



Switched on Seniors

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

VOLUME 12

ISSUE 2

MARCH 2012



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Session one finished as is February, I hope everyone has enjoyed the start of the year. With March upon us we can look forward to our combined Members Morning Tea and Seniors Week "Showcasing ComputerPals", put it in your diary, 19 March 2012 commencing at 9.30 am. I look forward to the seeing the result of the work Mitzi, Elaine, Rob and Barry are doing.

I am quite excited about our DigiPals Project 2012, everyone with an interest in improving their photography should participate, it is not a competition, just a very interesting project of focusing on how to take better photos. I am sure everyone who participates will be taking better photos by the end of the year. Have a look what you colleagues are putting up, go to Google/Photos, the page will display "Picasa Web Albums" and Sign In Email: 2012onwards, Password: 2012photos, take the tick from "Stay signed in" but tick "Remember Me", click on "View All" you will find many of you already have a head and shoulders shot under which you should place your uploaded photos.

Our club has now been in the room at Islington Public School for 10 years, yes 10 years. We have come from second hand computers and desks made from discarded doors to what we have there today. I think it is pretty good but what do you, our members think, have a look around and either get in someone's ear or drop a note in the suggestion box. Is there any improvements that you would like to see, is there something that we are missing?

How long since you enrolled in one of our courses or encouraged a friend to do so? Denise and the Roster crew work so hard on enrolments and their only reward is to see the courses full. Come on get us some new enrolments going.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Member's Morning Tea and Seniors Week Display. When is it? 19 March 2012 in the school hall and the clubroom. What time? 9.30 am till 3.00 pm, lots of snacks provided.

Lindsay Threadgate

President Computerpals Newcastle Inc.

Committee Members

President: Lindsay Threadgate

Secretary : Maura Rainbow

Treasurer : Maree Field

Vice President : Rob Gollledge

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

Checking Courses

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.



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>

**Next
enrolment day
for computer
lessons
09/03/2012
10am to
11:30am**



Digipals Report

The Newcastle Museum & the Maritime Centre outing was well attended by 46 members and friends and everyone had a most enjoyable and informative day. We had lunch in the Museum Café and some of us even had Ice cream after we'd been to the Maritime Centre.

As usual many photos were taken and several members have put a selection up on the Digipals web album.

Our next outing in conjunction with the Social activity to the Newcastle Art Gallery is next on our agenda on 3 March to view the 'Twilight Masterpieces' which should be a fun outing with a difference. Starts at 5:30pm and runs through to 9pm for the stayers. Members will need to observe any signs in the art gallery concerning the taking of photos. Opportunity will present to take photos for posterity of the Newcastle Library/Art Gallery and the surrounding precinct without the controversial fig trees.

Photos from the recent trip to the Foreshore. Thanks to Barry, Ben, Carolyn and Mitzi.



SOCIAL REPORT

Barry Keen (Social
Secretary)



NEXT OUTING

The outing originally planned for Stingaree Point has been cancelled and in its place I've arranged this visit to Newcastle Art Gallery I need to know numbers in order to arrange guides with the galley. Please complete the form on our website.

AUSTRALIAN MODERN MASTERPIECES

See works selected from the collections of the Art Gallery of New South Wales and Newcastle Art Gallery. This exhibition presents over eighty icons of Australian Modern Art.

Included in the exhibition are works by Arthur Boyd, Grace Cossington Smith, William Dobell, Russell Drysdale, Donald Friend, James Gleeson, Roy de Maistre, Sidney Nolan, John Olsen, Margaret Preston, Lloyd Rees, Jeffrey Smart, Roland Wakelin, Brett Whiteley, and Fred Williams. Newcastle Art Gallery is the only New South Wales venue for this exhibition. Celebrate the life, art and legacy of Margaret Olley with art activities for all ages including live music, flower arranging, family tours and even an exhibition talk.

