav) and an opportunity to waste away your time between lectures. So come find our clubroom and say hi.

Finding UCC

UCC's Clubroom is located in Cameron Hall, the building that the UWA Tavern is part of.

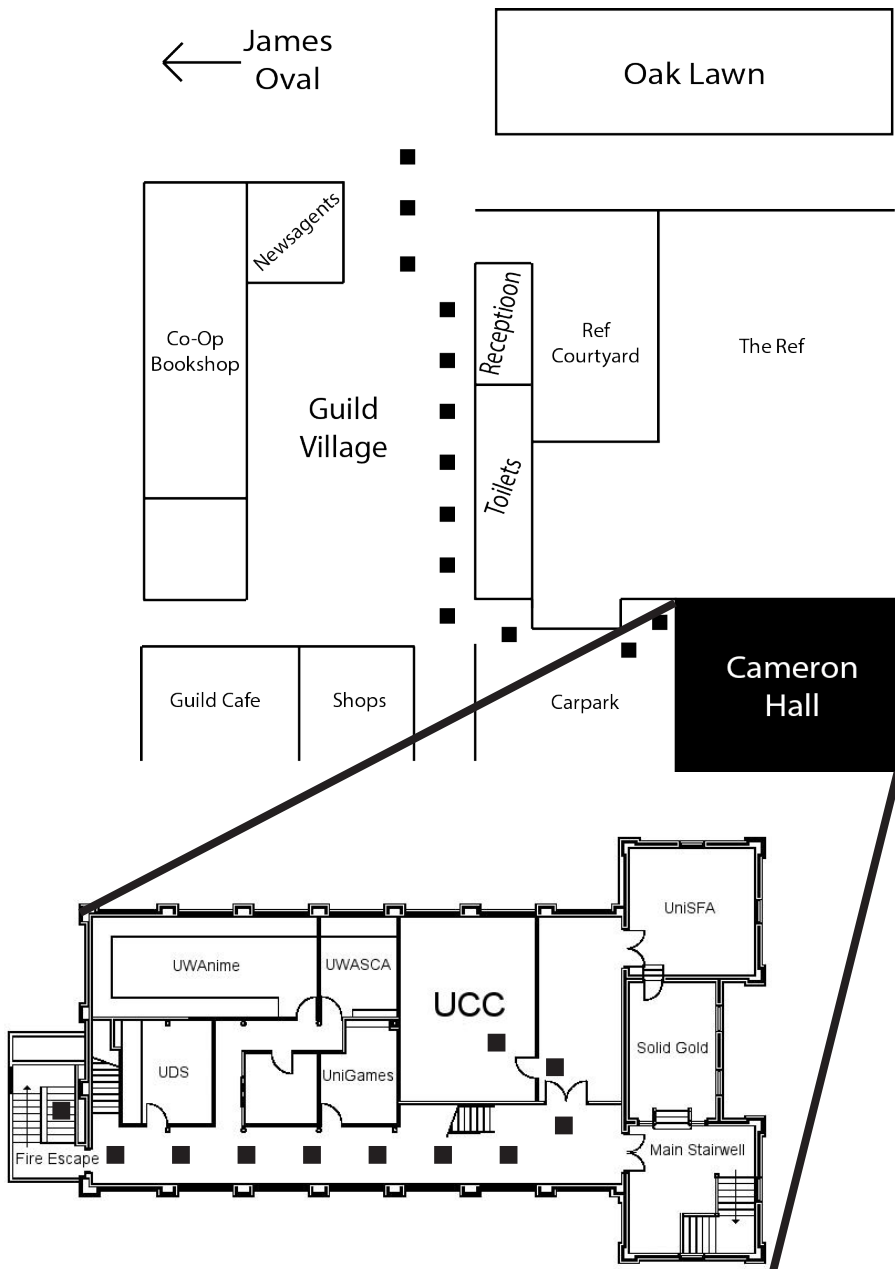
Getting there can be a bit confusing, so on the front of this guide, there is a QR code which can be scanned with a Smartphone App (QRReader or the like) which links you to a PDF with directions to the clubroom including photos of the route to take.

If you don't have a smartphone, then below are more simplified directions to the clubroom as well as a map.

Depending on where you are coming from, there are a couple of ways to find Cameron Hall and the UCC Clubroom. Your best bet is to first find the Guild Village (it's near the Co-Op Bookshop and Oak Lawn).

From there you are going to want to walk down past Guild Reception (where you will have activated your Guild membership), the toilets and take a left turn down a little alleyway, you will hit a small car park that you should walk directly across and through a wooden door leading to a stairwell (the Fire Escape).

