

**ComputerPals - Newcastle**

Where Seniors master technology

# SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : [contact@computerpals.org.au](mailto:contact@computerpals.org.au)

## President

**Sandra Keen**

## Dates to Remember

**Friday, 9th March:**

Laptop Assistance 10am

**Monday, 10th March:**

Writerpals - 1 pm

**Monday, 19th March:**

Digipals - 1 pm

**Friday, 23rd March:**Tabpals @ 11am Apple  
1pm Android**MONDAY, 9th APRIL****Seniors Week Morning  
Tea & Open Day**

## In This Issue

Social Report Page 2

Tech Info Page 3

Special Interest Groups  
Page 4

Funnybone Page 5

Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

## President's Report

Our year is off to a good start with many new faces at our clubroom. Welcome to all the new members! Please let the tutors know if there is any particular need you have with learning about technology.

The trial of a new approach to the timetable of classes for Term One has had to be revised already. Many classes filled very quickly while repeats of those classes on other days did not have any participants. As well there were particular subjects our members needed so the Roster team organised the changes and emailed these to all members.

If you are seeking a class that is not listed please let us know via email or by putting a note in the Suggestion Box in the clubroom.

Last month we started Laptop Assistance Day as a 'drop-in' session. Six members brought in their laptops and a list of questions / problems. They went away extremely happy with the results of the morning. The word is spreading so we are asking that members 'book-in' for the session by phoning 49616576 (no need to prepay). We need to ensure there are sufficient tutors on hand to help everyone and that the room is not too crowded. Therefore the numbers will be capped at eight for the session. Cost is \$5 in the blue moose money box.

Due to the increasing push towards Internet Banking our Education Team is preparing lessons on this subject and Online Shopping for next term.

The next big event on the Computerpals Calendar is **Seniors Week**. Our club will host a **Morning Tea** in the **Islington Public School Hall** on **Monday, 9th April commencing at 9:30 am**. A **guest speaker from Seniors Rights Services will speak on Retirement Accommodation**. The aim is help us all understand the many and varied approaches and costs associated with moving into retirement villages, hostels, etc. This Seniors Week event is open to the public so invite as many seniors as you can to come along.

Finally, when you are paying for classes via direct transfer please make sure your name and the number of the class is recorded in the description. Our Treasurer is a volunteer (as are all committee members and tutors at ComputerPals Newcastle) but he is not a detective so if he has to search for a name to put with a payment it often takes hours of his precious time.

Sandra Keen – President

**COMPUTERPALS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH 2018**

An adventurous group of 15 participants set out on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> for our trip to Dangar Island.

An early train ride to Hawkesbury River/ Brooklyn saw us board the local ferry service to our destination. With our friendly and informative skipper, Matt, at the helm and a warm sunny day ahead, a most enjoyable trip ensued, culminating in a group photo on the island’s wharf.

With a single-minded caffeine fix required, we made our way to the island’s general store/café set on the water’s edge adjacent to the wharf. Here, the friendly staff saw to our needs prior to our exploration of the island.



While the map was flat, the terrain certainly wasn’t. A line of wheelbarrows near the wharf are basically the only means for the locals to cart the shopping home, where, apart from a few living by the water, most houses are built on the side of very steep terrain. Indeed, some even had a miniature ‘scenic railway’ to haul their assorted items up from the tracks (read streets or roads in mainland speak!).

The answer to several ‘seedy’ locals was the island’s ‘Dangardegras’ (Mardi Gras?) held the previous night, evidenced by the many rainbow flags and the odd party masks visible. Time to return to Brooklyn, with the ferry ride enabling the ‘huffers and puffers’ to catch their breath prior to fish and chips by the river and the train home.

Our next ComputerPals Social Day Out will be during 2<sup>nd</sup> term, so keep an eye out for info closer to the time. Meanwhile, on several occasions, the regular monthly Monday DigiPals have a more local outing which may suit those preferring something closer to home.

*Our thanks to Brenton Elsey for a well-organised day out. Brenton even had contacts with the weather man ensuring sunshine all the way!*

*There will be one ComputerPals Outing per term, usually a Saturday, but the day may change according to the availability of the venue.*

## A big part of Online Security is simple COMMON SENSE

The following safety online information is compliments of  
ASCCA

The Commonwealth Games @GC2018 are just around the corner! The hype of a major sporting event can draw unwanted attention from cybercriminals. 'Like' @StaySmartOnline and subscribe to the alert service to keep updated with the latest tips and stories throughout the games.

Click on the blue links for more information or copy the addresses into your browser.

<https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/alert-service>

Visiting the Gold Coast for the Commonwealth Games @GC2018? Then follow these tips to avoid travel and accommodation scams.

<https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/Dont-let-travel-and-accommodation-scams-ruin-your-trip-to-the-Commonwealth-Games>

Looking for some last-minute tickets to the Commonwealth Games @GC2018? Only buy official. Read these tips to avoid being tricked by scammers.

