

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President's Report

Last month I started “NEW PREMISES NEEDED!” and if there was not a tone of anxiety in what I wrote there should have been. I am now able to say “**NEW PREMISES FOUND!!**”. This is great news especially the location, 15 Hubbard Street Islington. Yes right next door, that new building, the room at the front on the ground floor.

I want to let you all know more about the new premises but first I must mention the ASCCA Conference last week and the outstanding achievements of our club members in the ASCCA Competitions. I am sure the details will be covered in the Newsletter. I just want to say **A BIG CONGRATULATIONS!** to Carmel, Judy, Barbara, Fred, Harold, Sandra and Liz. Take nothing away from the individual awards but together they achieved 1st place in the Club Championship for Creative Writing and 3rd place in Digital Photography, AND our club has the Champion Writer.

Back to the new premises, I am very pleased to be moving just next door and we will still be able to have our General Meetings with morning tea in the Islington School hall. Our club will be able to carry on uninterrupted, however there is a lot of work ahead of us and we have to make some adjustments. The space we have is self-contained with a toilet and kitchenette however it is smaller than our existing space in the Islington School and we do not have a sit down tea room or any separate storage space. The room is air-conditioned and has ceiling fans; it has a tiled floor but smaller than our old room. It also comes at a cost increase of approximately 50% and without the services of electricity and cleaning provided by the school. Therefore we can only look on this as an interim venue as we will not be able to cover the costs with our current membership and fee structure. We have made provision for such costs over the years so we can cover the interim period.

Due to the new venue being interim we have met with a representative of Newcastle City Council and are seeking support to find a solution to our longer term needs, obviously at a cost that makes our club long term viable. If you see a headline that says we have no home do not be alarmed we are trying to get some attention for our longer term needs.

Our club provides a community service to Seniors as I am sure you are all aware; for many of us it also provides social inclusion and great companionship. At the start of 2016 from near the end of January we will want to showcase our new premises and encourage new members. Make a note in your diary to come along and bring a friend who might benefit from our club. Although our new premises are smaller and we may not be able to accommodate as many students in a class we are still open to **NEW MEMBERS**.

Finally I wish all our members a Very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.

Your President

Lindsay



President



Lindsay Threadgate

Dates to Remember

Thursday, 3rd December:
Christmas Lunch

Friday 4th December:
Next Enrolment Day

In This Issue

Social Report Page 2

ASCCA Competition
Creative Writing Results
Pages 3 & 4

ASCCA Competition
Photography Results
Page 5

WriterPals Report Page 6

Digipals Report Page 7

Tech Tips Page 8

Funnybone Page 9

Social Report

On Saturday 7th, 15 members ventured down to Swansea for a late afternoon/evening photo shoot and dinner.

While some of the party opted to arrive at the local RSL Club earlier for an afternoon caffeine fix, all assembled under the relatively new Anzac Rising Sun Memorial near the wharf by the prescribed late afternoon timetable and began taking a few



photos of the area. With cameras clicking, the group made their way under the twin road bridges to the western side to snap anything that came into their view finders. The weather began to look a little ominous and with the tummy worms biting, a return to the RSL Club was

a unanimous decision. Once inside, and after making our way through a wedding reception crowd, we were seated in the dining area looking out at the Swansea channel and bridge - a great view to go with great company



for our evening meal. With plans for an evening photo shoot in "the blue hour" after sunset effectively sabotaged by the stormy weather, most called it a day, with a few souls venturing out for those last shots before the rain arrived shortly after.

As this was our last excursion for 2015, Beryl and I would like to sincerely thank those members who supported these outings through the year, and look forward to more of the same in 2016.

PS: Don't forget the Computerpals Christmas Lunch to be held at the Mayfield Ex Services Club (Diggers @ Newcastle City) on Thursday 3rd December, commencing at 11.30am sharp.



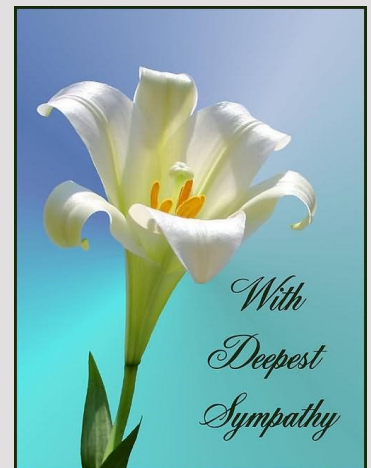
Best Wishes

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.












