



Switched on Seniors

Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors – Newcastle
A Member of ASCCA

VOLUME 10

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Members,

There are only eight weeks of classes left for this year but we have a really full program of activities before we “break up” for the Christmas vacation.

The first activity is on the very first day of next school term, 11th October. Write it up in your diary now for our Morning Tea at 10:00am when the special guest speaker will be Dr Paul Brooks, lead consultant for the National Broadband Network (NBN). Paul will be able to answer all your questions about what the NBN involves and how it will benefit all of us.

At the Morning Tea, Dawn Howe will be collecting payment for the “Fish-’n-Chips” picnic at Speers Point Park on Saturday, 23rd October. If you’d like to pay by cheque before then, please do so, but this is to make it more convenient for those people who prefer to pay by cash. Please help Dawn by having the correct money (\$7.50 per person). See a later notice in the Newsletter for all the details.

Our Christmas Lunch will be held at Kotara Bowling Club at Robyn’s Bistro on WEDNESDAY 8th December. Costs will be \$23.50 per person with a choice of two meals and desserts served at the tables. Full details will be in our next Newsletter. Again, you can pay by cheque or Dawn will be at the club on one day to collect payments. One important thing to remember is that the Bistro is strictly limited to a maximum of 100 people, so make sure that you add your names to the list as soon as possible.

We have two enrolment days scheduled for Fridays on 29th October and 3rd December, so obviously these days are for new members and those people enrolling in classes for next year

Later in the Newsletter there are two reports from our new groups. Lindsay Threadgate is leading the new Genealogy Group which already has a membership of over thirty (and you can always come along without putting your name on any list). Carmel Smith is leading a small group of people interested in Creative Writing. Already it is shaping as a very supportive group and new members will be very welcome. Just remember that “Creative Writing” takes many forms.

In the near future, members with e-mail addresses will be receiving a short form asking for details of what operating systems are installed on home computers, as well as the e-mail programs used. This is to help our planning of courses for 2011 and we really do NEED your input so that we can present the best program possible.

In the vestibule outside the classroom there are small pamphlets of VERY IMPORTANT information for all our members. Tutors will try to make sure that all members have a copy of the pamphlet, but if this is overlooked, please make sure that you have a copy and keep it handy for contacting certain committee members. We really are trying to relieve the number of phone calls going to the roster team members, so PLEASE use e-mails if you possibly can.

A new computer has been purchased to replace the one used for administration. At 7 years of age it was a veteran in need of retirement. While it didn’t groan and have difficulty in moving about – it had really slowed down (and I think we can relate to that!).

Committee Members

President: Bruce Deitz

Secretary : Maura Rainbow

Treasurer : Maree Field

Vice President : Rob Golledge

Assistant Treasurer :
Michael Pitt

Technical / Education:
Neville Clifton

Rosters : Denise Brandon

DigiPals : Carolyn Keane

Newsletter / Webmaster:
Bruce Carter

Social Activities : Dawn Howe

Tutor Roster : Mitzi Gordon

Committee : Elaine Butler

Teams

- Technical
- Rostering/Enrolment
- Education
- Web Page

Contact Us

Committee members listed above may be contacted by following the instructions on the CONTACT US page on the club website.

New colour printers have been bought to replace two small ones which had been donated. They have given us good service but suffered from a lack of "drivers" for Windows 7.

Thank you all for your support of our classes. The next five-weekly session has only a couple of vacancies and the short courses for session 8 are filling rapidly. I was amazed to see that we already have names down for courses in Session 2 next year.

Remember, guests are welcome at our morning teas. I hope to see you there.

Bruce Deitz

President Computerpals Newcastle Inc.

Committee Report

Technical Officer – Neville Clifton

- Nev has loaded Windows 7 on the laptop to allow it to be used in class.
- So far the students are enjoying the overhead screen use and the videos.
- The possibility of 1&2 notebooks for class use needs to be discussed by the committee.
- It was agreed to ask people if they wish to bring in their own laptops, as many members now only have a laptop at home.

