



SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President



Sandra Keen

Dates to Remember

**Friday April 5th -
Enrolment Day**

**Holiday Break -
Monday 15th April to
Friday 26th April**

**Term 2 Commences -
Tuesday 30th April**

**Social Day Out -
Saturday 18th May**

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President’s Report -

Welcome to all the new ComputerPals members and to those who attend our Be Connected classes.

With only a little over a week left of Term One at ComputerPals our volunteer tutors are looking forward to a short rest as well as Easter and ANZAC Day celebrations. During the break several of our tutors will be working on updating our class notes – no rest for them!

Classes have been well attended, usually full, during this term and we hope the trend continues.

If there is a class you would like scheduled please send us an email or put a note in the Suggestions Box in the clubroom. Also, if you know of someone who could benefit from our services give them one of our brochures, encourage them to join you for a ‘look around’.

Judging by the comments, those who attended the Morning Tea in March really appreciated the words of advice from guest speaker Wendy Birrell from the RMS re the Light Rail. We have another interesting speaker coming up for our June



Morning Tea. In the meantime, we have several worthwhile Webinars brought to us by the e-Safety Commissioner. These are free but you need to book in to ensure we have room. Emails are sent out to members prior to the events.

Earlier in March our club was represented at MP Pat Conroy’s Seniors Expo. Thanks to Judy Wallace, Brenton Elsey, Ray Hinton and Phil Thibault for taking the time to organise our table and talk to the seniors present.

Did you miss World Backup Day on 31st March? It is not too late to ensure your photos, documents and other irreplaceable material is not lost. Please ask if you would like a class on Backups to be scheduled for next term.

Put this date in your diary: Our next Social Day is on Saturday 18th May 2019 when we will be visiting the Rail Motor Society at Paterson.

Sandra



FROM THE DESK OF THE SOCIAL SECRETARY:

Morning Tea

Monday 18th dawned grey and drizzly for our Morning Tea, held as usual in the school hall adjacent to our premises.

With a pleasing roll-up of some 50 odd members, President Sandra Keen commenced proceedings with an update of Club news and information, highlighting our upcoming classes and courses especially for new members. Special mention was made of the Be-Connected online assistance available for members to participate in rather than just listen, and also the importance of signing in when commencing a ‘lesson’. Next, our special guest speaker was Wendy Birrell from Roads & Maritime Services, who gave an excellent presentation of Road Safety for Seniors and the Light Rail. The last trams in Newcastle were withdrawn from service in 1950, so only a handful of us who lived in the area then would have seen them. Wendy highlighted the need to learn and understand the rules and safety measures taken to ensure a smooth transition to the integration of the light rail with motor vehicles and pedestrians. With these shiny new red and white trams running silently, it is most important to stay alert and keep a lookout when in the area and be aware of the additional traffic signals enabling safe crossing for pedestrians, not forgetting the 40kph speed limit throughout the length of the tramway. Judging by the numerous questions asked showed this presentation was well received and timely for those in attendance.

With a ‘caffeine fix’ needed, morning tea was then called, enabling members to share a cuppa and a yarn with those present.

Social Day Out

Just a reminder about our next Social Day on Saturday 18th May 2019 when we will be visiting the Rail Motor Society at Paterson. Here we will visit the old Station Master’s Cottage (now the Society’s headquarters) containing railway memorabilia of years past, have a tour of the Depot and the small museum within the old Station Master’s cottage, understanding the ongoing restoration work associated with these old workhorses. The highlight of the visit will be a ride on one of the rail motors (or ‘Tin Hares’ as they were fondly termed), some of which have passed their 90th birthday and still going strong. More details closer to the time – meanwhile, **mark your diaries!**

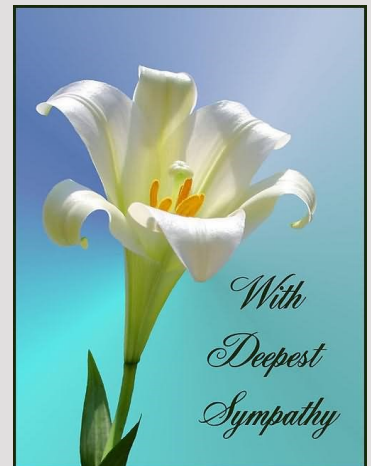


Best Wishes

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.