Walk up this stairwell to the top and then continue down the hall. There will be a set of double doors on the left past a set of stairs. Walk through those doors and UCC is the first door you'll see.



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) ready 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 bite!

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 wireless network can be a bit tricky (particularly on Windows machines). Ask someone if you need help, or refer to `wiki.ucc.asn.au/Wifi`

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).

This will involve a 5 digit **User ID** and a 4 digit **PIN**. This allows you to physically log into the snack machine and dispense both drinks and snacks.

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.

You can also use your **Student Card/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 top the card scanner.

You can also access Dispense online via shell login. Dispense isn't installed on clubroom machines so you will have to use SSH to access one of UCC's servers. You can get someone to show you how to do this, or alternatively, go to:
`wiki.ucc.asn.au/SSH`

Semester 1 Events

UCC Fresher's Welcome

Date: Friday 1st March

Time: 6pm

Location: UCC Clubroom

The fresher welcome is just how it sounds, an opportunity for current members to welcome you to the club. There's a "Learn to Linux" presentation planned to help ease your way into what may be a new operating system to you and new members get FREE pizza. Come along and meet some new people!

UCC Fresher LAN

Date: Saturday 9/10th March

Time: 3:00pm – 10:00am

Location: Cameron Hall Loft

Games, people and ludicrous amounts of sugar and caffeine to ensure you stay up the whole night. These are the only guarantees at a UCC LAN. Come along and link back up with the people you met at the fresher welcome

UCC Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 12th March

Time: 1:00pm (Common lunch hour)

Location: Guild Council Meeting Room

The AGM is where UCC elects its committee for the new Uni year. Only those who attend can vote! Whilst there, you can nominate for a position on UCCs committee. Being a fresher, you will automatically be nominated for the Fresher Representative position. If elected, you will represent fresher issues on committee and be the first point of call for freshers to get in contact with committee. It's a bit of responsibility, but also a great way to get involved!

UCC Easter LAN

Date: UWA Easter Holidays, 6/7th April

Time: 3:00pm – 10:00am

Location: Cameron Hall Loft

Fresh off your first 5 weeks of uni, there will be another LAN held to follow up the fresher LAN. Same rules as last time!

Cameron Hall Quiz Night

Date: Wednesday 24th April

Time: 7:00pm

Location: The Guild Tavern

UCC, UniGames and UniSFA run a quiz night annually. The quiz night is a hilarious evening of silly games, answering questions (ranging from the slightly obscure to incredibly obscure), and hurling (verbal) abuse at the judges.

In theory, prizes are awarded for those teams who answer the most questions correctly. In practice the judges decide who wins based on a complicated system of bribery, bias and bastardry. Needless to say, this is an 18+ event.

Semester 2 Events

UCC Camp

Date: Friday 19th July – Monday 22nd July

Time: TBA

Venue: Camp Leschenaultia

Last year UCC held a club camp, at Camp Leschenaultia. After the success of last year's camp, we will be looking to run another one this year. The camp involves a weekend of gaming, tech talks, and (for those who are inclined) physical activities such as swimming. Camp is a great way to get to know more members of the club and to get away from the city for a weekend!

Being a fresher, you will have the opportunity to have your camp ticket sponsored by other members... Keep an ear out for this a little closer to the camp!

UCC 39th Anniversary Dinner

Date: Sunday 15th September

Time: TBA

Venue: TBA

This year, UCC turns 39 (0x27). Dinner has been held at a number of locations over the years, but is always priced for students – previous venues have included the Santa Fe Restaurant in Subiaco, the Royal Perth Yacht Club, and the Royal Restaurant in East Perth.

Cameron Hall Charity Vigil

Date: Semester 2

Time: TBA

Location: Cameron Hall

Once a year, all of the clubs in Cameron Hall get together and hold a night of fun to raise money for charity. There is a cover charge, but you do get fed. More details to come later in the year. This is one of the bigger events of the year.

Other Events

UCC Committee Meetings

Date: Tuesdays Weekly (will change post AGM)

Time: 5:30pm

Venue: UCC Clubroom

UCC Committee is fairly active, and holds weekly meetings throughout most of the year. All members are encouraged to attend committee meetings to make your opinions heard. Aside from the mailing list for committee (mentioned shortly) this is a good way to make your opinions heard.

Committee meetings typically involve shouting, death threats, and the spectacle of eight grown men (and women) arguing about what colour the club should paint its new bike shed.