Educational Report – Neville Clifton

- The Committee is Neville Clifton, Ray Hinton, John Saunders and Dave Lester.
- Mitzi has done a lot of work to assemble a class on email, combining the first level of Outlook Express, Windows mail and Windows Live Mail.
- Dave and Neville have been looking at Windows Mail and Outlook Express first level combined notes.
- Lindsay has been doing some work on Windows 7 file management, as well as new notes on digital photography.
- Bruce Deitz has updated Windows 7 course information.

Promotion of Club

- The Tri Fold Brochures have been received. It was agreed to buy 20 stands for the brochures at a cost of \$5.75 per stand. Pamphlets will be displayed at Libraries, Doctor Surgeries and Dentists waiting rooms. Should we need to extend this to Computer Stores and other areas then it will be discussed further at a later date.

REMINDERS TO MEMBERS :

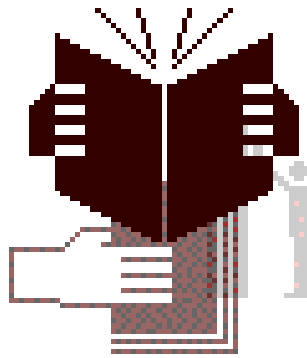
Membership fees

These were due 1st July 2011.

If you have paid, please do so ASAP.

Members Morning Tea

Mon 11th October, 2010



Creative writing group

We had our first get-together at the clubroom on September 13th with 8 people attending and the start was very positive. We introduced ourselves and outlined our “writing experiences” and found that some of us are published writers, some are still in the throes of getting organised and reorganised and a couple of us have our enthusiasm to spur us into action.

What we each wanted from our involvement in the group was as varied as the people themselves –from digging out the family tree again and getting it written up, preparing a book for publication, improving a writing project already in regular publication and a couple of us who just wanted to get started.

A précis of “Paint with Words” by Joan Craymer was given to the participants along with a couple of examples and a ‘limerick of encouragement’ from the internet.

It’s a well known fact that the hardest sentence is the first one because it has to grab the attention of the reader and make the rest of the story appealing. Bruce initiated a short exercise on that basis – recalling the first sentence of a really gripping story we had read (with mixed results). What I found was that my memory is good, but my forgettury is even better, so I resorted to a short passage written by one of my year 7 students way back when.

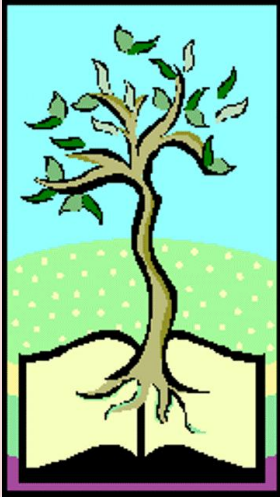
Homework for our next meeting is to write a short piece, either prose or poetry, about a childhood experience or about a favourite place, preferably from childhood. We also need to come up with a name for our group. So far we have tossed three into the ring – PenPals, WriterPals and CreaataPals – no doubt there will be a few other pals thrown in before we find one that suits us.

There isn’t really much to report from this first meeting, but hopefully the creative juices will flow and we will have something to share with everybody for the next newsletter.

For anybody who would like to join us, we meet on the second Monday of each month at the Islington clubroom and our meetings go from 1pm until we go home. Please come and sit in – you might just want to stay and who knows – you might be the next Agatha Christie or William Shakespeare.

One can but dream!





What is it?

1. A record or table of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or ancestors; a family tree.
2. Direct descent from an ancestor; lineage or pedigree.
3. The study or investigation of ancestry and family histories.

