



# Switched on Seniors

*Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors – Newcastle  
A Member of ASCCA*

VOLUME 11

ISSUE 7

AUGUST 2011



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As this is my last report as president, I intend to take the opportunity to thank the volunteer members of the committee for their enthusiastic cooperation in working for the benefit of the entire club. It has been a pleasure to work with them throughout what has been an outstandingly successful year.

At this time last year, we had a single offshoot interest group, DigiPals. We now have two additional groups in GeneaPals and WriterPals, and the interest generated within these groups has been amazing. Not only the interest, but the success achieved by both the DigiPals and WriterPals in the ASCCA competitions last year has shown the talent which we have within the club. Our photographers achieved excellent results and all it took was a little encouragement for the members to enter the competition. Encouragement and the enthusiasm of the leaders and the members themselves have indicated that there will be even more entries this year. We only had one entry in the creative writing competition last year, but this year there will be a number of entries from this small but energetic group, so we hope to build on the success achieved by our lone entrant last year.

I believe that enthusiasm is what drives this club to accomplish what has been achieved throughout the year. Our tutors cheerfully turn up every week while most of them attend the monthly train-the-trainers sessions and participate fully in discussions. Quite apart from the tutors we have the technical group (although most of them are also tutors) which comes in every Monday morning to maintain the computers with updates. Not only do these people come in during the school terms, but a number of them even take computers home to overcome difficult-to-solve problems.

It has been many years since our website was entered in the ASCCA competitions, but during the past year it was awarded a well-deserved first place. Our webmaster is also our newsletter editor, and this year will be entering both the website and newsletter in the competitions.

Our classes have been really well attended while there has been renewed interest in the "short courses" which have taken over all of our Friday mornings and some of our Friday afternoons. We're now using the clubroom every day of the week, something that none of us envisaged in the early days of the club.

Besides purchasing a large TV, remote-controlled screen and five new computers for the clubroom, we have now introduced a membership card which will enable members (who want to take advantage of it), to present them at Domayne computers at Kotara for free VIP cards and reduced prices on photo processing. As well, Thursday evening workshops will be conducted at Domayne from the 1st September. I'm sure that some of our members will be interested in these as they will be covering topics not covered during our current courses.

## Committee Members

**President:** Bruce Deitz

**Secretary :** Maura Rainbow

**Treasurer :** Maree Field

**Vice President :** Rob Gollidge

**Assistant Treasurer :** Michael Pitt

**Technical / Education:** Neville Clifton

**Rosters :** Denise Brandon

**DigiPals :** Carolyn Keane

**Newsletter / Webmaster:** Bruce Carter

**Tutor Roster :** Mitzi Gordon

**Social Organiser :** Barry Keen

**Committee :** Elaine Butler

## Teams

- Technical
- Rostering/Enrolment
- Education
- Web Page

## Contact Us

Committee members listed above may be contacted by following the instructions on the CONTACT US page on the club website.

Domayne will be making camera equipment available for demonstration to our members and will be assisting with advertising for our club. You'll find more details about what is on offer in e-mails which will be sent out later during the month.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. I have enjoyed the experience but even more, I have enjoyed the cooperation and support received from so many people, many of whom are neither committee members nor tutors. I wish everyone well for the upcoming twelve months and trust that our club will continue to grow from strength to strength.

By the way – I'll still be around, but in a different role!

**Bruce Deitz**

**President Computerpals Newcastle Inc.**

## Committee Report

- Bruce Deitz gave details of the Domayne deal for ComputerPals. In return he will provide Thursday night workshops from September at their Kotara store.
- The committee are also investigating the production of a unique ComputerPals Membership Card for each member.
- The ASCCA Competition Entries are getting closer. Entries have been sent for the website and newsletter. We would like to send entries for photos and writers. Please contact the leaders of these groups for details.
- Neville reported the new computers are almost fully setup and should serve us well in the coming years. The team have worked very hard to ensure the best setup computers yet. Congratulations to the technical team.
- Tutors number about 40. Mitzi is formalising tutor protocols so we are all on the "same page."
- Bruce thanked the committee for their support for him as President, and we reiterated the feeling was mutual. Well done Bruce.

Stupid computer  
keeps saying  
"you got mail"



## Digipals Report



### Contact Person :



Barry Keen (Social Secretary)



Photos from Aberdeen in the DigiPals Report courtesy of Allen C, Annette, Barry, Beryl and GAW.

On a cold misty Saturday morning in July, 19 intrepid members set out for a visit to the Aberdeen Highland Festival in the small Hunter Valley town of Aberdeen. Originally we had planned going in the special Festival train but it was cancelled so we relied on our trusty old cars. By Braxton the mist had cleared and the day was sensational. We were blessed with a beautiful clear blue sky and a lovely wintery sun. Aberdeen presented a collection of Scots that would have done Glasgow proud. About 8000 people descended on the small town of Aberdeen and the organiser are to be congratulated for running such an orderly, colourful and entertaining day.

Most of July has been wet, wet, wet. The schools have been on holiday so there has been very little activity to report on. Yours truly tried rather unsuccessfully to get some rain shots but I did squeeze in some macro shots and a few pelicans on an odd occasion.