Device Assistance

If you have a portable device; iPad, Android tablet we have Device Assistance on **fourth Friday of the month**. Please book in!

Apple devices at **10 am**, **Android** at **12:30 pm** in the clubroom.



MemoryPals

It has been great to have the Clubroom filled with enthusiastic members at MemoryPals so far this year.

Once again, investigation of ways to bring old photos into the modern age filled our time. The Cam Scanner App was the focus this time and the large flat-bed scanner was in use as well.

Please ask us if you would like to use the large scanner at any time. It will scan those old negatives and slides as well.

WriterPals

Everybody has a story to tell... Our next Writerpals meeting for the year will be on March 11th and we would love to see you there. Please join us then at the clubroom. How about jotting down some notes about an event that occurred **during your childhood** and we will help you flesh it out into a story....

Remember— **EVERYBODY HAS A STORY TO TELL**. It all starts with a thought, a memory, a picture and builds one sentence at a time. Here's a picture that might help for our May meeting.

We meet on the **2nd Monday** of the month at **1pm**, and all are welcome - with or without stories in hand. Just turn up!

DigiPals

ASCCA Digital Photography Competition returns for 2019.

A change is that there will be a prize in each category for those who have not previously been awarded a prize in the ASCCA competitions.

Categories for 2019 are shown below.

Each entrant is permitted to present one photograph, **taken after 1st September 2017**, for entry in each category - a total of seven entries.

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

Entries will close on **1 September 2019** with winners announced at the 2019 Conference in November.

Full details will be announced in a future newsletter but start snapping or sorting existing photos **NOW**.

The competition will be organised by PC Users Group ACT

Device Assistance

There usually a good attendance in the clubroom for people wanting to learn more about their tablets and phones— even more so now for those who received those goodies for Christmas and need a little help to master them.

You will learn things you weren't even aware that you didn't know!

Apple users—tablets and phones—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

Roster Team

Barry Keen



Mitzi Gordon

Camel Smith



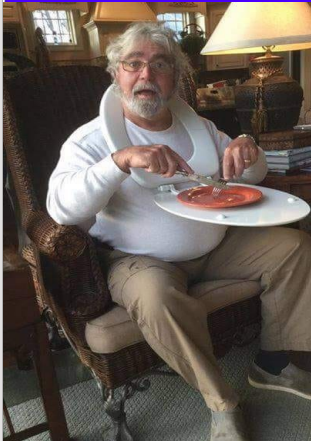
Wendy Cripps-Clark

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.

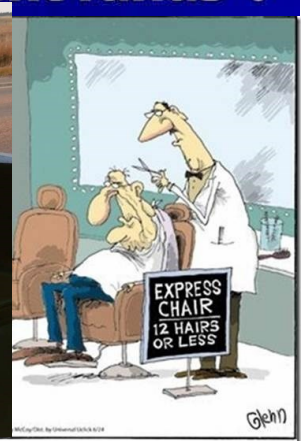
Funnybone —



They should put more money in the ATM's. I'm getting really irritated. This is the tenth ATM I've been to in the last week that's had "insufficient funds".



Turning on your lights and sirens after losing a drag race is just poor sportsmanship



An Indian Doctor couldn't find a job in a Hospital in the US, so he opened up a clinic and put a sign outside 'GET TREATMENT FOR \$20 - IF NOT CURED, GET BACK \$100!'

A local lawyer thought this was a great opportunity to earn \$100 and turned up at the clinic...

Lawyer: "I've lost my sense of taste."

Indian doctor: "Nurse, bring the medicine from box No. 22 and put 3 drops in this patient's mouth."

Lawyer: "Ugh... this is kerosene."

Indian doctor: "Congratulations, your sense of taste is restored. That'll be \$20."

The annoyed lawyer went back after a few days to try to recover his money...

Lawyer: "I've lost my memory. I can't remember anything."

Indian doctor: "Nurse, bring the medicine from box No. 22 and put 3 drops in his mouth."

Lawyer (annoyed): "This is kerosene. You gave this to me last time for restoring my taste."

Indian doctor: "Congratulations. You've got your memory back. That'll be \$20."