Monday at the Movies

Date: Mondays (hopefully weekly)

Time: 6:00pm (ish)

Venue: Cameron Hall Loft

There's a plethora of tech related movies out there that you've probably never seen. Here's your chance to catch up with members and eat pizza whilst watching some (frankly terrible) movies

UCC TechTalks

Date: Various

Time: Various

Venue: Normally the Loft

As already stated, UCC members are a wealth of knowledge on a lot of topics. UCC TechTalks give members the opportunity to share this knowledge in a more formal environment whilst still keeping a social aspect to the events. It's a great opportunity to find out information on tons of (sometimes rather out there) topics

Mailing Lists

UCC has a series of mailing lists that it's members (some of which you might never see in the clubroom) 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 - Got a tech question? 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 on both the club and general technical things.

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

Tech - 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 `lists.ucc.gu.uwa.edu.au`

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!

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

UCC Groups

UCC has several groups to which The Committee delegates responsibilities and duties. These groups help keep the club running on a day to day basis. Each group can be contacted via e-mail: [NAME]@ucc.asn.au

Wheel

Wheel members are the **system admins** of UCC, they maintain (read: break and then fix) the clubs machines. If you're having a problem with a club machine, these guys are your first port of call.

Coke

Coke members are the ones to go to if you want to **add credit** to your **dispense account**. If you have a problem with Dispense, these guys are your best bet.

Door

Door member are responsible for **clubroom security** and **cleanliness**. A door member must be present whilst the clubroom is open. If the last door member is about to leave the clubroom, you will be asked to leave. Door members also have the ability to remove (door) someone from the room if they are causing problems.

Winadmins

Winadmin members have **administrator access** to the **clubroom windows machines**. If a Wheel member isn't around to help with a problem, these guys are your next best bet.

Webmasters

Webmasters members are in charge of UCC's (ever obsolete) website.

The Clubroom

UCC's clubroom is a shared space. For this reason, we ask you to treat it with respect. Clean up your rubbish, use headphones when possible and keep conversations to a dull roar.

If you see something that needs doing such as cleaning up, feel free to do it! If a machine is broken and you can fix it, do so. Just make sure you inform the tech@ucc.asn.au list about any work you have done so we can keep track of things.

The basic rules of the clubroom are posted on the door and elsewhere around the room, but it's common sense mostly. Treat the clubroom as you would your own house and members (and yourself) will have nothing to complain about.

Clubroom Webcams

UCC's clubroom has a few webcams placed around the place. Whilst mostly used for security purposes, they are handy if you want to know if the room is opened or if someone specific is around. Head over to webcam.ucc.asn.au to take a look.

There's even an archive going back quite a way if you want to see what UCC used to look like!

UCCs Machines

Below is a (nowhere near complete) list of some of UCCs central machines, their purposes and what you as a member can do with them. For a more complete list, visit:

wiki.ucc.asn.au/Machines

Motsugo

Designed from the outset to become UCC's fileserver, Motsugo is one of our most used machines. It plays host to all of the files you store in your /home directory. It also hosts one of the Dispense Clients that you'll use to dispense drinks/snacks.

Mussel

What was once a physical machine is now run in a virtual environment! Mussel is another user assessable machine that also holds most of the core webpages for our site as well as acting as an LDAP master

Heathred

Named in honour of a member of the club who passed away way before his time, Heathred pays tribute to it's namesake by playing host to all of the clubs game servers. Minecraft, ET and many more are available.

Robotnik

So sometimes there is music playing in the clubroom. This is what Robotnik is around for. There's thousands of (completely legitimate) MP3's available for playing in the clubroom.

Medico

Is a recently purchased machine which largely plays host to a bunch of VMs. If you're interested in getting your own VM set up on here, best to contact Committee or Wheel.

Getting Help

For a lot of freshers, UCC can seem like a daunting place at first. A new environment, new people and new tech often leaves some people unwilling to ask for help.

UCC members are almost always willing to lend a hand to new members. If you don't understand something, ask someone! As a rule of thumb, **Committee members**, **Door members**, **Coke members** and **Wheel members** are always around the clubroom and are always willing to help or point you in the right direction.

UCC also has a **wiki** (`wiki.ucc.asn.au`) which holds a lot of information about the clubroom and commonly asked questions. You can even ask questions on **IRC** or using the **mailing lists**.

UCC is here to give its members the opportunity to get up close and personal with hardware that you may well deal with one day out in the big wide world. Previous members have gotten jobs because of what they achieved whilst in this club.

ASK QUESTIONS
BE PREPARED TO STUFF UP
LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES
ASK MORE QUESTIONS

It's the ethos of this club - we've all been there!

Facebook

Join UCC on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/universitycomputerclub/>

All UCC events are posted to this group so it's a great way to keep up to date with the club and it's members.