

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President



Lindsay Threadgate

Dates to Remember

Saturday, 7th May:

Social Outing, Parramatta Excursion

Sunday, 8th May

Happy Mothers Day to all the Mums

Friday, 27th May:

Enrolment Day

In This Issue

Social Events Page 2

Seniors Week Success Page 3

Special Interest Groups Page 4

'Share the ShoeBox' Page 5

Tech Talk Page 6

Funnybone Page 6

President's Report

The first school term over and ComputerPals have taken the usual break with the school holidays. What happened to April? It started out quite, **quite busy that is**, with Seniors Week and our guest speaker at the morning tea. We had a committee meeting, there are so many things to discuss and a few of us went to Sydney to a forum at ASCCA to discuss the future of computer clubs. Just as the "break" was over and we were returning to lessons an unexpected call came in from the Newcastle State Member's office, we were to receive a Local NSW Seniors Achievement Award.

On Wednesday 27 April Judy Wallace, Barry Keen and I went to Tim Crakanthorp's electoral office to be presented with the Award. Photos were taken at Honeysuckle with Tim presenting the awards. For the 2016 NSW Seniors Festival there were two local achievement awards for Seniors, one an individual award and one an organisation award. Our club received the organisation award of which we are very proud. We were told that there were a number of nominations submitted for our club. I thank those who gave us this honour.

I was very pleased when returning to teach after the break, not only to see familiar faces, but to meet several people for the first time, new members of our club. I hope all new members feel welcome and comfortable in participating in our lessons. I often don't get to meet new members for some time after they join. I want to say welcome to all new members who I have not yet met.

On 19 April Barry and Sandra Keen and I attended The Ways Forward for ASCCA Clubs Forum in Sydney. Twenty computer clubs were represented by around 45 people. We came together to discuss future directions for computer clubs. It seems to me that we are up there with the best, we are not the biggest club but "up there" and likewise what we do also seems "up there". We came away with a few ideas to pursue and a boost in confidence to do so.

As the year moves steadily, or is that rapidly, onward, the need to address who will be our future office bearers looms. I have gained a great deal out of my involvement with the club executive. While I am not looking to quit the club, I am in my 5th term as President and others on the executive have also served long terms. Back in 2003 I was tapped on the shoulder and told "we want you on the committee"; a bit taken back because I had not been a member for even a year at the time, I reluctantly accepted. Soon I was appointed Technical Officer, then Vice President and by 2006 I was serving my 1st term as President. That was after another tap on the shoulder "If I nominate you for President you will accept won't you?" It was never a question.

I am looking for some shoulder tappers and willing "tappees". I am sure among our members there are people who are capable and would get great reward from participation at a higher level in the club. We just need a few encouragers or cajolers.

Your President
Lindsay

Social Events—April



Social Day Out

Our Social Day Out on Saturday 2nd saw an intrepid bunch of just 8 participants turn out for a photo scavenger hunt in the city.



After meeting up at Maccas, Newcastle West, a list of quirky topics to photograph within a 2 block boundary was handed out. The idea for this excursion was to be creative in interpreting the subject topics in your own way. Following some puzzled looks, the group set off under the capable leadership of Treasurer Barry Keen, as I then went AWOL due to circumstances beyond my control. The topics chosen created a lot of talk and some quite varied results which are hoped will be displayed on the Digipals site for all to see.

With batteries running low (cameras and tummies!), coffee or ice cream beckoned at the finish line.



Our next excursion on Saturday 7th May will be to Sydney where we hope to meet up with some members of the Parramatta Computerpals and enjoy a ferry ride down the river to Circular Quay where we will lunch prior to our return home.

Morning Tea/Information Day - Seniors Week

Monday 4th was our Morning Tea and Information Day as a lead into Seniors Week, and a chance for prospective new members to learn a little of the Club's activities and share a cuppa and a yarn with the current members. Some 42 attendees (including a visitor from the 'Old Dart') were brought up to speed on Club happenings and status, followed by a well researched presentation by Vice President Sandra Keen on how Digital Technology can improve Health and Wellbeing.



Following a break for Morning Tea, our Guest Speaker and Personal Trainer, Pamela Glover, treated us to a most entertaining and informative

presentation on Physical Activity, with emphasis on Strength, Flexibility, Balance and Fitness - even exercises while sitting at your computer can assist in this process.

Later, the prospective members were invited to view the Club's "engine room" where they were given a chance to experience the surroundings and ask any questions regarding courses, options etc.



