SWITCHED ON SENIORS

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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.

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.

President's Report

Winter. Seems hard to believe with the pleasant temperatures we have been experiencing.

Time to renew your membership for 2014 -2015. The cost is still $20. We are very proud of this caring and friendly club. You are the reason it is so. Any suggestions or criticism you have, tell one of the committee or Tutors. Unfortunately we are not mind readers!

We are endeavouring to teach courses that you find informative and helpful. Please let the Roster Team know of any computer course you would like to have added to our curriculum and I am sure our Education Team will look into the feasibility of adding it to our courses. That is, provided we have a Tutor able to teach such a course. Remember the Suggestion Box!

Lindsay, Judy and Barry have done a wonderful job investigating a new Website provider and Web Master. If you want something done properly and investigated thoroughly, Lindsay does it whole-heartedly. Thank you to you all.

Welcome to our new Web Master, John Hendricks, who will take over from Bruce Carter in August.

Brenton has been putting together some interesting Social outings. The next one is to Darling Harbour on the 7th June. You will have received an email about this, already. Our next Morning Tea is in the School Hall 16th June. Come along and enjoy some delicious food and an informative speaker.

Windows 8 Update has been stretching the expertise of the Tech Team. As far as I know they have sorted out the problems. I think there are a few more gray hairs and worry lines! Also a couple of the computers have not been behaving either. They have been dealt with too. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated group.

I will be putting my name forward for President, again. Please nominate any other person that you think should be in this role.

Enjoy Session 4, then a well earned break until we return in July.

Agapé Elaine Butler.

Who Are Our 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.

Who Is ASCCA?

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. ASCCA's Newsletter and its informative items can be accessed on the web site at www.ascca.org.au

Social Report

Brenton Elsey

(Social Secretary)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MAY 2014

On Saturday 3rd, 11 hardy souls (+ 1 assisting with coffee 'warmer-upperers') braved the elements in true photographic expedition style on the breezy western shores of our lake at Toronto.

With Digipals maestro Barry Keen directing, some 'different' angles were shot of ourselves under the rotunda. A few passers-by were suitably entertained with our antics, and informed that we were shooting for a commercial (thankfully they did not ask for further details). With feet tapping, legs showing and a senior's version of 'twerking', much fun was had by all present. Now somewhat warmed up and with the assistance of some welcome sunshine,

Barry continued to 'create' photo opportunities along the foreshore, most in a more traditional manner.

With SD cards suitably loaded, we headed off for our coffee break at the same cafe a number of members had earlier lunched on fish and chips – the cafe no doubt had better than average Saturday arvo takings that day!

Special Interest Groups

DigiPals

DigiPals is an active group of Computerpals. Members who meet on the third Monday each month at 1 pm to learn and explore digital photography.

GeneaPals

This is our family history group. We have allocated the first Monday afternoon of each month at 1:00pm in the clubrooms at Islington Public School (ex school holidays).

WriterPals

Our creative writing group for enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the **second Monday of each month** at the Islington clubroom. Meetings go from **1pm until we go home**.

TabPals

If you have a portable device; iPad, Android tablet we have a special interest group called TabPals. The 4th Friday of the month is our regular meeting day.

Our next social day out will be to Darling Harbour on Saturday 7th June 2014.

We will catch the 7.32am train ex Newcastle to Central, where we will again meet at the end of the arrival platform to confirm those attending and issue lanyards/name badges, prior to transferring to the light rail system to complete our journey to Darling Harbour.

By this time, a morning cuppa and a bite to eat might be next on the agenda while we ponder 'what next". There are numerous attractions to check out, including Paddy's Markets, the Australian National Maritime Museum, the Chinese Gardens, the Cockle Bay Wharf precinct including a variety of eateries and ,of course, the obligatory shopping strip. With so many options, it will probably be best to individually choose which attractions will be of most interest, including the lunchtime offerings.

We will arrange a suitable 2.30pm afternoon departure meeting point at Darling Harbour where we will again check for any "missing souls", prior to returning to Central by light rail and joining the 3.15pm train home to Newcastle.

Please note that we will confirm the travel timetable closer to "the day" (in case of possible trackwork etc.).   Check the website to register you interest.

Contact Us

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

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http://www.toptenreviews.com/

Apple vs Android - Tablets / Phones

Hardware is the biggest differentiator between Android and Apple. The core software will have a major impact on how you use the device. With the iPhone / iPad, what you see is what you get: the user interface is the same on each of the available models.

On the other hand, Android is designed to be modified by the manufacturer releasing the device. These modifications can vary greatly and often completely change the look and feel of a device.

Apple's iOS is known for its clean, sleek interface but if you aren't married to the iPhone's interface, you may find something more to your taste among the vast array of available Android devices.

Variety vs. Exclusivity

With Android, variety is the name of the game. There are a myriad of devices across carriers ensuring there's an option that suits your lifestyle and meets your mobile needs.

The iPhone / iPad are the only iOS devices made by Apple, and there are just a few base models currently available with different storage configurations.

Is There An App for That?

A lot has been said about which platform provides the biggest and best selection of apps. The two platforms each have hundreds of thousands to choose from, but the actual numbers don't matter because each store provide the most popular and in-demand apps from big-name third parties.

One major difference to keep in mind is how apps are downloaded. A stickler for quality, Apple fully controls what apps are sold in its store, their store is the only method of distribution for iOS apps.

Android has several distribution channels through which you can download applications. Apps are published for general availability without Google checking them first. This poses obvious security risks. Your risk is minimal however if you stick to downloading only from trusted sources.

Which Do You Choose?

Making the decision between Apple and Android is a matter of preference. There's a lot to love – and perhaps hate – about both of these mobile OS platforms. Apple is a tightly woven ecosystem, one that can be hard to abandon yet Android is more flexible but potentially riskier