When: Saturday March 3, 2012 5:30pm- 9pm

Where: Newcastle Art Gallery

Cost: \$5 concession



SOCIAL REPORT (cont)



MORNING TEA / SENIORS WEEK 2012

A team met to organise the 19th March Members Morning Tea in the school hall which has been combined to be an 'Open Day' for Seniors Week.

Audrey & Dorothy and their seconded helpers will have the catering under control. I believe Mitzi has purchased a trolley on behalf of the club to enable easier transporting of items between the clubroom and the school hall.



The day will start as normal with the Members Morning Tea at 9:30am followed by the usual reports from our committee. A guest speaker (Dr Ferdi Miteff from Hunter New England Health Acute Stroke Service will speaking on Stroke.

We envisage a break then to clear the seats and set up tables around the hall to expo Computerpals to your friends, and other guests that drop in in response to the Seniors Week promotion from Newcastle Council through the media. Mitzi and Elaine have been liaising with Council.

There will be tables for each of the groups — Digipals, Writerpals, and Geneapals, Computerpals itself, and a Membership table for anyone wishing to join and enrol for classes. Each of the groups will prepare a Powerpoint presentation of their activities that may be run in the hall on personal laptops and the classroom on the club computers.

Visitors will be invited to look over our classroom set-up and volunteers will be seconded to answer questions and direct them.

A light snack will be provided around lunch-time.

The day should wrap up around 3:30pm. Many helpers will be required through the course of the day.

Barry Keen (Social Secretary)

WRITERPALS REPORT



Carmel (Organiser)



The committee has called for reports
They like us to keep them quite short
This here is mine,
I hope it's just fine.
Of Writerpals, these are my thoughts.

We meet Monday arvo at one
And see just how much we've all done.
We read what's been writ
And laugh quite a bit.
'Cause we're finding that writing is good fun.

"Go out of your comfort zone I said
Pick a topic from there in your head.
The challenge this time
Is writing in rhyme.
"O buggar!" was what one and all said.

The results were really spectacular
To quote the modern vernacular.
Some poems you see
Lambasted poor me.
But my time will come, just like Dracula's!

Our next topic deals with times past
When things were invented to last.
They changed day by day
In good and bad ways.
What changes in your life were cast?

Just how did you cope with things changing?
Did you handle your life rearranging?
Were they good? Were they bad?
Did they make you feel sad?
To this day, things still keep on changing.

Our next meeting's here at the school
The weather will start to get cool.
You're welcome to come
And see what we've done.
We have lots of fun. That's so cool!

Next get-together - Monday 12th March @ 1pm

Cheers & blessings
Carmel

GeneaPals Report



Important Contacts

Secretary :

Maura Rainbow



Treasurer :

Maree Field



Report on GeneaPals meeting

GeneaPals meeting was held on 6 February 2012 attended by 15

The proposed visit to Newcastle Family History Society was accepted for 12 March at 11.00 am, information will be circulated.

Much of the meeting was spent discussing a To Do list for 2012 interspersed with practical hints and some demonstration on various websites.

The To Do List:

- Practical Demonstration on Ancestry.com. Karleene Kvist seems to have a good working knowledge and much information that she can share with us. Come on Karleene give us a demo.
- Accuracy of Public Family Trees on Ancestry.com and in general accuracy of all information in genealogy data bases. How does one get to the source documents.
- Members to submit names that they are researching so that we can put them on our website. Other members may see a "shared" person.
- Members to submit a list of specific subjects on which they would like help.
- Visit to Local History section of Municipal Libraries, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.
- Sourcing immigration and passenger lists
- Visit to Latter Day Saints Family History Centre at Charlestown or have someone visit us and give a talk
- How to research early businesses, e.g. in Sydney in the late 1800s
- Seek feedback from those who are no longer attending our meetings

Our next meeting is 5 March 2012 at 1.00 pm in the clubroom

Lindsay Threadgate
GeneaPals Organiser

Important Contacts

Bruce Deitz
Education Officer



Tutor Roster

Mitzi Gordon



Rosters

Denise Brandon



Domayne Workshops

This year the Domayne workshops will be held only on the FOURTH THURSDAY of each month. The starting time will continue to be at 7:00pm and each workshop will take approximately an hour.

