

ComputerPals - Newcastle

Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President



Lindsay Threadgate

Dates to Remember

Saturday 6th February:
Social Outing , Sydney

Friday, 4th March:
Enrolment Day

Saturday , 5th March:
Social Outing , Heritage Walk, Lambton

In This Issue

Social Event Page 2

Special Interest Groups
Page 3

New Clubroom Photos
Page 4

Tech Tips Pages 5
 & 6

Funnybone Page 7

President's Report

It is a great pleasure to sit down and write the first President Report for 2016. A very busy lead up to Christmas and a somewhat hectic late January but there is a feeling of great satisfaction, appreciation and anticipation. Yes I am talking about our move to the new premises at 15 Hubbard Street, Islington.

You may have seen items on our website indicating what was going on and providing evidence of work in progress. I want to thank, once again, all those who so willingly gave the time and effort to the physical task of packing, moving and setting up. What went on behind the scenes is not easy to explain in a few words, the things that just happened were outstanding. Suffice to say we are all set up and ready to go. I, as well as I am sure all those involved, feel very satisfied.

The turnout for our open days was great, lots of new members to welcome as well as old friends returning. It seems we are off to a good start to 2016. However, as I am sure most of you are aware, we have still a great challenge. The cost of our new venue means that we will use up our reserves at a considerable rate and we have to find a solution for the longer term.

Our solution is unknown in form; it may mean another move or it may be sponsorship that keeps us in these premises. We have a project with Newcastle City Council to find a solution and we are hopeful of a positive outcome. I certainly hope so as, from conversations on our open days, the need of the Seniors in our community for help with the ever changing technology is not diminishing.

Windows 10, new tablets, iPads and Smartphones are set to keep us on our toes and we are working on being able to help. In addition to the move we have been upgrading our computers to Windows 10 and preparing new courses.

Oh, I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. My enthusiasm for what we have achieved gets me a bit carried away. However, as 2016 is the National Year of Digital Inclusion, I hope we are there participating and helping all our members to realise their online potential, and celebrate the benefits of digital literacy and digital inclusion. We want to rise to this challenge.

I would like to finish with an appeal or two; as we start this year in our new premises we may experience some “teething problems”, we may not be across all matters as well as we might wish to be. Please do not scold; we want everyone to feel comfortable and enjoy each and every visit to the club. If you experience any difficulties or see anything wrong then please bring it to our attention so that we might attend to it.

We will be a bit more “cosy” than before, however we have all the necessary amenities and have to be self-reliant. There are no services included, such as a cleaner; we have to pay for electricity and put out all rubbish. Please do what you can to reduce demands on our resources, especially our volunteers.

Enjoy your participation in ComputerPals Newcastle in our new premises at 15 Hubbard Street Islington. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Your President
Lindsay

Social Event



The first Computerpals Social Event for the new year will be a trip to Sydney and a visit to the Powerhouse Museum Located in the old Ultimo Power Station building near Darling Harbour, it contains a unique and diverse collection spanning science, technology, decorative arts, engineering, architecture, health and medicine, fashion and contemporary culture - surely **something for everyone!**

When: Saturday 6th February

How: Train/Light Rail

Depart: Broadmeadow: 6.42am Cardiff: 6.49am Fassifern: 7.00am

Arrive: Central: 9.10am

Homeward Journey Depart: Central: 3.15pm

Arrive: Fassifern: 5.24pm Cardiff: 5.35pm Broadmeadow: 5.44pm

Powerhouse Museum General Admission: \$8.00 Concession - temporary exhibitions ticketed separately

After travelling by train to Central, **please first meet at the end of our arrival platform so we can confirm those attending and issue you with your name badge/lanyard.** Following a comfort stop, we will make our way to the museum via the Old Goods (railway) Line, now a shared pathway and green space from Central Station to Darling Harbour. Upon arrival there, we will first have morning tea prior to entry. Lunch will follow our inspection, and we will return to Central via Light Rail. If time permits, a short stop at Paddy's Markets may be an option.

It is not too late to commit to this event and remember that you can bring along a friend if you wish. Brenton would like numbers by Thursday .

Please [click here](#) to download the attendance form, complete all details and submit at your earliest convenience, so that name tags/lanyards can be organised.



ComputerPals Mission

Our mission is 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.

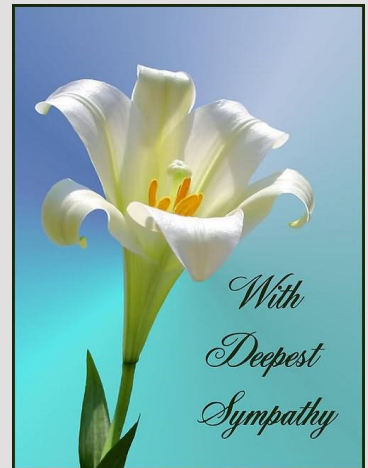
Best Wishes

For all our members who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries - hearty congratulations !