2015 ASCCA Competition Results

At the recent Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association Annual Conference results of the **2015 ASCCA Competitions** were announced. Congratulations are in order for our Interest Groups— **WriterPals** and **DigiPals**.

Our talented group of writers were extremely successful in both Poetry and Story sections of the **Creative Writing Competition**:-

Poetry:

<p>Fred Schinkel - Newcastle "As I Remember It"</p> <p>Highly Commended Poetry "I Remember"</p>  <p>"Is it as I remember those many years ago? Just press my hand to tell me it is so, That such is this day's dawning."</p> <p><small>Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA</small></p>	<p>Barbara Bartlett - Newcastle "Cinderella"</p>  <p>Highly Commended Poetry "I Remember"</p> <p>"I remember the evening, I watched my mother dressing for a ball. A Cinderella Now, elegant and lovely."</p> <p><small>Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA</small></p>	<p>Harold Franks – Newcastle "I Remember Well"</p>  <p>2nd Place Poetry "I Remember"</p> <p>"Life was tough and the work was hard He'd never heard of a union card A job well done was his benchmark And get a 'quid' when the work was past."</p> <p><small>Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA</small></p>
<p>Carmel Smith – Newcastle "Memories Lost"</p>  <p>2nd Place Poetry "I Remember"</p> <p>"He knew as he saw the fear in her eyes that neither could live on alone, And into the waves they walked hand in hand, believing their God called them home."</p> <p><small>Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA</small></p>	<p>Carmel Smith – Newcastle "Song of the Omegas Child"</p>  <p>1st Place Poetry "Open"</p> <p>"His muse from that other realm, I am a child of the Omegas. I don't know when I began.... I don't know when I ended.... I just know that I was!"</p> <p><small>Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA</small></p>	
<p>Fred Schinkel – Newcastle "Harvest"</p>  <p>Highly Commended "The Day the Rains Came"</p> <p>"And so they find him hanging dead, sheltered in the farm's back shed the very day it rained."</p> <p><small>Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA</small></p>	<p>Harold Franks – Newcastle "As the Rain Comes Like a Tide"</p>  <p>Highly Commended "The Day the Rains Came"</p> <p>"Then the clouds begin to darken And the sun has gone to hide While the thunder peels a warning As the rain comes like a tide."</p> <p><small>Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA</small></p>	
<p>Barbara Bartlett - Newcastle "Listen"</p>  <p>1st Place Poetry "The Day the Rains Came"</p> <p>Listen to the pouring rain, Listen to it fall. Teeming and beating, Streaming and swirling, Listen to the falling rain.</p> <p><small>Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA</small></p>	<p>Carmel Smith - Newcastle "Send 'er Down Huey"</p>  <p>1st Place Poetry "The Day the Rains Came"</p> <p>"Hey, send 'er down 'ere, Huey lad!" the worried cockies say. They search the sky for signs of rain that never come their way. But Huey doesn't listen much – or so it seems to them, They used to get good rain outback, just can't remember when."</p> <p><small>Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA</small></p>	

Turn to Page 4 for more awards

Special Interest Groups



GeneaPals

This is our Family History group. We have allocated the **first Monday** afternoon of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the clubrooms at Islington Public School (except school holidays).



WriterPals

Our Creative Writing group is for enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the **second Monday** of each month at the Islington clubroom. Meetings are from 1:00 p.m. 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 day, at 1 pm in the clubroom.

Stories:

Carmel Smith – Newcastle “Arachnid”



2nd Place Story
“Open”

“As she kicked and struggled to free her grip from the sticky rope, the huge creature moved closer and she could see the evil gleam of its pincers opening ready to capture and bind its next meal – HER!”

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA

Barbara Bartlett – Newcastle “The Blue Planet”



1st Place Story
“I Remember”

“At first, I didn’t understand what was happening to me. I felt and heard my warm seas and oceans softly bubbling. Little did I know that these amazing creatures were releasing bubbles of oxygen into my atmosphere and opening a door for other life forces to evolve.”

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA

Fred Schinkel - Newcastle “It Never Rained Out Here”



3rd Place Story
“The Day the Rains Came”

“He’d never seen rain in his life. Well the rain came, and young George wandered around happily chanting: ‘The day the rain came’, trying to catch the magical thing in his hands and getting wet through.”