Attendance is entirely free and you are welcome to bring along non-members if you so desire as the workshops are open to the public and will be advertised in the Newcastle Herald on the Saturday morning before each workshop.

In case you haven't attended before, the store is at 18 Bradford Close, Kotara (in the new homemakers centre).

Tim Every, the franchisee, has rearranged the store to give us more space, and his offers of free VIP membership, reduced prices on photo prints, software and hardware still stand for current ComputerPals members.

Many of the workshops will be repeats of those from last year, but later during the year I hope to present workshops on tablet computers and Windows 8 - the last one depends on when Microsoft releases Windows 8.

The first workshop was held on Thursday evening 23rd February. It was USING THE PHOTOSTATIONS - this is actually a completely revised workshop as NEW SOFTWARE has been installed on the machines.

Here's the rest of the program for the next three months:

Thursday 22nd March	Taking Better Photographs
Thursday 26th April	Simple Photo Editing with PhotoShop Elements
Thursday 24th May	Setting up your computer

You may have missed one of the workshops last year, so this is the chance to catch up.

As a reminder, I'll send out a brief e-mail each month with the topic for the next workshop.

Remember - the workshops will cover topics not covered during our courses at ComputerPals.

I look forward to seeing some of the familiar faces once again this year.

Cheerio Bruce Deitz

MORNING TEA & NSW SENIORS WEEK INVITATION

Date : 19th March, 2012
Time : 9:30am
Location: Islington Public School Hall,
Hubbard St, ISLINGTON
Guest Speaker : Dr Ferdi Miteff (Hunter New
England Health Acute Stroke Service)
Topic : Strokes

AND Special Celebrations for NSW Seniors Week

A showcase of



Come & find out what we do?

See clubroom and facilities, talk to volunteers, learn about club group activities.

Morning Tea & Refreshments provided to all.

ALL WELCOME....

HINTS & TIPS

Our Website



www.computerpals.org.au

Important Contacts

Neville Clifton
Technical Support



Google Search Tips

1. Explicit Phrase:

If you are looking for content about Australian economy. To do this, simply enclose the search phrase within double quotes.

Example: "Australian economy"

2. Exclude Words:

If you want to search for content about Australian economy, but you want to exclude any results that contain the term surplus. To do this, simply use the "-" sign in front of the word you want to exclude.

Example Search: Australian economy -surplus

3. Specific Document Types:

If you're looking to find results that are of a specific type, you can use the modifier "file type:". For example, you might want to find only PowerPoint presentations related to Australian economy.

Example: "Australian economy" filetype:ppt

4. This OR That:

By default, when you do a search, Google will include all the terms specified in the search. If you are looking for any one of one or more terms to match, then you can use the OR operator. (Note: The OR has to be capitalized).

Example: Australian economy OR surplus

5. Phone Listing:

Someone calls you on your mobile number and you don't know who it is. If all you have is a phone number, you can look it up on Google using the phonebook feature.

Example: phonebook:617-444-1212 (note: the provided number does not work – you'll have to use a real number to get any results).

6. Area Code Lookup:

If all you need to do is to look-up the area code for a phone number, just enter the 4-digit area code and Google will tell you where it's from.

Example: 2322

7. Calculator:

The next time you need to do a quick calculation, type your expression in to Google.

Example: 48512 * 1.02

8. Word Definitions:

If you need to quickly look up the definition of a word or phrase, simply use the "define:" command.

Example: define:plethora

Read more: <http://blog.hubspot.com/blog/tabid/6307/bid/1264/12-Quick-Tips-To-Search-Google-Like-An-Expert.aspx#ixzz1lkUxVcAj>