



Switched on Seniors

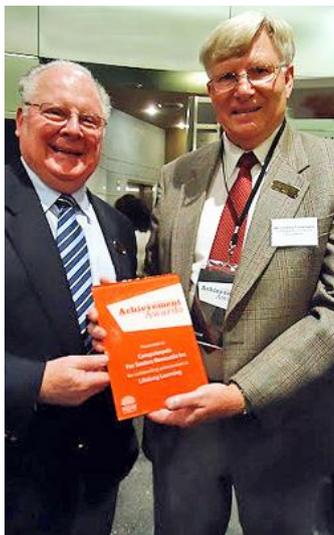
Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors – Newcastle
A Member of ASCCA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



March has been a big month for ComputerPals Newcastle. I am very proud of our club, we were nominated by Val Woodman for a 2012 NSW Seniors Week Achievement Award in Lifelong Learning. On Sunday 18 March Bruce Deitz and I jointly received the award at a ceremony at the City Recital Hall in Sydney (see Photo on left). The ceremony compere was Jean Kittson and The Hon. Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Ageing addressed the gathering.

There was 59 awards in total, of the 10 in Lifelong Learning only two were to organisations, that was our club and ComputerPals Parramatta. Most of our committee and Group organisers were able to come along and we had a great day which was topped off with a backstage tour of the Recital Hall by Carolyn Keane's niece who is Technical Manager of the venue. You can see the award in the clubroom.

On Monday 19 March we had our combined Members Morning Tea and Seniors Week event. This was an outstanding success. Dr Ferdi Miteff gave a most interesting and informative talk on stroke and the improvements in treatment to a full hall of members and visitors. A most generous gesture. Visitors came in response to our advertisement and article in the Newcastle Herald Seniors Week Supplement and they kept coming all afternoon. The roster girls told me that more than 20 new members signed up.

At our committee meeting on Monday 26 March we set the date for our Annual General Meeting as 10 August 2012 and the committee decided that it would be good to have the meeting and lunch afterwards at the East Maitland Bowling Club.

All aspects of the club reported on by the various officers are progressing well. We intend to install a small kitchenette in the lunch room and are progressing this, subject to the necessary approval of the school.

Having set the date for the Annual General Meeting the subject of committee positions for our next year was discussed. It is not that far away. A major consideration is that our constitution provides that the four office bearers of the club, president, vice president, treasurer and secretary, may not hold the position for more than four consecutive years. This is a provision designed to force a change in these positions so as to keep a turnover and hence new ideas in our club. I would like members to consider if they have the capability to contribute to our club in these roles.

I personally have been in the club 10 years, on the committee 9 years and am in my 4th year as President. While I enjoy the many aspects of the club that I am involved in I recognise that the longer that you are involved the less new ideas that you generate. Give some consideration to bringing your ideas forward.

As a closing note, tell everyone about our Seniors Week Award "We master technology by Lifelong Learning"

Lindsay Threadgate

President Computerpals Newcastle Inc.

Committee Members

President: Lindsay Threadgate

Secretary : Maura Rainbow

Treasurer : Maree Field

Vice President : Rob Golledge

Ass. Treasurer : Michael Pitt

Education Officer: Bruce Deitz

Technical : Neville Clifton

Rosters : Denise Brandon

DigiPals : Carolyn Keane

Newsletter / Webmaster:
Bruce Carter

Tutor Roster : Mitzi Gordon

Social Organiser : Barry Keen

Committee : Elaine Butler



Annual General Meeting

Committee Positions

Vacant for 2012—2013

Please consider nominating for committee positions prior to the AGM in August.

Not all current executive members wish to renominate, believing the duties should be shared.

Another major consideration is that our constitution provides that the four office bearers of the club, president, vice president, treasurer and secretary, may not hold the position for more than four consecutive years. This is a provision designed to force a change in these positions so as to keep a turnover and hence new ideas in our club.

Would you be prepared to nominate for;

President?

Vice President?

Treasurer?

Secretary?

Or other positions?