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA

Carmel Smith - Newcastle “Bloody Rain!”



2nd Place Story
“The Day the Rains Came”

“He knew outback life was hard, but this was ridiculous. How could any man choose to live in a land that even God had abandoned? Maybe tomorrow it might rain! Not today though! Not today – again!

... a steady trickle of rain had completely soaked the middle of his mattress. Bloody rain - what he wouldn’t give for a day of warm sparkling sunshine!”

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA

2015 Champion Writer First Place



Carmel Smith
Newcastle

Barbara Bartlett was announced as Third Place Champion Writer

Once again, Carmel Smith was awarded Champion Writer.

Newcastle was announced 2015 Champion Club.

What a fantastic result for our Club.

See page 6 for words from our very proud WriterPals Leader, Carmel.

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association ASCCA

2015 Champion Club

ASCCA Creative Writing Competition

First Place – Newcastle



2015 ASCCA Competition

DigiPals were also successful in winning several awards in the **Digital Photography Competition** winning four individual awards and taking out Third Place Overall:-

Judy Wallace – Newcastle
“Love across the Generations”



1st Place
People/Portrait



Australian Seniors
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Liz Temple – Newcastle
“Enjoying a Beer”

Highly Commended
People/Portrait



Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**



Sandra Keen - Newcastle
“Mount Fuji, Japan”

3rd Place
Photo Travel



Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**



Sandra Keen - Newcastle
“Bridge over Tranquil Waters”

Landscape
Structural
Manmade
3rd Place



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Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

2015 Champion Club

**ASCCA Digital Photography
Competition**

Third Place – Newcastle

[Click](#) to see all winning entries in the ASCCA Digital Photography Competition

Contact Us



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding

rosters or payments use: islingtonpals@gmail.com

Roster Team

Judy Wallace



Mitzi Gordon

Camel Smith



Wendy Cripps-Clark

Fran Chapman



WriterPals Report

Greetings one and all,

Well, November has been a momentous month for our club and for WriterPals in particular.

We scooped the pool at the ASCCA presentations, taking out 16 of the awards presented including the prestigious Champion Club - for the second year running and the 3rd time since we formed our little group in 2011 and competed for the first time. Details of our achievements are elsewhere in the newsletter and the stories are on our website - just follow the links to the WriterPals site and find our stories. Heartiest congratulations to all.

Congratulations also to Digipals who collected individual awards with some beautiful photography and took out one of the top awards.

Our next meeting was supposed to be at the home of one of our members, but as it has turned out, we might have access to our new premises by the 14th December and have our meeting there - at 15 Hubbard Street, right next door to the school.

For anyone who attends that meeting, our titles are as follows

1. Waiting at the Bus Stop
2. The Beach
3. Old Age

Any and all of these should be a wonderful playground for your imagination, so turn it loose and let it take you where it may. The results could surprise you.

I would like to wish each and every one of you a wonderfully happy and safe Christmas and a New Year full of great new ideas and fun. Thank you for your participation in 2015 and I look forward to continued literary revelations in 2016.

We meet on the second Monday of each month in the clubroom at 1pm. Please come and join us. You will be made very welcome.

Cheers & blessings

Carmel



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.

DigiPals Report

Congratulations to our ASCCA Digital Photography award winners and thank you to all those who entered their photos. Each entry counted towards our Third Place, Champion Club Award.

On Monday 16th November, DigiPals took to the outdoors with a photoshoot session in Speers Point Park.



Many photos of the flora and fauna were taken and we expect to see more uploaded to the DigiPals Google Photos site.

These two examples by Lindsay captured the subjects well.



DigiPals will meet on the third Monday of each month during school terms at the new clubrooms in 2016.

If we intend to meet elsewhere all members will be advised by email.



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE



Our Tutors



Special thanks must go to all our Tutors who volunteer their time freely each week. Your valuable contributions ensure classes are taught and learners are supported.



Who is ASCCA?

ASCCA is the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs 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 other information can be accessed on the website at

www.ascca.org.au

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

TECH TIPS

Should You Leave Your Laptop Plugged in All the Time?

There are many things you can do to improve your laptop's battery life. But is there anything you can do to extend the actual lifespan of the battery?

