



# Switched on Seniors

Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors – Newcastle  
A Member of ASCCA

VOLUME 12

ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2012



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here we are in 2012, I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas and New Year celebrations, had a good break and are rearing to go for 2012. We have started the year running, but at a Seniors pace, and have an exciting program for the year, don't just watch it unfold, participate in it. By the time you read this lessons will already have started. As usual Bruce has worked his butt off over the break and all is ready. Our Digipals group has an exciting new project, look for it on our website. I think they are setting the pace at this stage but then they are in their 4th year, watch out.

We have received a Seniors Week Grant and are planning an exciting Seniors Week day combined with our regular Members Morning Tea in March. Watch out for information on this and in particular tell your non-ComputerPals friends about it. You know how good our club is for learning computer skills, tell your friends, give them our card or brochure, both are available in the clubroom, ask any tutor.

We had a room full of our tutors on Monday afternoon where Bruce brought us all up to speed on what's new and reminded us of all the things we need to do. This is an excellent demonstration of the commitment of and the vital role carried by our members who volunteer as tutors. They all feel very rewarded by their tutoring role. Have a look at what we have on offer and do another course.

I keep hearing the word facebook, I have even received an official NSW Government letter with "Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Seniors Week." In it. I would like to hear from our members as to what they think of facebook and if they think that our club should be providing any information or lessons. Go onto our website and to our Contacts page and send me an email or simple type [cpalsnewcastle@computerpals.org.au](mailto:cpalsnewcastle@computerpals.org.au) into the address bar.

Just a little trivia, if I am allowed. For me it is 1.5% , I can remember when it was 10% but never thought about it. It was soon 5%, then 4%, 3.33%, 2% and so on. I know that for some of our members it is 1.33% or even 1.25%. What is it for you. No wonder each year goes quicker than the last.

If you enjoy coming to ComputerPals come along at every opportunity you will always learn something. If you want to learn more volunteer as an Assistant Tutor and progress to a Lead Tutor. Do you have other skills that the club might be able to use? Let us know about them. ComputerPals is .... you finish the sentence.

**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

## 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.

# Next enrolment days



**3rd February, 2012**

**9th March, 2012**

**10am to 11:30am**

## Competition Results

The 5 copies of PhotoImpact X3 which were donated as prizes by Domayne were won by:

Liz Temple, John Saunders, Barrie Wrightson, Graham Woolridge, Chris Priestley



## Important

Could everyone please pay promptly to help treasurer and roster team with vacancies.

Tutors or committee will not take responsibility for money or cheques left in the tin in the clubroom cupboard. Members wishing to leave money there do so at their own risk and is not recommended or encouraged.

Payments should be mailed to Treasurer or come along to our regular enrolment days for cash payments.



## Report by Barry



### Social / DigiPals Report

Hi everyone and welcome back to an exciting start to the year 2012.

My personal thanks to Graham Woolridge who has stepped back from his previous higher profile with DigiPals and these reports. Graham will continue to assist members with his knowledge and expertise.

As mentioned in December's Report we are this year running PHOTO PROJECT 2012.

This is supplemental to the courses run through Computerpals and it is aimed at helping all of us to better understand our digital cameras and how to take better photos.

Full details of PHOTO PROJECT 2012 can be found by holding the CTRL key and clicking [HERE](#).

All Computerpals members are encouraged to participate if you have a digital camera (or are on the verge of getting one). We can all learn something that will improve our knowledge and photographic results.

Our next outing in conjunction with our Monthly Social Outing will be to Newcastle Museum and then on to the Maritime Centre. A broadcast email will be sent out to all members seeking response as to who is coming to facilitate our booking with each of these venues or you can access this response form through a link on the Social page.

The program will be: meet at the Newcastle Museum Saturday 4/2/2012 at 10am (we will be taken by a guide for a tour). Admission is free. However, if you wish to see the special event exhibition "Hatching the Past" cost will be \$3 concession pp.

At about 12 noon we will gather for lunch at the Museum Cafe. Anyone so wishing to BYO lunch may do so outside on the grass area.

12:30pm we will make our way over to the Maritime Centre where will enter as a group (group cost is less at \$5pp) and we will again be met by a guide for a tour to see the centre's exhibits.

Finish time should be around 2:30pm. Free parking is available at the Lee Wharf parking area about 500 metres from the Maritime Centre (off the roundabout at Honeysuckle Dr & Wright Lane). Paid parking is available at the nearer parking area to the Museum alongside the railway track. If you use this area be sure you go into the 4 hour parking area (not the 2 hr area).

Cheers for now, hope to see you at the outing

Barry

# SOCIAL REPORT

Barry Keen (Social  
Secretary / DigiPals)



The Social Outing Response  
form is found at

[https://docs.google.com/  
spreadsheet/viewform  
formkey=dDc2Mm9pd3pPT  
zI2YzNkT2IEbUNaU1E6MQ](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dDc2Mm9pd3pPTzI2YzNkT2IEbUNaU1E6MQ)

Hi everyone,

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and appropriately welcomed in the New Year.

Our next Social Outing will be to Newcastle Museum and then on to the Maritime Centre. A broadcast email will be sent out to all members seeking response as to who is coming to facilitate our booking with each of these venues or you can access this response form through a link on the Social page or by clicking on the link in this email.