**GIVE HAPPY
LIVE HAPPY**



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 9-15 MAY 2016

VOLUNTEERINGAUSTRALIA.ORG/NVW

Research shows volunteers live happier and healthier lives. There are six million volunteers in Australia who "Give Happy, Live Happy". Congratulations to all our ASCCA Volunteers and to all who give so much of their time volunteering at ASCCA Clubs throughout Australia.

Seniors Week Success

ComputerPals Newcastle has achieved much publicity in the past month. We featured as the 'face' of Newcastle City Council's Seniors Directory publication with numerous photos and the lead story. Many of our members were present at the Seniors Week Morning Tea when Petria Jukes from NCC distributed copies of the Directory. This story and news of the publication went around the world courtesy of the "Newcastles of the World" Facebook page.



On Wednesday 27th April, our club was the recipient of the 2016 Newcastle NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award for an organisation.



Three of our Committee attended the presentation by Member for Newcastle, Tim Crakanthorp. Mr Crakanthorp said: "Computerpals for Seniors are a huge help and relief to local seniors who are looking to further their computer skills. They open up the world to their members by connecting them to the internet."

Pictured: Barry Keen, Judy Wallace and Lindsay Threadgate receiving the award from Tim Crakanthorp.

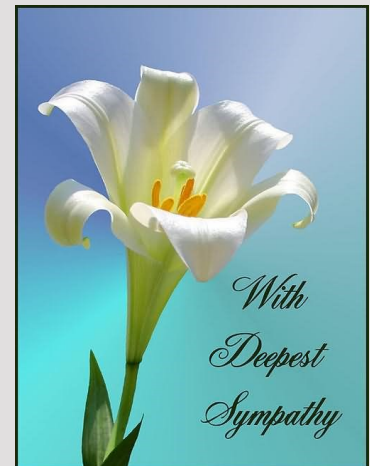
This success is directly attributable to the huge amount of work done by Computerpals members who volunteer their time. The club operates wholly through the work of these volunteers who personify the slogan of this year's National Volunteer Week - *Give Happy, Live Happy*.

Congratulations to everyone who helped us achieve this success !

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

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



WriterPals

*Our Creative Writing group is for enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the **second Monday of each month** at 15 Hubbard Street, Islington. 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;- **Apple devices at 11 am** and **Android at 1 pm** in the clubroom.*

WriterPals

Greetings one and all,

We now have details of the requirements for this year's ASCCA Creative Writing Competition. Closing Date is 5th September and Entry Forms are available for downloading now on the ASCCA Website. So ... time to get busy!

For Creative Writing in 2016 we have three topics for your stories of no more than 1,000 words and three topics for your poems of 300 words or less.

You may write only one poem and one story for each topic - a total of six entries.

The three topics for Story Writing are:

1. Open
2. My Favourite Ancestor
3. A Day at the Beach

The three topics for Poetry are:

1. Open
2. A Love Remembered
3. Flowers

DigiPals

For this year's ASCCA Digital Photography Competition the categories are unchanged from last year.

Each entrant may present **one photograph, taken after 10th August, 2015 for entry in each category** - a total of six entries.

1. Photo Journalism
2. Photo Travel
3. People/Portrait
4. Landscape/Seascape
5. Landscape, Structural/Manmade
6. Animal (s)
7. Open

The closing date is 5th September 2016 and the Entry Forms are available for downloading now on the ASCCA Website. Please read all the rules and conditions carefully.

TabPals

In order to ensure we had a TabPals gathering in April we rescheduled this event to the 5th Friday (luckily April had an extra Friday).

It was great to see so many people with their mobile devices, both iOS (Apple) and Android. We had to use both the clubroom and the 'al fresco' area.

Concern for those outside, especially during the upcoming colder months, led us to discussion of splitting the times for Apple and Android devices. Still meeting on the fourth Friday, we will have those with Apple iPads and iPhones at 11 a.m. and Android tablets and phones at 1 p.m.

An email will be sent to all members reminding them of the change prior to TabPals.

Contact Us



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer re-

garding rosters or payments use:

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Roster Team

Judy Wallace



Mitzi Gordon

Camel Smith



Wendy Cripps-Clark

These ladies are all volunteers who also teach classes at Computerpals. We ask that you take this into consideration when your phone call is not answered immediately.



MOTHERS DAY- Sunday 8th May
To ALL the MOTHERS out there...
May your day be filled with Love, Joy and Laughter.

“Share the Shoebox” Forum



During Seniors Week the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association conducted an event to explore ways to use those hidden or forgotten “shoebox treasures” and send them off “into the future”. Called “Share the Shoebox” this forum was enjoyable and informative.

