

President's Report



We have finished the last week of lessons for this year and already we are preparing for next year. There are two more functions :- Enrolment Day on Friday 7th December 9.30am to 11.30am and our Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday 11th December. There is still time to put your name down for this function at a cost of \$20 per head. Just send your name and money to ComputerPals - Newcastle PO Box73, BROADMEADOW 2292.

Thank you to our hard working Committee, who are a group of talented people, the Tech Team for their dedication in keeping our computers running and up-to-date and the Roster Team for making certain that the sessions are developed by our members' suggestions of various classes they would like to attend. A special thank you to Tim at Domayne, for the generous support he has given our club. At this stage Bruce Deitz will be continuing the talks at the Domayne Kotara store next year.

Windows 8 has hit the shops with an almighty splash. We are looking at developing the best way to run and teach courses for this operating system. More will be revealed next year.

You might have noticed the banner in our club room, congratulating the winners at ASCCA. I will not mention names as I'm sure to miss some one, but we had mention for our Webpage, Photography and especially for WriterPals who took out the Champion writing group for Australia. Of the 20 prizes on offer in the various categories, WriterPals won 10! Carmel Smith is so proud of her group. We do have very talented people and we are grateful that they are willing to contribute in our club.

To all a very joyous Christmas and a New Year of hope and encouragement. Looking forward to seeing you next year.

Elaine Butler

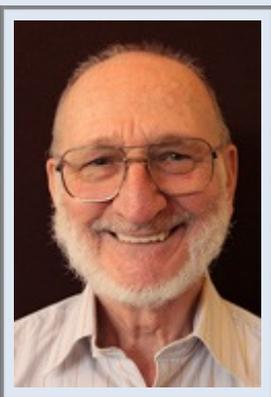
ComputerPals
President



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Social Report



Our Social & Digipals Day Out on Saturday 3rd November starting with a picnic lunch in the park near Squids Ink Motel, Belmont South and after lunch we wandered the lake foreshore and Cold Tea Creek taking in all the sights and photo opportunities before we jumped in our cars and headed for the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club for more sight-seeing and photo opportunities and afternoon tea/coffee. Once again the weather co-operated and everyone had a great time.

Suggestions for Social Days Out in 2013 were canvassed by email / form submission which resulted in a good response. This gave the group of people I spoke with, the chance to help whittle down the choices to a decent set of options.

We selected:

- 2/2 Garden Island, Sydney (train trip)
- 2/3 Nobbys (local)
- 6/4 Broken Bay cruise (train trip + cruise)
- 4/5 Glenrock (local)
- 1/6 Stroud (car pool option)
- 20/7 free bus around Newcastle (local)
- 3/8 The Rocks, Sydney (train trip)
- 7/9 Newcastle Harbour (local)
- 12/10 Dungog (car pool option)
- 2/11 Lambton Park (picnic) (local)



I also been asked to have a mid week activity for those members who can't make it with us on a weekend. I'm seriously considering a walk along a section of the Fernleigh Track; and perhaps a night time venue for social & night photo opportunity. More on this later.

Our last Digipals meeting in the classroom for the year was on Monday 5th Nov when we congratulated Chris Priestley for winning a third place for his image of "Church of Our Saviour of the Spilt Blood" in the ASCCA Photo Comp.

Topics for the Photo Project 2013 were discussed and those present were given a copy of the guidelines and categories. We also conducted a poll on which 4 topics the "organising team" would review during the year. Members are still encouraged to submit photos in all categories and we can discuss the merits on an individual basis or in class if time permits.

Focus will also be given to various topics to be expanded on during our classroom meetings to make the meeting a learning experience - hopefully with some practical opportunities.

Cheers - Barry Keen

Reminder to all club members that everyone can join in with Digipals, there is no extra club fees applicable.

Only requirement is a desire to learn how to better use your camera and take better photos.



*Belmont
South
Shoot*



WriterPals Report



Carmel Smith
(Organiser)

"Out of 20 Creative Writing awards presented - our little group brought home 10.

I feel like a proud mother all over again."

Carmel



Our two topics for this month were "Hair" and "I learned something new".

Most tackled the hairy one and the results were nothing short of hilarious. The stories will be on our website for your enjoyment. One of us "learned something new" and it can only be advantageous to the club as a whole. He learned about Windows 8 and has a few more grey hairs to show for the experience.

We have decided to have a meeting in December as the school will still be open and our two topics are:-

1. Fashion - in all its shapes and forms it is forever changing.
2. "Oh, the embarrassment!"

Our next meeting is at 1pm on December 10th at the clubrooms.

ASSCA Competition Results 2012

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR ASSCA COMPETITION WINNERS FOR 2012 from entries from clubs right across Australia - a great effort!

CHRIS PRIESTLEY - Digital Photography - 3rd Place in Photo Travel

BRUCE CARTER - Club Website Competition 2012 - 3rd Place

CARMEL SMITH - Creative Writing - Special Mention in 'The Last Word' Section

FRED SCHINKEL - Creative Writing - 2nd Place in 'The Last Word' Section

BRUCE DEITZ - Creative Writing - Special Mention in 'The Box' Section

BARBARA BARTLETT - Creative Writing - 3rd Place in 'The Box' Section

CARMEL SMITH - Creative Writing - 2nd Place in 'The Box' Section

FRED SCHINKEL - Creative Writing - 1st Place in 'Time to Panic' Section

CARMEL SMITH - Creative Writing - 1st Place in Poetry Section

FRED SCHINKEL - Creative Writing - GRAND CHAMPION WRITER 2012 - 2nd Place

CARMEL SMITH - Creative Writing - GRAND CHAMPION WRITER 2012 - 1st Place

COMPUTERPALS FOR SENIORS NEWCASTLE INC - CHAMPION ASSCA Creative Writing Club 2012 - 1st Place