Teams

- Technical
- Rostering/Enrolment
- Education
- Web Page



Firstly a number of members attended the visit to the Newcastle Art Gallery – inside we were restricted to taking photos of our members (maybe with paintings in the background) and some took evening and night photos of the outside surrounds of Laman St without the fig trees and the changed appearance of the area and shots of the nearby buildings and fountain in Civic Park.



A selection of my photos of the evening are up on the Digipals Web Album and two were submitted for the 2012 Photo Project.

Also our April Digipals Clubroom Meeting has been moved due to school holidays to Monday 30th April.

Planning is in progress to offer participants at KNOW YOUR CAMERA courses an after course practise shoot somewhere nearby (maybe in the park) as an opportunity to try out some of their newly learnt knowledge.

Information about what the 2012 Photo Project panel will be looking at and the particular category will be circulated by email shortly and also put up on the Club's Digipals web page.

Barry Keen

For Digipals



SOCIAL REPORT

Barry Keen (Social
Secretary)



The Social Evening out (our first) was a great success with 33 attending an evening out with a difference from any of our previous outings – to the AUSTRALIAN MODERN MASTERPIECES at the Newcastle Art Gallery where we were able to interact & engage with Art in a FUN way.

We were able to celebrate the life, art and legacy of Margaret Olley (a talk from ABC's Scott Bevan), guides to show us around and live art with models scattered around, entertainment for all ages, and live musical entertainment thrown in. A little drop of wine and lemon tart to finish off.

The March Members Morning Tea and Seniors Week Open Day was pleasingly successful.



The members enjoyed the usual morning tea followed by a very enlightening presentation by our guest speaker Dr Ferdi Miteff from Hunter New England Health speaking on Stroke.



We had a steady stream of people visiting for the Open Day to look at what we are doing and I believe we will get a number of new members from this exercise.

Lindsay announced the Club's recognition in Sydney on Sunday 18/3 in the 2012 NSW Seniors Week Achievement Awards for Lifelong Learning (Organisations). Photos of the day are in the Computerpals2012 Picasa web album.

Our planned Social Outing – the Lake Macquarie Cruise aboard Wangi Queen on 31/3 has necessarily been cancelled due to lack of numbers to achieve the minimum 30 required. A refund of our deposit will be made.

Barry Keen
Social Secretary

WRITERPALS REPORT



Carmel (Organiser)

P.S. Remember our extended website where you can find stories and our challenges.

We met Monday arvo at 1
Each wondering what was to come
The changes they said
Helped us get ahead
The listings were varied and then some.

From marriage to modern technology
Mechanics to useful psychology
Don't know which is worse
The last or the first
Someone always gets lost in some ology!

Our next meetings not at the school
It's Easter and usually quite cool.
We'll meet at the home
Of one who writes 'pomes'.
This murder of spelling's two crool!

Our challenge for April is three-fold,
A chat – maybe young versus old!
Or a letter to one
Who was your rising sun
And who helped turn your life into gold.

The third choice is really just fun
The mischief in childhood you've done.
It'll really be sad
If no one's been bad;
So 'fess up. You know we'll tell no one!

The Précis

The changes in life were discussed
Put up with life's changes we must.
This report is quite short
It's taken much thought
Next month you'll come visit, I trust!

Next get-together - Monday 9th April @ 1pm
Because that date will clash with Easter holidays and the school will be closed, we will be meeting at the home of one of our members, Barbara Bartlett. Address will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

Cheers & blessings

Carmel

GeneaPals Report



Important Contacts

Secretary :

Maura Rainbow



Treasurer :

Maree Field



GeneaPals Report

GeneaPals met on 5 March 2012 with 14 members in attendance.

Our visit to Newcastle Family History Society was finalised for 12 March, this visit was very successful with 11 members attending. We were made most welcome given a comprehensive tour of their library and facilities.

Karleene Kvist gave a demonstration of searching on Ancestry.com and find my past (www.findmypast.co.uk) Names being researched by members were collected and these are on our GeneaPals Website.

A small group was established to do some behind the scenes planning of our activities.