We are intrigued by boxes from an early age; the toy box, boxes of items we are not supposed to view (hidden Christmas presents, etc). Then as we grow up boxes are used to pack for moving and even to leave items behind as we move out of home into the wider world. Later as we mature we save those items handed down from previous generations or precious to us in old suitcases and more boxes. Printed photographs often end up in shoeboxes—just the right size!

Many of us consider that the next generation will just “take it all to the dump” - and well they may! The important treasures will only be saved if we can give the following generations good reasons to keep them and pass them on.

Jotting down the story associated with a precious item or a photo, postcard, theatre program, memento, or other personal keepsake could be the only historical record not lost in time. A photo without names of the people depicted is discarded and lost forever. It is more likely to survive if the names of the people in it are recorded. BUT, if the story surrounding the event in the photo is told, that photo comes alive with meaning and is worthy of being passed on by future generations. And history is recorded!



At the Forum ASCCA’s Joan Craymer shared ideas for preserving original treasures and ways of creating new family mementos. “A Page in My Book of Life” a short story written by Annette Stuckey was read. We also learned of other “treasure preserving” techniques such as using photography, scanning, Photobooks and PowerPoint.

WriterPals will ‘open their doors’ **next Monday, 9th May** to all members interested in preserving their “shoebox treasures” or anyone who is even a little curious about this subject. **Come along at 1 p.m.** and find out more about how to address the issue of preventing your precious items being sent to the dump.

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

Tech Talk... Five things once commonplace that your smartphone has replaced

Imagine the load you'd bear if you had to carry around all that your smartphone has replaced? It is a compact little gadget that has all but made redundant some of the most commonplace items of our youth.

1. Camera / video camera

Well, this one is the most obvious really. As much as I'm loath to admit it, the cameras that come standard in most modern smartphones are every bit as good as, sometimes better than, their purpose-built counterparts.

2. Diary

Remember the days when you would hide your diary under your mattress so no one would discover your deepest, darkest secrets? Do you remember the last time you even had a diary?

The smartphone, with its calendars, contact lists and email, and apps that tell you where you've been and what you've done each day; and Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram documenting each meal you eat and every beer you drink, and the places you've liked and hated and recommend to friends. You can see why the humble diary has almost become obsolete.

3. Directories

I recently pulled into my driveway to find a small yellow brick-sized book near my front gate. I actually had to pause and wonder what it was: the *Yellow Pages*. I recall the days when, if I needed the number for the fish and chip shop, the *Yellow Pages* was the go-to guide for locating and contacting businesses. There was even a time when I resisted using online directories, because I was still quicker at finding a business in 'old yella' than I was at finding them online. Now the print is so small you need a magnifying glass to read it and there is no way to increase the font by a simple gesture as on the smartphone.

We've got a fancy GPS right on our smartphone! Oh, is it worth noting that even GPS devices are pretty much obsolete nowadays? I hope you didn't pay too much for yours.

4. Photo albums

Many of you may have experienced the discomfort of walking into a room to find your mother showing off baby photos to a boyfriend or girlfriend. But those once most precious of family heirlooms - the family photo album - are all but fossils these days, having been replaced by phones and digital cameras.

There is an ongoing concern of historians that huge chunks of social history will be lost to hard drive crashes and erasure, as they are now home to most of the world's photographic documentation of families, locations, special events and historic sites.

5. Interpersonal communication skills

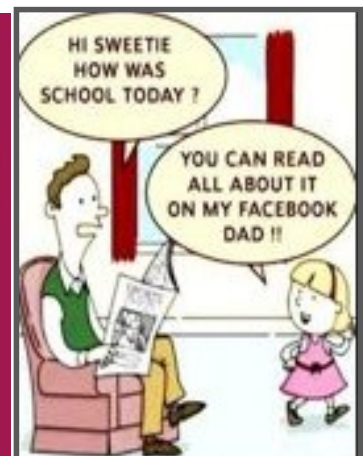
Perhaps the most drastic change to society as a result of mobile phones is the lack of people's interpersonal skills, particularly in regards to generations brought up on computers and smartphones. I'd love to see Generations Y and Z live for a week without their phones. I reckon they'd be shaking, slobbering messes. And what if we were ever hit by an electromagnetic pulse that wiped out all electronics? I'm pretty sure Gen Y and Z wouldn't be the only ones at a loss.

Funnybone . . .



Just spent 15 minutes searching for my phone in my car.

While using my phone as a flashlight.



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.