

Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors -Newcastle Inc.

Volume 11 September, 2012

# Switched On Seniors

## President's Report



### **Committee Members**

At the August AGM the following office bearers were elected. Congratulations to all elected members.

Lindsay Threadgate was also nominated again as the Public Officer.

**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

## INSIDE THIS

1 President Report

2 AGM Notices

**3-5** Reports

6 Club information

7 Hints & Tips



## **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

## **AGM at East Maitland Bowling Club**



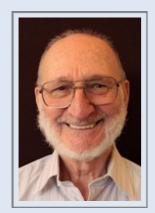




Lindsay and Maura sign off, Elaine welcomed as President.



## Social Report



Barry Keen (Social Secretary )



We enjoyed perfect weather for our day out to Paterson. A selection of the photos taken are on these pages.

28 members and friends thoroughly enjoyed the day. 22 made an early start and had lunch at the Court House Hotel before being joined by the others for a wander around the lovely old township. Eventually at about 3:30pm we gathered again at the River Terrace cafe for social coffee & nibbles before finally heading home.





Our next day out was on Saturday 1st September to Kurri Kurri to have a look at the more central murals on the township buildings. COMPUTERPALS SOCIAL DAY OUT - KURRI KURRI Murals - SATURDAY 1st September

We met in the Rotary Park near the Big Kookaburra at 1pm. Completion of the online form on our website provided a record of attendance for insurance purposes.

Home of the Big Kookaburra, Kurri Kurri is a classic designed country town of the early 1900's situated in the central to the Hunter Valley close to Newcastle and the famous Hunter Valley Vineyards. The name Kurri Kurri comes from the local Aboriginal language and means "First time once upon a time", shortened to "The Very First". Kurri Kurri was established in 1902 to service the rapidly growing coal mining industry of the Hunter. It has flourished to now become a key town in the Hunter Valley to service industry and provide sound affordable housing close to the cities of Maitland, Newcastle and Cessnock. It is less than one and half hours to Sydney the States Capital by fast expressway and 45 minutes to the Newcastle airport.

Country towns like Kurri Kurri were vital to the viability of early pioneering settlement. Today the town provides people and visitors with an important connection to the past with its pictorial history of 52 murals becoming one of the best known mural.

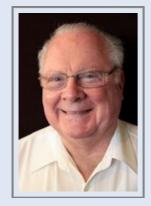
Cheers Barry





More photos of Paterson can be found via the website.

## **Education Report**



Bruce Deitz Education Officer

I have prepared new courses for Photoshop Elements, Internet Security, iTunes and iPad Tips and Tricks. There has already been a considerable demand for the Photoshop Elements and iPad Tips and Tricks full courses, however, members do not seem to appreciate the necessity for understanding the threats prevalent on the Internet and other electronic media. I have been asked to speak at the September meeting about Internet Security and hope that this will increase awareness and hopefully lead to full enrolments for the Internet Security course being conducted during Session 8.

Internet Security was a principal topic for a recent Train the Trainers workshop. As well, Emergency Procedures and the new requirements for lead tutors to observe has been emphasised.

A recent workshop at Domayne, Kotara exceeded expectations with 33 people attending the workshop on Flash Drives and 32 people when tablets and ultrabook computers were presented. In August workshop we talked about computer accessories, ranging from the essential ones to the novelty ones now available.

Microsoft has announced the release of Windows 8 for 26th October. Obviously, we will not be using the inbuilt "touch" interface on our existing screens and I think it worthwhile waiting till the Metro interface can be modified and perhaps the Start button activated for familiar mouse operation. Microsoft Office is also undergoing considerable revision to emphasise "cloud" computing and touch controls.

## WriterPals Report



Carmel Smith (Organiser)

No poetics this time - just details.

We had a good meeting this month after missing for June and July because of a combination of weather, germs and other commitments.

Being just a small group, we all get to share what we have written and this time we concentrated on our ASCCA entries - and let me tell you the ASCCA judges are in for a treat. They set some good topics this time and the resulting stories will appear on our website, accessible under the Special Groups tab on the Computerpals website.

After last year we have a lot to live up to, so hopefully we can do just as well this time around.

Challenge for September - It's a duel challenge but please don't neglect your ASCCA entries.