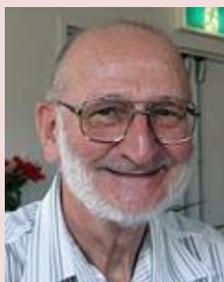
Our next outdoor shoot is at Pelican on the foreshore this Saturday the 6th at 2pm. All members are welcome, you don't need a camera, just bring your sunny disposition and perhaps a picnic lunch and come a little earlier and make it a pleasant day out next to the water.

Hopefully the cold and the wet will be gone by the months end and we will have a lovely spring.

Happy Snapping, Graham



# SOCIAL REPORT



Barry Keen (Social  
Secretary)

## Computerpals - Social Day out

### 5th November 2011 - Expression Of Interest

Hi everyone,

This outing we have planned is a Nova Cruise - Hunter River Discovery Cruise. The company requires a holding fee/deposit of \$500 and a minimum of 40 guests/passengers. The deposit is non refundable. Total cost is \$69 pp.

What do you get for your \$69?

Marvel at the dramatically changing landscape of a 6 hour voyage from the city hustle along Newcastle's foreshore through to the serenity of the Koora-gang Wetlands. Indulge in some Devonshire tea served while meandering past farmlands adjoining the Hunter River.

We take a break at the Junction Inn Hotel in Raymond Terrace, a country-style pub that will be serving you a delicious hot roast lunch before making our return journey. One of the highlights will include having the Pacific Highway come to a complete stand-still as the Hexham Bridge is raised to allow for our passage. This is good value for money.

Departures and return are from / to Lee Wharf Pontoon, 5 Honeysuckle Drive Newcastle.

Do we go? That depends on you. We are a fair way out from the date of the day out, however, the non deposit has to be paid now and the balance paid to the company two weeks prior to the cruise.

We need a clear indication of numbers and a commitment from you now before we confirm the booking with the company.

We are under time pressure and must confirm with them by end of next week at the latest.

Please click on the link on the email sent by me or click on the MEMBERS page on the website. Complete the form if you would like to go, send a deposit of \$20 per person to the Treasurer, Computerpals PO Box 73, Broadmeadow NSW 2292.

The balance (\$49 pp) will need to be paid by Tuesday 20th September.

If there are insufficient numbers interested your deposit will be refunded before we make the non refundable deposit to the company.

Cheers

Barry Keen

# BITS & PIECES



ASCCA is the Australian Seniors Computer Club Association

ASCCA exists to support and encourage seniors to take advantage of modern information technology to meet their individual needs and to provide further challenges. To become computer literate at their own pace, in a friendly non-threatening environment and to have fun whilst doing so.

ASCCA's Newsletter and its informative items can be accessed on the web site:

<http://www.ascca.org.au>

- Our club's constitution, as amended at the 2008 AGM, is available to be downloaded and read via the link on the Member's page on the website.
- Don't forget to print the calendar that is available on the Club website

## So Far

Courses are well under way and continue to be very well patronised.

To check availability of courses please phone 4961 6576 during office hours.

---

## And the Next Course?

An outline of the courses is available on the website and on notices in the Clubroom. If you need further explanation, the Tutors will be more than happy to advise which course is the most suitable for you to take.

Demand for the courses is high so it is imperative to enrol early and confirm your position by forwarding your payment.

**Please check that a vacancy exists in the course before sending payment.**

Most Courses are repeated in later sessions.



## Best Wishes

- For our members who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries - congratulations!
- To those who are ill our best wishes for a speedy recovery.



Diana Anderson  
Pam Richardson  
Hamilton Koelmeyer  
Helen Townsend  
Gary Townsend  
Val Anderson  
June Hunt  
Lynnette Slee  
Marilyn Kellie  
Christine Rhodes  
Glenys Northam  
Alison Gilson  
Malcolm Kelly

---

The Tutors and their assistants are also Seniors and conduct the courses in a relaxed atmosphere. Your questions are welcome during the classes and there is no need to feel embarrassed if you need to ask for something to be repeated.

The classroom is fitted with a hearing loop for those people who wear hearing aids.

---

## Thank You / Reminder

Thank you to all the members who have paid their yearly membership fees.

Members who are not yet financial and wish to be involved in our club please send your money ASAP.

## Important Contacts

Secretary :

Maura Rainbow



Treasurer :

Maree Field



## You Can Do The Census Return Online in 2011

### What is eCensus?

“eCensus is a fast, easy and secure online option for completing your Census form.

You can complete your eCensus online at [www.census.gov.au](http://www.census.gov.au)

### Who can use eCensus?

Anyone who has a working internet connection can use the eCensus option.

To complete the form using eCensus you will need:

- A Census Form Number
- A unique eCensus Number.

From the 29th of July, Census Collectors will commence delivery of Census information. If requested, a sealed eCensus envelope containing a unique eCensus Number will be provided to your household. If you haven't received an eCensus envelope by 7 August 2011, call the Census Inquiry Service. They can provide your Census Form Number and unique eCensus number, via SMS or mail.