To those who are ill we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Condolences



To those of our members who have lost loved ones recently, please accept our sincere condolences. You are in our thoughts.



Special Interest Groups



GeneaPals

*This is our Family History group. We have allocated the **first Monday** afternoon of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the clubroom at 15 Hubbard Street, Islington.*



WriterPals

*Our Creative Writing group is for enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the **second Monday** of each month at the Islington clubroom. Meetings are from 1:00 pm. until we go home!*



DigiPals

*DigiPals is an active group of ComputerPals members who meet on the **third Monday** of each month at 1 p.m. in the Islington clubroom to explore digital photography.*



TabPals

*If you have a portable device; iPad, Android tablet we have a Special Interest group called TabPals. **The fourth Friday** of the month is our regular meeting day, at 1 pm in the clubroom.*

GeneaPals

The first get-together for GeneaPals—our Family History Group is **Monday, 1st February at 1 p.m.**

If you are new to Computerpals come along and find out how others tackle the task of researching their ancestors. This is a self-help, sharing group, many of whom know the tricks involved in tracing that particular elusive branch of the family tree.

There is plenty of room for expansion of this group so you will be very welcome!

WriterPals

New members are welcome to join in our small friendly group of writing enthusiasts. There is no obligation to share what you write.

Next meeting is Monday, 8th February at 1p.m. at the clubrooms. Discussion will revolve around structure of this year's meetings and writing topics.

If you entered the ASCCA competition and are willing to share feedback from the judge please bring your feedback to the meeting.

DigiPals

If you were lucky enough to receive a new camera for Christmas and are looking forward to taking some interesting photos come along to DigiPals. Those of us just dreaming about new cameras will be most interested.

The first opportunity for the year will take place on **Monday, 15th February at 1 p.m.**

DigiPals is open to suggestions for topics to be covered during the year and ideas for photo-shoots at venues other than the clubroom.

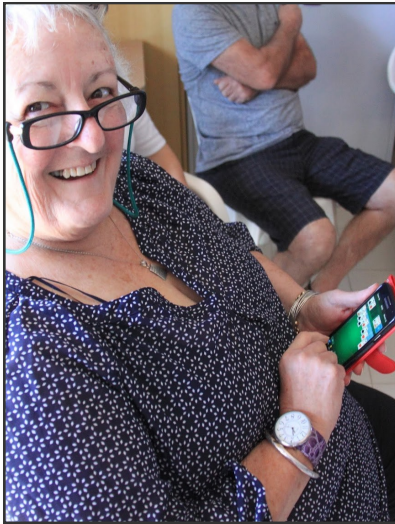
TabPals

In addition to the iPad and iPhone classes and the classes for Android tablets and phones we have the TabPals self-help group which starts on **Friday, 26th February at 1p.m.**

Judging by the interest in our classes for these mobile devices there should be increased numbers at TabPals.

If you have questions about your tablet or phone we will do our very best to answer them at this group.

New Clubroom Photo Gallery



Contact Us



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding rosters or payments use: islingtonpals@gmail.com

Roster Team

Judy Wallace



Mitzi Gordon

Camel Smith



Wendy Cripps-Clark

Fran Chapman



Tech Tips

Need Sleep? Turn Off Your Screens

Having trouble getting to sleep or staying asleep at night? It's time to ditch the electronics at bedtime.



While playing a game, checking your Facebook, or even watching a video seems like a great way to wind down, the light from the screen can actually stimulate you and make it harder to go to sleep. The blue light given off by LED screens tells your brain that it's daytime and time to get up. Try putting all of your devices away an hour or two before bed. Read a physical book or a non-backlit eReader or just listen to music.

Also, the absolute worst thing to do if you wake up in the night is to pick up your phone or tablet or turn on your PC. You will just wake yourself up more.

There are apps out there that will adjust the brightness of your screen as you approach bedtime, but your best bet is to quiet your mind and turn off your electronics.

Tablets Versus Laptops

Your choice of device places you in what's frequently called an "ecosystem." That means you'll be limited to using apps purchased from the particular app store for your device. If you have an iPad, you'll make your purchases from the Apple App store and buy your music from iTunes. You'll be limited to the apps available in that store.



Any of these devices will allow you to use the Internet, check your e-mail, play games, listen to music and read eBooks.

Tablets are, of course, highly portable and can fit easily into a purse or be carried with one hand.



Continued Page 5 ...

Tablets Vs Laptops continued ...

Besides portability, the main difference between a laptop PC and a tablet is the types of programs they can run. Tablets run lightweight programs, called apps. Laptops can run desktop apps, which use more computing power, like Microsoft Office, Photoshop and complex video editing programs. Although, you can find app versions of Office programs along with lighter-weight video and photo editing apps. But these app versions usually aren't quite as powerful. Often times that's perfectly fine for home use, but an issue in a business setting.