Source :

www.thefreedictionary.com/genealogical

Genealogy Group

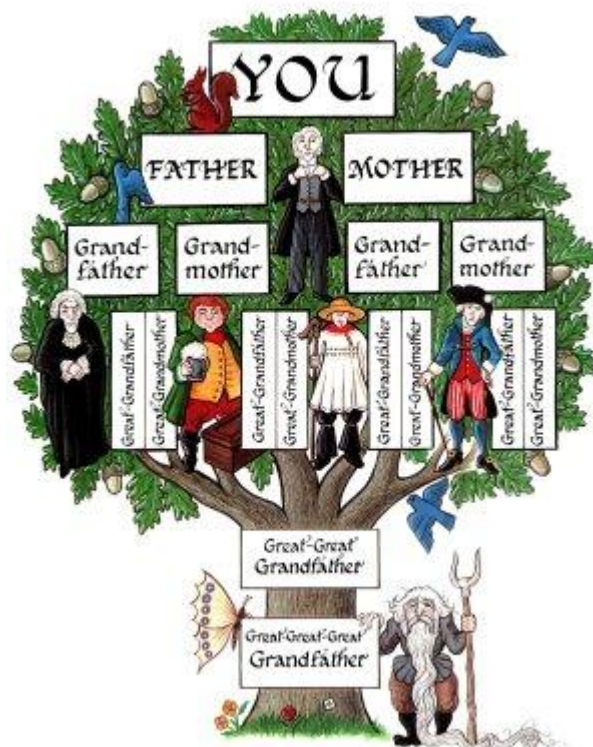
The first meeting of this group was held on Monday, 6th September with 19 people present.

As with our DigiPals and Creative Writing groups, membership is free to those who are already members of ComputerPals, so anyone interested will be most welcome. We have been allocated the first Monday afternoon of each month at 1:00pm, so even though the next date would be during the school vacation, we have been able to arrange a meeting for Friday, 8th October at 9:30am as we will be able to access the clubroom then – please note the time for this one-off meeting. We have arranged to come in armed with details of the resources we use and an evaluation of the different sites.

There is a wide variation in the knowledge and skills of the group, with some just starting out on their family research, while others are well advanced and subscribe to various research sources. We are all prepared to share our knowledge of resources, filing systems, software programs used and any groups to which we belong. Our intention is to build up a list of resources available, sites to search and links to various sites which will assist in our researching.

In keeping with our “Pals” suffix, we’ve decided that our name will probably be “GeneaPals” (That’s a name that will upset our spell checkers.)

If you are interested in researching your family history, please come along.





DigiPals Contact Person :

Carolyn Keane



Report : Graham
Woolridge

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Outdoor Photo Shoot:

9th October, 2010 at The
Fish Markets.

Next DigiPals Meeting:

18th October, 2010

DigiPals Report

A new Spring has come and with it some lovely warm weather, the flowers and shrubs are really coming into their own, providing many photo opportunities.



During September we had an outdoor shoot at the Lambton Library and a good turnout. Our next outdoor shoot is to be at the Newcastle Fish Markets, the scene of possibly our best turn out last year. This venue provides a wide variety of subjects and we hope all our member take this opportunity to get some great shots. Watch your email for final details as we are almost certain to change the date due to school holidays.

Our first Picasa class begins on the 14th October, if you missed out on this one you will have other opportunities in the future. We will also be running a series of short courses called "Know your camera", the content will be on getting to know how your camera works, the various parts, modes and generally how to set your camera up so as to really benefit from all the various features.



We look forward to seeing you all at the Fish markets later in October and by the way the coffee at Sea salt is very good.

Happy Snapping.



Photos above from our outing.
Samples by Barry (Buildings)
and Park (Carolyn)

SOCIAL REPORT

Social Activities Contact :
Dawn Howe



Other Date to
remember

Christmas Dinner

- Please note that money will not be collected at the morning tea for Christmas Dinner.
- See next page for details
- However you can pay for Fish-n-Chips Picnic at the 11th October Morning Tea.

What a way to finish the year!

