

Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors - Newcastle Inc.

Volume 11 October, 2012

# Switched On Seniors

## President's Report



Thank you for the privilege you have given me to serve as your president of our club.

The AGM was held at the East Maitland Bowling Club and most people were pleased with the facilities and especially the wide choice of food.

I must admit I'm still coming to grips with the job but I have a very supportive committee. There have been a few changes and new faces: Carmel Smith, Secretary, Judy Wallace, Rosters and Janet Cater, committee member, who is helping Maree with the treasury. You have been able to read the names and positions they occupy in the Committee Members list in the newsletter.

To those departing committee members: Rob Golledge, Maura Rainbow and Denise Brandon, thank you very much for the work and support you gave while on the committee. Enjoy the rest, but you will still be called on to help at times.

You might have noticed that there are a few changes taking place around the school. The new Headmaster, Matthew Bradley, is very keen to have things done properly and the government is changing how schools are run. I'll try and keep you informed when we are told about anything affecting ComputerPals.

If there is anything you are not happy about, please let the committee know, as we cannot be mind readers. If you don't tell us we cannot fix it. Also if you are happy with us, please tell us too. As we are all volunteers, a pat on the back occasionally is welcomed.

This term has come to an end. You will notice in the foyer class sheets that some classes are full for the coming last 2 sessions, but there are vacancies in quite a few classes. The Roster Team will be working throughout the school break. Thank you to our Tutors for their patience and enthusiasm in passing on their knowledge.

We will be holding our next Morning Tea on Monday the 22nd October when our own Bruce Deitz will talk about Internet and Email Security.

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### **Committee Members**

**President** 

Elaine Butler

Secretary

Carmel Smith

**Treasurer** 

Maree Field

**Vice President** 

Barry Keen

Ass. Treasurer

Michael Pitt

**Education Officer** 

**Bruce Deitz** 

**Technical Officer** 

Neville Clifton

Rosters

Judy Wallace

Newsletter / Webmaster

**Bruce Carter** 

**Tutor Roster** 

Mitzi Gordon

**Social Organiser** 

Barry Keen

Committee

Janet Cater

Immediate Past President

Lindsay

Threadgate

We are trying a new timeline for the morning: 9.30am, Start with club information; 10am, Food and cuppa; 10.30, or 10.45am, Guest Speaker; Time to chat afterwards. The Roster Team will be available to take money and put you in a class, BUT this will not be done during the Guest Speaker's presentation.

Christmas Party: Cardiff RSL, Tuesday 11th December starting at 11.30am. Cost \$20 to be forwarded to the Treasurer when you book for the meal, as we have to pay the RSL by the 4th December for all attendees. There will be no refunds after the 4th December, as the numbers we present is what we will be paying the club.

Look at our webpage, that is continually updated by Bruce Carter, for a wealth of information.

Thank you all for the enjoyment and knowledge I have received over the years I've been involved with our very special club and I look forward to serving you this coming year.

Agapé,

Elaine Butler.

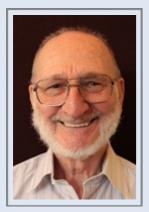
ComputerPals Newcastle President



Computer addicts never die ... they just go offline. ( thanks Bruce )



## Social Report



Barry Keen (Social Secretary )

Our next excursion will be to the HUNTER REGION BOTANICAL GARDENS, HEATHERBRAE on Saturday 6/10/2012. We will start at 12 noon (for lunch for those who want to) or 1pm for those who wish to join the earlier group after lunch.

You can choose from two walks:

- The Botanic Walk distance 1-1.8km duration 1-1.5 hours
- Wildflower Walk distance 2.7km duration 2.25 hours

There is a 'golf cart' available to take people with walking difficulties (at a cost - haven't sorted that out yet). We will gather again at the conclusion of our wandering for our usual social get-together over tea/coffee etc before heading home.

For catering and insurance purposes it is imperative you complete the registration form on the website) and 'submit' it. You can also find some maps on the website.

#### Information from the Gardens website:

#### Location

The Gardens are located on the Pacific Highway, 4km north of the Hexham Bridge between Newcastle and Raymond Terrace. They are 2 hours drive from Sydney, 40 minutes from Lake Macquarie, and half an hour from Newcastle and Maitland.

#### **Opening Hours**

The Gardens and Visitors Centre, and Gardens Shop and the Kookaburra Cafe are open daily, from 9.00am to 4.00pm (closed Christmas Day and Good Friday).

#### Admission and Parking

Admission to the Gardens is FREE for individuals.