Regards - Lindsay Threadgate

Course Information

Because of the numbers of people wanting to do the iPad Tips and Tricks short course, (the first course filled in less than a week) a second one has been scheduled for Friday morning 1st June. You MUST have either an iPad or iPod TOUCH. When you come to do the course, you'll need to bring along your "iThingy" fully charged.

Starting on Tuesday 24th April. Straight after the school vacation at 12:15 on the Tuesdays, we'll be rerunning the Internet and E-mail Security course as those people who have recently finished this course said that they thought that everyone who uses the Internet or E-Mail should do the course. With the increasing number of scams and threats around now (including ones involving telephone calls) we really do want to make sure that our members are not amongst the people caught out.

At 2:00 on the Tuesdays the course will be about Google. Just this week Google has implemented a number of changes and we'd like to help keep every one of our members abreast with the changes as well as make sure that everyone is aware of all the different features of Google. Talking about changes! - another new feature has appeared this afternoon. Google is far more than just a search engine. Come along, put your name down and send in your money for the remaining vacancies for this course.

Hope to see you in one or more of these courses.

I know that many of you will be having family gatherings for Easter and others will be doing extra "baby" sitting - so best wishes for the school vacation.

Regards - Bruce

Important Contacts

Bruce Deitz
Education Officer



Tutor Roster
Mitzi Gordon



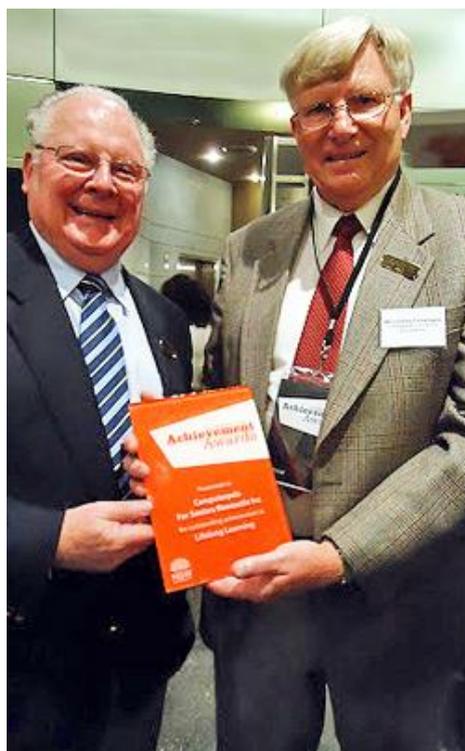
Rosters
Denise Brandon



SENIORS WEEK ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CEREMONY

President Lindsay and Bruce Deitz were guests at the 2012 NSW Seniors Week ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CEREMONY held at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place, Sydney. They were among 59 recipients of awards given by the State in recognition of contribution by Individuals and Organisations.

Our club, ComputerPals for Seniors - Newcastle Inc. was the recipient of an Award for Organisations in Lifelong Learning.



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.

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.

Condolences

To all of our members who have lost loved ones recently, please accept our condolences.

Technical Report

Neville reports that all equipment is functioning well and students can look forward to using the latest hardware and software in lessons.

The technical team are all working well and are regularly updating computer software to ensure smooth running.

Domayne Tutorials

Bruce Deitz reports that tutorials on nominated Thursdays are progressing well. We have new attendees coming to tutorials each time. See the website for the upcoming topics.

Ideas

Thanks to
Graham for his
submission

 **Law of Mechanical Repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

 **Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

 **Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

 **Law of Random Numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

 **Variation Law** - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

 **Law of the Bath** - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

 **Law of Close Encounters** - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

 **Law of the Result** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

 **Law of Biomechanics** - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

 **Law of the Theatre & Stadium** - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or

the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

 **The Coffee Law** - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

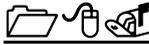
 **Murphy's Law of Lockers** - If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

 **Law of Physical Surfaces** - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor, are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

 **Law of Logical Argument** - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

 **Brown's Law of Physical Appearance** - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

 **Oliver's Law of Public Speaking** - A closed mouth gathers no feet.

 **Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy** - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

 **Doctors' Law** - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better.. But don't make an appointment, and you'll stay sick.