One often discussed question is whether it's better to keep your laptop plugged in, or if you should use it on battery power.

Turns out, the answer isn't entirely straightforward...

There are two main types of battery used in laptops: **lithium-ion** and **lithium-polymer**. For both types of batteries, the following statements are true (for modern laptops):

- **A battery cannot be overcharged.** There's no danger of a battery being overcharged if you leave it plugged in all the time. As soon as it hits 100%, it will cease charging and won't start again until the voltage falls below a certain level.
- **Fully discharging a battery will damage it.** Having a battery fully discharged for an extended period can put it into a deep discharge state, from which it might never recover.

So, based on this, do we conclude that you should simply leave your laptop plugged in all the time? Not quite!

Things That Damage Lithium Batteries

The truth about lithium-based batteries is that they are inherently unstable. They begin to lose capacity from the moment they are produced, and there are numerous factors that hasten their decline. These include:

- **Charge/discharge cycles.** Every battery has a finite number of times it can be charged and discharged.
- **Voltage level.** The higher the charge level (measured in volts per cell), the shorter the battery's life.
- **High temperature, over 30 degrees celsius.** This can cause irreparable damage.

The last two are the ones most concerning. A comprehensive study highlights how voltage level and high temperatures will shorten the life of a battery in isolation, and even more when they combine:

Simply leaving your laptop in the car on a summer's afternoon is a bad idea.

Tests have shown that a battery stored with a 40% charge at 40 degrees would have its capacity fall to 85% after a year. The evidence seems clear...

Keeping the battery permanently charged at 100% will slowly shorten its life. Keeping it at 100% and exposing it to high temperatures will shorten it much quicker.

These high temperatures are not just environmental. Resource intensive tasks such as gaming or video editing will considerably increase heat levels, and using the laptop on a pillow or in a poorly designed case will trap that heat as well.

Leaving your laptop plugged in will not cause short term damage, but if you only ever use it on AC power you'll almost certainly find that after a year the battery's capacity has been significantly reduced. Similarly, if you only ever use it on battery power you'll get through the battery's discharge cycles quicker.

So, the best solution is something of a compromise between the two: use it on battery power some days, and keep it plugged in on others. And in all cases, you'll want to ensure it doesn't get too hot.

Written by Andy Betts, 22nd September, 2015. See the entire article here:-

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/leave-laptop-plugged-time/>

Funnybone . . .

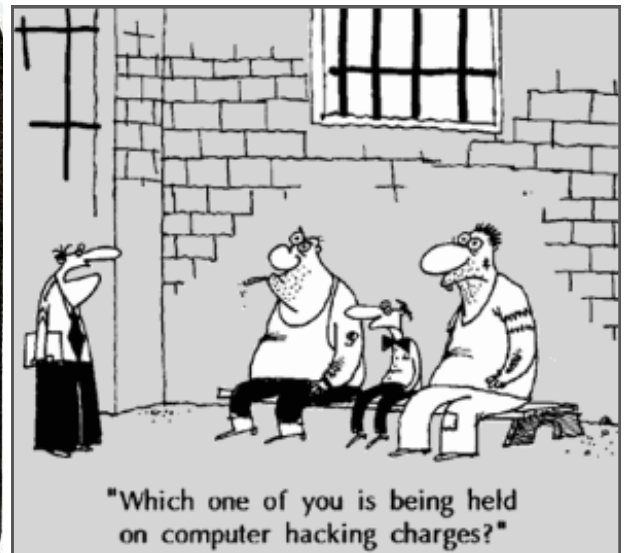
Alphabet taught to kids nowadays



The good thing about having a bad memory is that jokes can be funny more than once!

LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER

- Memory was something that you lost with age
- An application was for employment
- A program was a TV show
- A cursor used profanity
- A keyboard was a piano!
- A web was a spider's home
- A virus was the flu!
- A CD was a bank account
- A hard drive was a long trip on the road
- A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
- And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy ... you just hoped nobody found out!



My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70!!!
 Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web

A guy went for an interview in a big IT company for the position of "Computer Hacking Investigator". The Human Resources Interviewer asked him, "So what makes you suitable for this job?" "Well", he replied, "I hacked your computer and invited myself to this interview."

Question: What did the computer do at lunchtime?
Answer: Got a byte !