The Gardens has a boom gate controlled carpark for visitors. A parking charge of \$4.00 applies for cars\*, and a charge of \$2.50 per passenger for coaches. Tokens to operate the boom gate should be purchased from the Kookaburra Cafe before you leave the Gardens. All revenue from parking charges is applied to maintaining the Gardens

## WriterPals Report



Carmel Smith (Organiser)

Our September meeting brought out the versatility of individual thought processes. We had a couple of topics, but the main one chosen was 'Spring' and only two of us treated it as "The Sneezin' Season" while the rest of us ranged from the philosophical through the romantic to the nostalgic.

Our next topic could prove to be a challenge and is the same thing to be tackled in either of two ways.

Choose an ancestor or character from your past - fact or fiction, related or unrelated - and tell us their story

OR

Be the ancestor (skeleton in the cupboard) 3 generations in the future and tell the story your descendants could tell. Let your imagination run free and don't let the truth get in the way of a good story.

Our next meeting is at 1pm on October 15th at the clubrooms.

#### GeneaPals Report



Lindsay Threadgate (Coordinator)

Next Meeting: Monday 8 October 2012 in ComputerPals Clubroom:

Commencing 1.00 pm

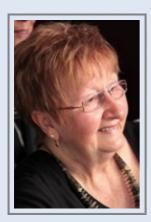
GeneaPals Meeting 3 September 2012

Once again our September meeting was well attended with much interesting discussion.

We started the meeting exploring a new site on the Internet: A Vision of Britain Through Time a key feature being the ability to locate places in Britain.

Mary Pitt presented "Genealogical Methodology" a PowerPoint presentation put together by Rosalee Shaw. This was well received and generated much discussion.

## Important People



Judy Wallace Roster Officer



Mitzi Gordon Tutor Roster

#### **ComputerPals Mission**

Our mission is to assist clubs to educate seniors in the use of computers as a way of enriching their lives and making them more self-reliant.

We bridge the generation gap and assist seniors to find ways to benefit the community through their collective experience and knowledge.

#### **Tutors**

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.

#### **Best Wishes**

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

#### **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 at www.ascca.org.au

#### **Hints & Tips**



#### Microsoft Rebrands Windows Live Program's

Windows Essentials 2012 has just been released on the Microsoft's website. It includes the products you're familiar with in Windows Live Essentials. This product only works with Windows 7 & 8.

Windows Essentials 2012, contains a Windows Mail Application, Photo Gallery Movie Maker and more.

The new version of Essentials (minus the "Live") looks like it's still here for the time being, at least.

Windows Live Is now called outlook.com

#### **Lindsay's Recent Experience**

I got a rather nasty attach from the Internet recently and after discussing it with the Technical Team it was suggested I relate my experiences to the members.

It seemed to happen when browsing using Internet Explorer searching to identify an insect that I had photographed. These are my observations and actions.

- A window open called "Live Security Platinum" and it was scanning my computer and showing hundreds of infections and wanting me to buy it.
- I could not stop it.
- My Antivirus program, Microsoft Security Essentials, was disabled and I could not restart it.
- I tried to do a System Restore, that too was disabled.
- I disconnected my computer from the Internet, pulled the Ethernet cable.
- I used my other computer to search for remedies and downloaded malware removal tools.
- I discovered there was a sirefef Trojan horse on my computer and reading about it caused me to ring my bank.
- My bank locked my internet banking and sent me an Email with recommendations
- I decided, since I was unable to recover the integrity of my computer that I would have to reload Windows.
- I thought that I might be able to do a repair rather than a full new installation.
- This allowed me to do a System Restore and I restored my computer to 2 days earlier.
- The bank told me they did not regard Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) suitable and recommended MacAfee.
- I researched virus protection and decided to purchase BitDefender Internet Security Suite 2013.
- I am learning to use this and about the protection features not provided by MSE

Regards Lindsay

# "Committee members may be contacted by following the instructions on the CONTACT US page on the club website"

## Welcome



**Morning Tea Invitation** 



Carmel Smith (Club Secretary)

Date: 22nd October, 2012

**Time**: 9:30am

Location: Islington Public School Hall,

Hubbard St, ISLINGTON

Guest Speaker: Bruce Deitz

**Topic:** Computer Security



Neville Clifton (Technical Support)

Morning Tea & Refreshments provided to all.

At the morning tea the rostering team will be available for members who wish to pay for and enrol in classes.

Anyone who has not paid for their membership, may also do so at this time.

#### **ALL WELCOME**