The only tablets capable of running desktop apps are Windows tablets that use the full version of Windows. If you buy one with enough processing power, like the Surface Pro 4, it can do the same job as your laptop.

If you want to run the full version of Windows programs, you need a desktop, laptop or a Windows tablet. (This excludes RT tablets, they don't run a full version of Windows.) Also, if you want to run Flash-based items, you'll need a PC or a Windows tablet. If you play web-based games, you will probably want a PC unless there are versions of the games you like available in the app store for your tablet.

The reverse is also true. You can't run your Android or iOS apps on a laptop. For example, you can't take an Instagram photo and post it with your PC. You can access Instagram via the web, but you don't have full functionality.

If what you need in a device is to access e-mail, surf the net, play a few games and listen to music, a tablet or even a smartphone might be all you need.

If you need to run specific desktop apps or require a browser that supports Flash, a laptop probably fits your needs best.



One exception to this laptop rule is the Chromebook. While it looks like a laptop, it functions more like a tablet, limiting your choices to Chromebook apps available in the Chrome App store.

Also remember that tablets, smartphones and Chromebooks depend on a fairly constant Internet connection. If a high-speed connection is a problem where you live, you are probably better off with a laptop where you can do more of your work offline.

Let's not forget about peripherals. Tablets, (other than Windows tablets) do not usually have USB ports. So no plugging in USB flash drives. You won't be able to use a mouse with an Android tablet or an iPad.

*Article from World Start Tech Tips
January, 2016*

Funnybone...

Husband texts wife on a cold winter's morning:

"Windows frozen, won't open."

Wife texts back:

"Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and gently tap edges with hammer."

Husband texts back 5 minutes later:

"Computer really messed up now."

Thanks to Dianne Williams for this gem.



From the Readers' Digest ...

Siri

After i-messaging back and forth with my wife, I jokingly commanded Siri to pass along this message:

"You need to get back to work now; you have a husband to support."

Here's what Siri sent:

"You need to get back to work now; you have a **has-been** to support."

Facebook

"I was Facebooking in church, and the usher passed by and whispered, 'You better be texting Jesus.'"

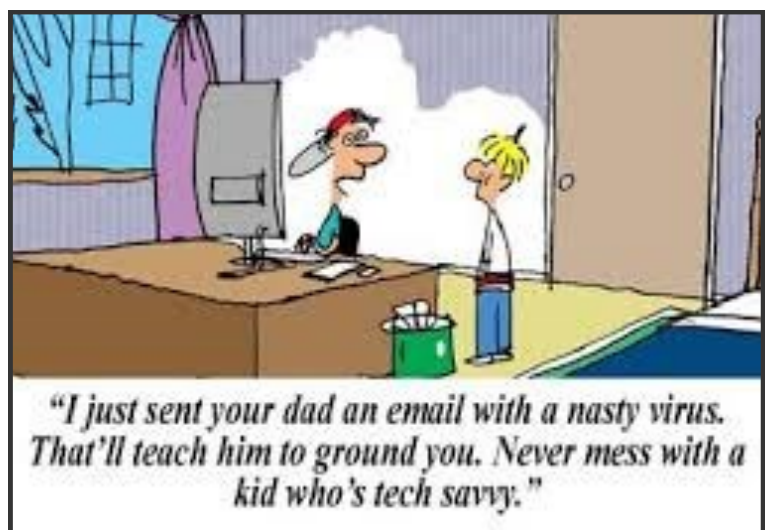
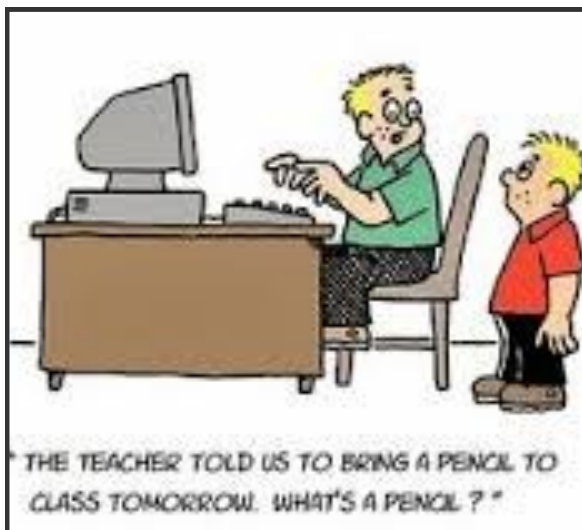
Technician

I was in a couple's home trying to fix their Internet connection.

The husband called out to his wife in the other room for the computer password.

"Start with a capital S, then 123," she shouted back.

We tried S123 several times, but it didn't work. So we called the wife in. As she input the password, she muttered, **"I really don't know what's so difficult about typing Start123."**



PRIVACY STATEMENT: Information contained in this Newsletter is only for the members of the ComputerPals Newcastle Inc. The Editor accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, libels, in accuracy or other shortcomings of this newsletter.