### How secure is eCensus?

eCensus is protected by powerful encryption technology. This offers a very high level of security and is used to protect your details from unauthorised access. The security has been independently reviewed and thoroughly tested to ensure that people's private information is secure.

### What are the benefits of using eCensus?

As well as contributing to a reduction in the use of paper forms, there are many other benefits associated with using eCensus. These include:

- It is safe and secure
- It is available 24 hours a day
- It saves you time
- Built-in checks and online help makes sure your form is completed correctly
- It can be used by more than one member of a household while protecting the privacy of each user.”

**Source :** <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/2011%20Census%20-%20eCensus>

# HINTS & TIPS

## Our Website



## Find Out More

The information on these 2 pages has been sourced from the following site.

### Source :

<http://www.home-income-opportunities.com/online-danger.html>

On that site you can follow links with details on each scam listed.

## Desktop Beware Of Online Dangers

The summaries below come from

<http://www.home-income-opportunities.com/online-danger.html>

- There is evidence that scammers are posing as Microsoft staff members calling people and attempting to trick them into handing over access to their computers.
- While there are many scammers that try to trick us out of our money, **Internet theft** is probably a much more serious threat. From stealing credit card info to even our personal info for identity theft, learn how they steal our information and how to keep ourselves safe from them.
- **The Google Promotion Award scam** - they use the name of Google in whatever they are trying to do. How exactly do they operate? What are they using the Google brand for?
- **The Commonwealth Bank email Scam** - they pose as a bank, they are trying to get people to give them their bank account details and more.
- **The latest Nigerian Scam** is probably one of the most famous online danger and scam known throughout the Internet. It became famous because of the number of victims, the way those scammers work and many times, their very rough and threatening methods. While most of us think that all this has already passed, it appears that those scammers are now back with new methods and the same goal.
- **The Fake Facebook login Scam** - how do they steal our password, and what are they going to do with it? A real potential online danger. Be sure to use safe passwords - mix up capitals, numerals etc.
- **The Email Inbox Limit Scam** is another type of email scam. While almost all of the email scams in the past were focused on either stealing our credit card information or inflicting our computer with a virus, there is a new type of scam recently. Yes stealing your email password.
- **The Expired Credit Card Scam** will eventually evolve, so it is important to understand how it works, what are the warning signs as well as what you can expect from it in the near future.
- **The Customs Clearance Scam** seems like just another email type scams, but there is more to it in its history. This scam has actually been around for decades now. It was first used as a normal scam in the real world. Today with the Internet, this scam has actually gotten more advance and dangerous.
- **The Free Phone Scam.** People from every age group and every gender loves them. Seeing as there is so much interest in it, the scammers have finally decided to take advantage over unsuspecting people.

## Find Out More

The information on these 2 pages has been sourced from the following site.

<http://www.home-income-opportunities.com/online-danger.html>

On that site you can follow links with details of each scam listed.

## Monthly Tips Section Of This Newsletter

It's hard sometimes to predict what hints or tips members might want in the newsletter.

You can help by passing on ideas or tips to me so they can be used for the benefit of other members.

- **The http and https Protocol.** You will have noticed the "http" at the beginning of every website address. But do you really understand what it is? Basically, it is just a set of protocols that are used to connect to websites. So why would they show it to us? Simple, because there is more than one version, and they can actually show us how secure that website is. A good piece of information in avoiding most of the basic online dangers out there.
- **The Tax Refund Email Scam.** Another Email scam. This one tries to act as if they are from a legit government tax administrative office. An alarming problem with this scam that makes it a real online danger is that there have been a huge number of victims that has fallen for this scam. To date, this scam is very active in four countries. If you use the Australian e-tax program they have a number of security questions that only the real taxpayer would know. But you still need that firewall and antivirus protection in place.
- **The Google AdSense Email Scam.** Another in the long line of Email type scams. But there are a few things that make this different from the others. While their goal might be the same, their approach is totally different from all the others. How they look for their victim is also different. It is their fundamental difference that makes this scam really effective against us. Probably one of the scams with the highest rate of people to victim ratio.
- **The Email Spyware Attachment Scam.** While this is another one of those Email type scams, this scam is responsible for a large percentage of viruses and Spywares being installed into innocent people's computers. In most cases, this Email scam is one of the hardest to distinguish. It is both effective against us and very lethal. A real online danger to the unsuspecting victim.
- **The Email Beneficiary Scam.** This is another Email type scam. While this scam has been around for quite some time, not many people are aware of this scam yet. The reason is that the scammers do not send out as many of this email scam when compared to the rest. But the results from this scam are usually worse than the other types of email scams out there. A real online danger for those who are unaware of it.
- **The random Email Survey Scam.** One of the newest scams going around is the email survey scam. This scam is different from the normal survey scams that ask you to pay a fee to join. They will actually claim that if you fill out their current survey for free, they will pay you immediately. This is one of the newer scams going around, so there have been quite the number victims.

Members in our club report a company phones homes "dropping" the name Microsoft. Unwary people think the company calling is Microsoft. The callers indicate there is something wrong with their machine. Their aim seems to be to sell antivirus and malware products you may not need.