We have two special functions listed on this and the next page for members.

Fish-'n-Chip Picnic

Saturday 23rd October

Speers Point Park

Midday

Choice of either crumbed or battered fish.

COST - \$7.50

Pay at Morning Tea on 11th October

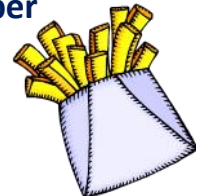
Or

Send a cheque made out to

COMPUTERPALS

PO Box 181

TORONTO 2283



**Bring your own drinks and seats
and we'll meet in the shelter near the rotunda.**

**Make sure you get in while places still are
available.**

SOCIAL REPORT

Social Activities Contact :
Dawn Howe



Other Date to
remember

Fish & Chips Day

- 23rd October
- Speers' Point Park
- Cost \$7.50 for battered or crumbed fish and chips .
- Money collected 11th October morning tea.

See previous page



Robyn's Kotara Christmas Menu

Kotara Bowling Club, Howell St, Kotara,
Phone 49576251

Date : 8th December

Cost : \$23.50

Meal: Two course meal

Service : Food served to table

Limit : Maximum 100 people

Mains Choice :

- *Roast turkey and ham served with cranberry sauce OR*
- *Grilled perch fillet with a citrus sauce OR*
- *Crumbed chicken breast with mango and ham*

Dessert Choice :

- *Plum Pudding with Brandy Custard OR*
- *Pavlova with mixed berries OR*
- *Warm apple pie*

All meals served with seasonal vegetables, bread roll, tea, coffee and dinner mints.



Enjoy



BITS & PIECES



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:

<http://www.ascca.org.au>

- Our club's constitution, as amended at the 2008 AGM, is available to be downloaded and read via the link on the Member's page on the website.
- Don't forget to print the calendar that is available on the Club website

So Far

Courses are well under way and continue to be very well patronised.

To check availability of courses please phone 4961 6576 during office hours.

And the Next Course?

An outline of the courses is available on the website and on notices in the Clubroom. If you need further explanation, the Tutors will be more than happy to advise which course is the most suitable for you to take.

Demand for the courses is high so it is imperative to enrol early and confirm your position by forwarding your payment.

Please check that a vacancy exists in the course before sending payment.

Most Courses are repeated in later sessions.



Best Wishes

- For our members who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries - congratulations!
- To those who are ill our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Important Contacts

Rosters Officer
Denise Brandon



ATTENTION MEMBERS :

Membership fees were due 1st July 2010.

If you have NOT paid, please do so ASAP.

Thank you to those who have done so already.

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.

Condolences

To all of our members who have lost loved ones recently, please accept our condolences.

HINTS



& TIPS

Our Website

www.computerpals.org.au

We keep all past newsletters which contain "Hints & Tips".

Security of Your Computer

Last month we advised you to secure your computer.

Norton, McAfee and others would have us believe their products offer a complete protection **AT A RECURRING COST.**

There is a cost in money terms by requiring you to pay for the initial product and yearly subscriptions. There is also a cost in these products slowing your computer once they are loaded.

Are there any alternatives to paying for 3rd party products securing your computer?

Yes and through Microsoft at no extra cost to you.

1) Windows Defender

It is installed as part of Vista and Windows 7 and can be downloaded for Windows XP from www.microsoft.com

"Windows Defender is software that helps protect your computer against pop-ups, slow performance, and security threats caused by spyware and other unwanted software by detecting and removing known spyware from your computer. Windows Defender features Real-Time Protection, a monitoring system that recommends actions against spyware when it's detected, minimizes interruptions, and helps you stay productive." (Microsoft Web Site)

It will protect you in the following areas;

- Spyware detection and removal
- Improved Internet browsing safety
- Protection against the latest threats

2) Windows Firewall

"The term "firewall" originally referred to fireproof walls that were designed to prevent the spread of fire from one room or building to the next. They were typically made of brick, steel, or another type of inflammable material that would effectively limit the spread of the fire.