Link to ASSCA Competition site : http://ascca.org.au/images/ascca_pdfs/competitions/2012/2012_writing_winners_pp.pdf

Barry Keen
Vice President / Social Secretary

Committee

President

Elaine Butler

Secretary

Carmel Smith

Treasurer

Maree Field

Vice President

Barry Keen

Ass. Treasurer

Michael Pitt

Education Officer

Bruce Deitz

Technical Officer

Neville Clifton

Rosters

Judy Wallace

Newsletter /

Webmaster

Bruce Carter

Tutor Roster

Mitzi Gordon

Social Organiser

Barry Keen

Committee Janet

Cater

Immediate Past

President

Lindsay Threadgate

ComputerPals Mission

Our mission is to assist clubs 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.

Tutors

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.

Best Wishes

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

Condolences

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



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 at www.ascca.org.au

Hints & Tips



Solid State Drives

There is an increasing trend in higher end computer models, both laptop and desktop, to use SSD or Solid State Drives. These drives are more expensive but offer many speed advantages over traditional drives. Some computers come with a smaller SSD to hold the operating system (eg 120gb) and a second larger conventional drive to hold user files.

Windows 7 and 8 are the only versions which are configured to allow optimal performance of these drives. One real positive is that they never need to be defragmented.

Windows 8 - Do You Need It?

Windows 8 is the latest OS for Windows. The system was not developed because Windows 7 was a poor system or is even outdated. Microsoft have developed it to compete with the might of Apple and their dominance in mobile technology.

This year Microsoft had their first loss in profits and their response is to move to a completely new approach. Like Apple, Microsoft are launching into;

- **Hardware** - an iPad like device called "Surface"
- **Microsoft Store** - a store to sell Apps online
- **Touch Screen Oriented Software** - mouse use is promoted as less efficient and gone by default is the start button
- **Entry via Metro** - even if you have a laptop or desktop you have to start by default in the "apps store" mode. You can't set automatic entry to a "desktop" mode.

Take away the bling and will Windows 8 will really do nothing more than you currently can do?

If purchasing a new computer try it out in store to see if you are comfortable with the new system and it meets requirements. Go to a specialist computer store rather than a store where they sell computers but don't know much about them, and don't care once you have purchased it.

You can still have one with Windows 7 installed, if that is your preference.

Useful Microsoft Program Shortcuts

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/organization/compshortcuts.aspx#fbid=I8BuptBp4Mg>

“Committee members may be contacted by following the instructions on the CONTACT US page on the club website”



Carmel Smith
(Club Secretary)



Neville Clifton
(Technical Support)

Rural Australian Computer Terminology

A little bit of Aussie Kulcha.....

LOG ON: Adding wood to make the barbie hotter.

LOG OFF: Not adding any more wood to the barbie.

MONITOR: Keeping an eye on the barbie.

DOWNLOAD: Getting the firewood off the Ute.

HARD DRIVE: Making the trip back home without any cold tinnies.

KEYBOARD: Where you hang the Ute keys.

WINDOW: What you shut when the weather's cold.

SCREEN: What you shut in the mozzie season.

BYTE: What mozzies do.

MEGABYTE: What Townsville mozzies do..

CHIP: A bar snack.

MICROCHIP: What's left in the bag after you've eaten the chips.

MODEM: What you did to the lawns.

LAPTOP: Where the cat sleeps..

SOFTWARE: Plastic knives & forks you get at Red Rooster.

HARDWARE: Stainless steel knives & forks - from K-Mart.

MOUSE: The small rodent that eats the grain in the shed.

MAINFRAME: What holds the shed up.

WEB: What spiders make.

WEBSITE: Usually in the shed or under the verandah.

SEARCH ENGINE: What you do when the Ute won't go.

CURSOR: What you say when the Ute won't go.

YAHOO: What you say when the Ute does go.

UPGRADE: A steep hill.

SERVER: The person at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.

MAIL SERVER: The bloke at the pub who brings out the counterlunch.

USER: The neighbour who keeps borrowing things.

NETWORK: What you do when you need to repair the fishing net.

INTERNET: Where you want the fish to go.

NETSCAPE: What the fish do when they discover the hole in the net.

ONLINE: Where you hang the washing.

OFFLINE: Where the washing ends up when the pegs aren't strong enough

Lindsay's Tips



People who use the Internet often ask what a cookie is.

File Management Tip - Create an Efficient Folder System

Many people place files on their desktop for convenience and save all their downloads to the Downloads folder. While this makes things easy at first, it can make become a nightmare as you save more and more files. So, if you want to stay on top of things, you should invest some time into creating a folder system.

Your computer has default folders for documents, pictures, music and videos, it is good to create sub-folders to store different projects, photo albums, films and so on. It is your choice which sub-folders to create and how to name them, you can sort documents by projects and then sort them by date, you can sort music and films by artist or by genre, and you can sort photos either by date, by event or by place. Just make sure your sub-folder structure is extensive and clearly labelled, so that you know where to look for the things you want.

Managing your folders can also make your computer a bit faster if you do it properly. First of all, try to keep your desktop clean and don't store any files there. Files stored on your desktop are loaded into system memory when your computer boots up. This increases the time it takes your computer to boot up. Finally don't forget to delete duplicate files and folders to free up disk space and system resources.