The fuming lawyer paid him, and then returned a week later determined to get \$100.

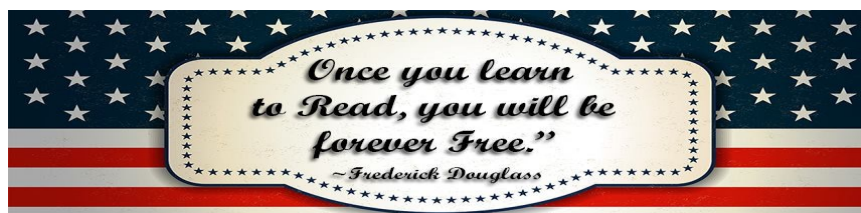
Lawyer: "My eyesight has become very weak I can't see at all."

Indian doctor: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so take this \$100."

Lawyer (staring at the note): "But this is \$20, not \$100!!"

Indian doctor: "Congratulations, your eyesight is restored. That'll be \$20."

God made man from the dust of the earth, but woman He made from man's rib. So..man is but dirt, and woman...well she's Prime Rib.



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.

A few contributions from our Writerpals group.

Firstly from the well organised brain of Lindsay Threadgate

We live in a world of encoded and decoded information flow. We can store all our information in the "cloud". So advanced has the encoding and decoding become that we no longer need to write or read. The invention of the neurophone, a transmitter/ receiver /recorder, means that we can wear as an unobtrusive cap, and have our thoughts recorded or receive verbal and visual information without listening to or looking at anything.

In fact recent discoveries have revealed that all events over time have been encoded and stored within the space around the core of atoms of nitrogen in the atmosphere. The very cleverest scientists are now developing the technology to decode this vast store and make it available wirelessly to neurophones in a form that a person may browse through time and see and hear the events of the past.

It is early days yet and the available time frame is a mere two hundred and fifty years. Access is limited, there is a need to develop search engines to index the encoded information, however it is anticipated that over the next 10 to 20 years it will be so developed that an individual's thought processes will be able to search for and find specific events in time and place and experience being at that specific place at the specific time.

Due to the sophisticated software and specific miniaturised hardware involved it will not be everyone who will be able to afford to subscribe to the service and specific psychological training must be undertaken to ensure a participant can cope with the effects of the experience on the mind. Never-the-less within a few short years this service will be available.

At present the accessing of the encoded data destroys the data and for this reason only limited places and times are being accessed. These are recorded in a new codex and stored in the "cloud". This is being done as a first stage to ensure this valuable resource is not destroyed and preserved for all future generations so they may enjoy these experiences.

The developers of the technology are confident to the point where persons wishing to subscribe to the service when available can now purchase the neurophone with record only capability and software so that they can specify places and times they wish to experience. While the cost of this equipment is high the promised experience is exceptional.

The software is called **Thinkaboutit**. There is such a hype around this subject that the hosting services of Family History and Genealogist services are experiencing frequent crashes and service speeds are at an all time low. The shares in Thinkaboutit.com have been in such great demand that the price has risen 25,000 percent since listing. A special agency called **Areyoukidding** has been formed to oversee the development and ensure that all funds invested are directed into bona fide research and not wasted on ideas that are beyond any possibility of success.

I personally have purchased my neurophone, I think the price was reasonable. I calculated the number of generations that I want to go back through and assigned a reasonable annual holiday cost for each generation. Just to make the mathematics easy I rounded to the nearest 10. So 10 generations for \$10,000 seemed reasonable to me. I want to visit all Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals of my direct ancestors. There is an expected service cost of \$100 per event which I also regard as reasonable.

I now await the successful development of the technology to access this encoded store without destroying it. I anticipate this will be achieved in less time than currently predicted, it will be an outstanding development. Imagine being an observer of events 250 years ago or maybe even half a millennium.

In the meantime I hear that there is a theory that all future events are programmed into similar storage space in the water molecules in the ocean. A much more dense storage media and even harder to access and decode. Scientists are working very intently in this area and as much research is being done as funding allows.

Much controversy surrounds the research into decoding the future events. Some argue that it is unethical and that if it can be accessed and decoded then the future will surely be changed. There is an intense argument about technology that has not yet been developed. Others argue that as much effort as possible should be applied to this as it is an opportunity to control the future for the betterment of the planet and all its inhabitants.