The first is to pick a season, any or all, and tell us about it and it's significance for you either now or in the past. The second is a tad more challenging - take a walk in somebody else's shoes and tell us about it. It could be anyone from your current hero to a distant ancestor, from Cro-Magnon man to Marco Polo, someone real or imaginary, someone you know or someone you would like to know. You are limited only by your imagination. Think well and have fun with it

Our next meeting is at 1pm on September 10th at the clubrooms.

### **ATTENTION: VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!**

A VIRUS is going round called Housework. If you feel the need to start housework - Stop Immediately!!

This virus affects your sleep and wipes out your social life. It causes you to be late for luncheons with friends and disrupts coffee get-togethers. It makes you grumpy and irritable. If you should come in contact with housework go straight to the nearest store and get the only known antidote which is called CHOCOLATE.

Please forward this warning immediately to a least 6 friends. If you realize you do not have 6 friends, you are already infected!

Thanks Barry for the submission

## Important People

## **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.

Judy Wallace Rosters Officer

## **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.



Mitzi Gordon Tutor Roster

### **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**



## **Apple iPads**

Apple iPads have been on the market for a relatively short time, however there have been 3 releases.

The current iPad called the "new iPad" but commonly referred to as iPad 3. This release has the fastest cpu and has the highest amount of memory.

Importantly it's "retina display" means graphics are crystal clear.



## **Apps**

Programs on an iPad are referred to a Apps (Applications). There are many thousand Apps with a number being very high quality ones from major software companies.

One of the best new apps comes from Adobe with a touch version of Photoshop. One compelling reason to purchase apps is the low cost compared with PC versions. Sure they don't all come with bells and whistles but they often do what is required.

This ComputerPals newsletter is published on an iPad using an app called Pages costing less than \$12. It is an excellent word processor / publishing program from Apple. You can save in pages format, PDF or Microsoft Word format - even import Word documents.



## **Pages**

"Pages isn't just about writing. It's great for graphics too. With a tap, insert photos and movies from your Photos app. Mask images, apply reflections and add picture frames so photos really stand out on the page. Add impressive 3D charts and dynamic tables to

illustrate your points. Create shapes like stars and polygons, and use shadows to make them pop. Drag to resize an object or image, pinch to rotate it, and drag to move it anywhere you want on the page — alignment guides help you put it in the right place. Text automatically wraps around an image, even as you move it around." **Source**: Apple website

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



Maura Rainbow (Club Secretary)



**Neville Clifton** (Technical Support)

Graphics of the 3 apps are reproduced from the Apple website.



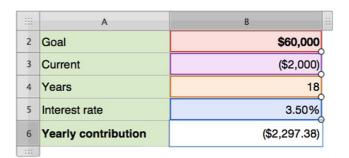
The Pages app can be used with the inbuilt virtual keyboard or through an attached portable keyboard.

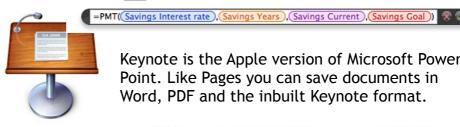


### **Numbers**

Numbers is the Apple version of Microsoft Excel. Like Pages you can save documents in Word, PDF and the inbuilt Numbers format.

### **Keynote**





Keynote is the Apple version of Microsoft Power Point. Like Pages you can save documents in Word, PDF and the inbuilt Keynote format.





## **Computering**" by Carmel Smith

The buzz of busy voices in the classroom every week
Says the brains are working hard for the knowledge we all seek.
"I swear I did my homework, but the knowledge didn't hold
And I know that only happened 'cause I'm getting way too old
For all this modern learning 'bout computers and such stuff.
Lord knows what they'll teach me if I hang round long enough.

I thought my life was busy bustling here and going there But now I've found computers, that stuff's all up in the air. I don't have time to go to lunch, and shopping's all but gone I can't wait to jump up out of bed and turn my 'puter on. Kettle and toaster do their thing, and then I settle down. I'd better check my emails before I leave to go to town.

There's one from Marg, and Elaine too, and another from my son I'll send them all an answer and go shopping when that's done. I'll check in on my bank account and see what money's there And then I'll phone my hairdresser for when she'll cut my hair. There's lots of stuff I have to do, but I'll check a few things first. I need to take a little walk or else I'm going to burst.

My golly, it's got dark outside. Is that a storm that's building up? I'll have to turn computer off or else it might blow up. It's not a storm. The day is gone! It's time to go to bed. I'd planned to do a lot today, but I'll have a shower instead. I'll try again tomorrow to do the things I have to do. Don't know where time went today. I blinked and it just flew