The program will be: meet at the Newcastle Museum Saturday 4/2/2012 at 10am (we will be taken by a guide for a tour). Admission is free. However, if you wish to see the special event exhibition "Hatching the Past" cost will be \$3 concession pp.

At about 12 noon we will gather for lunch at the Museum Cafe. Anyone wishing to BYO lunch may do so and have it outside on the grass area.

12:30pm we will make our way over to the Maritime Centre where we will enter as a group (group cost is less at \$5pp) and we will again be met by a guide for a tour to see the centre's exhibits.

Finish time should be around 2:30pm. Free parking is available at the Lee Wharf parking area about 500 metres from the Maritime Centre (off the roundabout at Honeysuckle Dr & Wright Lane). Paid parking is available at the nearer parking area to the Museum alongside the railway track. If you use this area be sure you go into the 4 hour parking area (not the 2 hr area). These venues are also conveniently located to Civic Railway Station and buses for anyone using public transport.

Cheers for now, hope to see you at the outing

Barry Keen

Social Secretary





# Christmas Luncheon

2011

# 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.



Dianne Davies	Robert Dalton
Jim Bartlett	Janice Stewart
John Lynn	Darryl Morris
Beverley Bragg	Frances Garred
Eric Newell	William Garred
Kelvin Thornton	Richard Prentice
Jane Campbell	Eric McGaughey
Ralph Penn	Roslyn Brown
Bryce Peek	Trevor Peters
John Peschar	Peter Shaw
Pamela Peschar	Pat Shortland
Helen Dalton	Roma Shaw

---

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.

## Important Contacts

**Bruce Deitz**  
Education Officer



**Tutor Roster**  
Mitzi Gordon



**Rosters**  
Denise Brandon



## WriterPals Report

This will be the shortest report I've ever given you.

Our meeting at Barry's house was great, although it was in the lounge room and not under the tree in the rain. Those who didn't turn up missed out on some delicious after-meeting "yummies." Once again the writings were amazing. I think Santa would have been impressed (and/or terrified) at the things that were dreamed up for him and his helpers.

Our next meeting will be back at the clubrooms at Islington in early February. With public and school holidays next year we will lose a lot of our meeting days, so we made the decision to meet on those days at an alternate venue, either a cafe or at the home of one of our members. That way we will have continuity in our writing efforts.

For February, our challenge is slightly different.

For our first meeting of the new year, 2012, the challenge is to step outside your comfort zone and have a go at something you are not too sure about - poetry. Some are familiar with it and actually prefer it - those people are challenged to write in prose or in a poetic form not natural to them. Others who prefer to write in prose and handle it magnificently are challenged to try their hand at poetry. There are many different styles and formats from the simple ballads and bush poetry to the more difficult sonnets, haiku, cinquaine, limericks and many others. The subject matter is unstipulated, but if you require pictorial inspiration, just go to Google images and you will find thousands. If unsure of the style you want, Google "types of poetry" and the first five results will give you all the information you need. Happy hunting.

Good luck, happy writing and I look forward to seeing you all again in February. I will send an email closer to the time with a reminder of our first meeting.

Have a very happy New Year everybody (inspiration in itself!!!!)

Cheers & blessings

Carmel



# **MORNING TEA & NSW SENIORS WEEK INVITE**

**Date : 19th March, 2012**

**Time : 9:30am**

**Location: Islington Public School Hall,  
Hubbard St., ISLINGTON**

**Guest Speaker : From Department Of Neurology,  
John Hunter Hospital**

**Topic : Stroke & Heart Attacks**

---

**AND Special Celebrations for NSW Seniors Week**

**A showcase of**



**Come & find out what we do?**

**Morning Tea & Light Lunch provided to all**

## **ALL WELCOME**



Sometimes people ask about computer specifications for desktops and notebooks.

Below are some examples from John Logan of PCXCEL based in Raymond Terrace. John has supplied computers from ComputerPals since 2007.

**Acer Aspire AX3960 Desktop (\$495.00 ea)**

- Intel core i3 processor 2100
- 4GB DDR3 SDRAM
- 1TB SATA hard drive.
- DVD Super Multi Drive
- Integrated intel HD Graphics.
- Integrated LAN 10/100/1000.
- High definition audio,
- Multi-in-1 Media Card Reader,
- Integrated TV Tuner with Antenna Adapter & Remote Control.
- 10x USB port, 1x VGA, 1x HDMI, RJ-45 port
- USB Keyboard, USB mouse, USB Speaker, power cable
- Windows 7 Home Premium pre-installed.
- 18.5" LCD Monitor

12 Months Warranty

**Toshiba i5 Notebook (\$585.00)**

- Intel Core i5-2410M (3M Cache, 2.30 GHz)
- 15.6" Widescreen HD 200 CSV LCD display
- Resolution: 1366 x 768
- 4GB DDR3 (1333MHz) RAM
- 640GB SATA (5400rpm) Hard drive
- DVD-SuperMulti Dual Layer drive 8X
- 10/100Mbps Ethernet LAN
- WLAN (Atheros 802.11 b/g/n)
- Built in Webcam/ Microphone
- Stereo speakers
- Touchpad™ with Gesture Control
- Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium 64 Bit