A computer firewall limits the data that can pass through it and protects a networked server or client machine from damage by unauthorized users." <http://www.techterms.com/definition/firewall>

Microsoft Firewall is built into Windows XP (SP2 onwards), Windows Vista and Windows 7. The level of protection is basic in XP but more sophisticated in the latest version.

It provides basic protection for users, some argue all you need.

[“Microsoft Security Essentials](#) is a new, free consumer anti-malware solution for your computer. It helps protect against viruses, spyware, and other malicious software. It's available as a no-cost download for Windows XP SP2 and higher, Windows Vista, and Windows 7.” (Microsoft Website)

3) Windows Security Essentials

For many years users have argued Microsoft should provide an antivirus solution for their systems.

Although provided many years ago in DOS it was never provided as part of the Windows Operating System.

Microsoft have now addressed this need by launching a NO COST antivirus program for all Windows users. The software is Microsoft Security Essentials. It is NOT supplied with Windows but has to be downloaded from the website.

Where can I obtain Security Essentials?

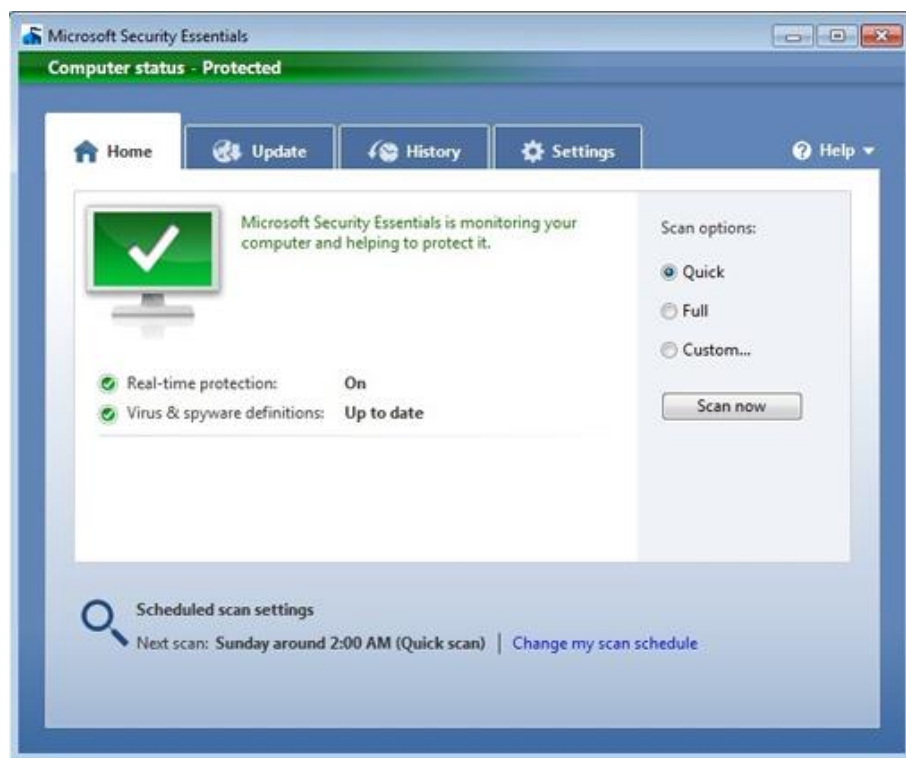
<http://www.microsoft.com/security/products/mse.aspx>

How much does it cost?