Personally I would much prefer to have a virtual experience of the past and be able to return to the now than have that experience of the future and know what is coming.

I am now busy with my neurophone, all I have to do is install the software on my computer, find a place to sit where there is sufficient light to charge my neurophone receptor cap and think of the events that I wish to witness. My big challenge is to identify the exact time and place that these events took place. Of course I have to

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take into account any movement in tectonic plates, as location is critical. I also need to adjust for the inaccuracies in the calendar because a few minutes can mean that I miss the entire event.

I am discovering that while dates of events have been recorded, times have generally not. Places are equally iffy as over time buildings have been demolished and rebuilt. I am uncertain as to how I compensate for the small inaccuracies of the global positioning system. As yet while it is anticipated there is no indication that the stored information is searchable. Although I understand research into the development of search engines is optimistic. The problem is somewhat similar to the current method of decoding any accessed encoded events, it destroys or at least corrupts the integrity.

I remain confident that all these matters will eventually be resolved and remaining high on my expectations is to be able to experience my Great Great Great and 3 more Greats Grand Parents marriage. I imagine there were great preparations.....or it was a complete non-event.

—oooOooo—

A PARANOID POET'S IMPROBABLE POEM

From the talented pen of Fred Schinkel

He's up and pinched me poem (he has)
He's claimed it as his own,
He give it to his ma (he did),
'Oo prideful showed it to his pa,
"I reckon", says she, "We've got to be
Proud of the brains in this family!"

His pa he showed his mate (he did)
Who said: " 'Struth and bloody fate!
Your lad's a clever coot, (he is),
This poem of his, it's f'n beaut!
But me I ain't no po'try expert
Let's check it out, to be dead cert."

So give it to our teach (they did)
(A proper, pretty peach)
Her chest it swelled wiv pride (it did),
Her bra it almost burst a-wide.
"Be Jeez," said she as deep she breathed
"I'd never woulda this believed!"

She's gone and showed the Head (she has)
"We'll print it in the Mag," he said.
On Speech Day he'll recite", (he said)
And then (for him) this idea bright:
"And to encourage talent we
Will give a yearly prize for po'try."

At last the Speech Day come (it did)
The Head with voice all plum
Tells 'em all this twaddle (he does)
Says then: "This school can be a model
Throughout our wide community
That culture's NOT stupidity."

A Journo's made report (he has)
And front page placing sought.
I laugh; my piffing poem (it has)
From mole-hill now to mountain grown!
I'm tempted sore to pull the plug
And prove this spruiking mob's a mug.

It only goes to show (it does)
What poets really know
But too polite to tell (they are)
For try they must their work to sell:
Most people if a poem hit 'em
Would feel elsewhere for what 'ad bit 'em!

Fred's Class

Carmel Learning about Photoshop Elements

He stood beside the monitor, the pointer in his hand
"Just yell at me" he told us, "if you don't understand.
I'll show you how to change things in your family snaps
This program's quite involved, so put on your thinking caps."

As he started to explain just what we had to do
He swished that little pointer round like Zorro used to do!
We took a little bit from here and moved it over there
And things that didn't work right had us tearing out our hair.

"Now are there any questions, or are you all confused?
Can you all fix up your photos with the tools I've helped you use?"
"I can't get rid of marching ants and now my sky's turned red.
These tips and tricks you've taught us just won't stay in my head."

"The magic lasso thingy wants to stitch my picture through
And I just cannot stop it no matter what I do.
I've hit the backspace often and whacked K on the head:
I think I'll have to close the lot and start again instead."

"You need to run the mouse round there and then you hit this key
And everything will be just fine" was what he said to me.
So I ran the little rat around and clicked it here and there
And then I hit the enter key and marching ants were there

And then I clicked another place and everything was gone
"Don't worry" he said. "It's all still there. We'll find it later on.
Right now it's time to take a break and have a cup of tea
And then we'll work real hard to see how clever you can be."

Tea break over, back we went to have another try!
Those rotten little marching ants; enough to make me cry.
With combination key and click the little blighters ran.....
I'll have to practise hard at home, and do the best I can.