<https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/news/want-buy-ticketscommonwealth-games-read-our-tips-do-it-safely>

Did you know @CityOfGoldCoast has free Wi-Fi hotspots for the games @GC2018? Read these tips for staying safe using public Wi-Fi.

<https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/enjoy-free-wi-fi-during-commonwealth-games>

It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of the Commonwealth Games @GC2018, but you shouldn't forget about your online safety. Read these tips to stay safe online during the Games.

<https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/think-you-can-spot-scam-message-take-test>

Another excellent site for information on scams and how to keep yourself and your computer safe from the scammers is

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>

CEO Fraud seems to be trending at present and costing businesses big money through wire transfers using last minute emails to staff preparing to leave for the day. This information is available at Scamwatch along with other warnings like those from ASCCA concerning the Commonwealth Games and scams over ticket purchase and accommodation booking.

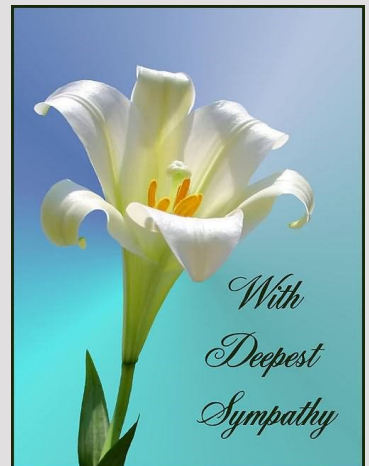
Please be informed by accessing these sites and arming yourself with the knowledge you need to keep yourself safe.

## 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.*

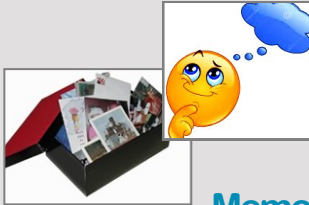


## Condolences

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



## Special Interest Groups



### MemoryPals

Our new group meets on **first Monday** of each month at **1:00pm** in the clubroom. Reminisce about your childhood memories and learn how to preserve them.

### 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 **Apple devices** at **11 a.m.**, **Android** at **1pm** in the clubroom.

## MemoryPals

At the last meeting of MemoryPals we explored the various ways of researching Family History including the paid and free websites. This included the pitfalls of so-called 'free trial' genealogy websites that require you to create an account and start charging a pricey subscription after a short period of time. The hitch is that you must remember to unsubscribe before the free trial is finished—and we often forget!

## WriterPals

### Everybody has a story to tell...

If you are unsure how to tell it, where to start, how to write it—we would be delighted to help you do so.

Why have somebody else write your story after you've gone and miss most of the good bits? – you are the one who knows the little anecdotes and quirky bits that are just you so you are the only one who can talk about them and about your life experiences.

Enhance your memories by giving them personality—yours.

**Describe your life in 6 words – “it wasn't quite what I expected...”**

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 1pm, and all are welcome - with or without stories in hand. There is no obligation or pressure to share anything you have written.

## DigiPals

At our last meeting we discussed having a personal focus on what you want to photograph and watched a short video. The we went out a photographed houses and objects in the near neighbourhood.

Digipals people watch your inbox for an email from Barry who will let you know where and when the next get together is.

Digipals group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1 pm.

## TabPals

**Have you got a tablet or phone and want to learn more about it?**

There usually a good attendance at TabPals in the clubroom on the 4th Friday of the month (ex school holidays). You will learn things you weren't even aware that you didn't know!

**Apple users**—iPads and iPhones—meet at 11 am

**Android users**—tablets and phones—meet at 1pm

Bring your device fully charged AND your questions

## 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.

**Contact Us**



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding rosters or payments use:

[islingtonpals@gmail.com](mailto:islingtonpals@gmail.com)

**Roster Team**

Barry Keen



Mitzi Gordon

Camel Smith



Wendy Cripps-Clark

These people 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.

**Funnybone— Dodgy headlines**

**Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says**

*No kidding, really? Ya think?*

**Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers**

*Now that's taking things a bit far!*

**Kids Make Nutritious Snacks**

*Do they taste like chicken?*

**Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half**

*Chainsaw Massacre all over again!*

**Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors**

*Boy, are they tall!*

**Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges**

*You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?*

**Enfield ( London ) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide**

*They may be on to something!*

**Cold Snap Linked to Temperatures**

*Who would have thought!*

**Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant**

*See if that works any better than a fair trial!*

**Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over**

*What a guy!*

**Miners Refuse to Work after Death**

*The-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!*

**War Dims Hope for Peace**

*I can see where it might have that effect!*

**If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile**

*Ya think?!*

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years.. He went to the doctor who was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect.. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'

The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'"

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that.. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool...After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split.

The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?'

'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'

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