Nothing - it's free

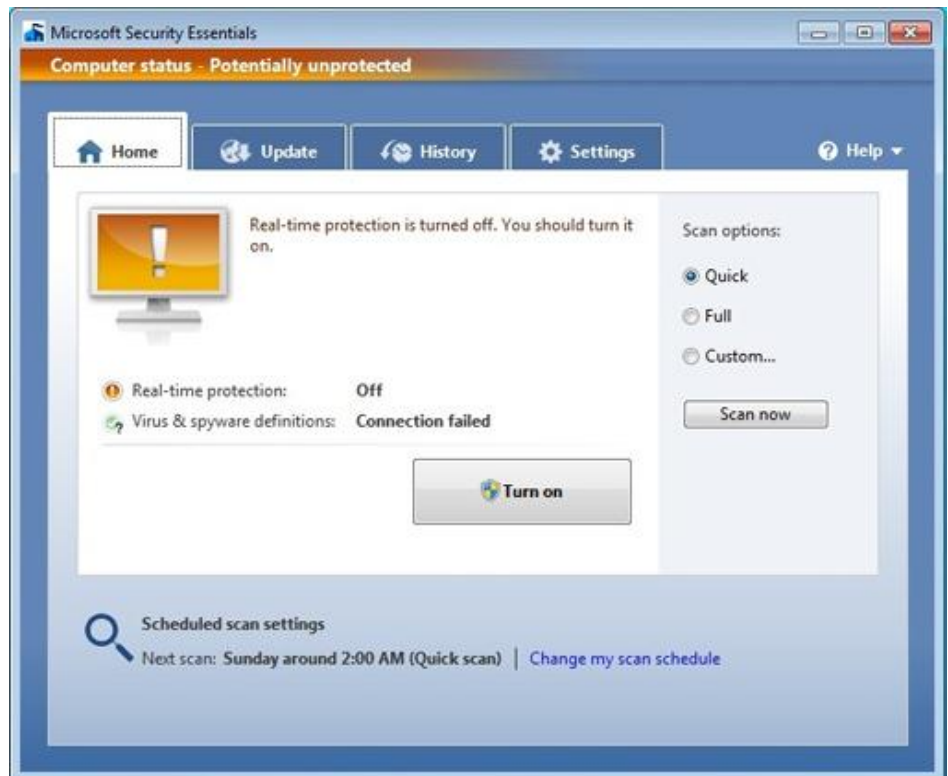
Although Windows provides these levels of security the 3rd party providers (Norton, McAfee etc) would have us believe Microsoft's level is not high enough.

Whether this level of protection for is as thorough as it should be is a matter of debate in technical circles.



The program is simple to use and automatically updates virus definitions to keep you protected. A green icon means that the security status of your computer is good. Microsoft Security Essentials is up -to- date and is running in the background to help protect your computer against malware and other malicious threats.

A yellow icon means that status is fair or potentially unprotected and that you should take some action, such as turning on real-time protection, running a system scan, or addressing a medium-severity or low-severity threat.



The information provided here is taken from Security Essentials website at <http://www.microsoft.com/security/products/mse.aspx>.

"What kind of computer do you have?"

"A white one."

"Your password is the small letter 'a' as in apple, a capital letter 'V' as in Victor, and the number '7'."

"Is that '7' in capital letters?"

Tech Support: 'I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop'.

Customer: 'OK'.

Tech Support: 'Did you get a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No'.

Tech Support: 'OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No'.

Tech Support: 'OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?'

Customer: 'Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.'

A Dell technician advised a customer to put his troubled floppy back in the drive and close the door. The customer asked the tech to hold on, and was heard putting the phone down, getting up and crossing the room to close the door to his room.

User tells support tech that she knocked a key off her laptop. She replaced it, but now it won't work. Tech asks, "is the key loose?" "Not now," user replies. "It was loose, but I fixed it. I used super glue."

MORNING TEA



Date : Monday 11th October 2010
Time : 10.00am
Location: Islington Public School Hall,
Hubbard St., ISLINGTON
Guest Speaker : Dr Paul Brooks
Topic : National Broadband Network



- At the morning tea the rostering team will be available for members who wish to pay for and enrol in classes.
- Anyone who has not paid for their membership, may also do so at this time

ALL WELCOME