

ComputerPals Newcastle

Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

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President's Report



March, and the beginning of autumn, finds us almost at the end of our first term of lessons. We hope that you have found something to interest you and you are enthusiastically looking forward to gaining more insights into computing and having fun learning.

Remember to come along to our **Seniors' Week Morning Tea** on the **16th March** starting at 9.30 am. Bring along a friend and hear our special guest **Natalie Darcy** a Legal Officer with NSW Trustee and Guardian. She will be talking to us about our 'Digital Heritage' – dealing with our online estate (e.g. Facebook, email, Music, Photos, PayPal, etc.) and what we can do to protect it after we die. Natalie is an Accredited Specialist in Wills and Estates Law (accredited by the Law Society of NSW) and has been working in the area of Wills and Estates law for 12 years. Another incentive is the delicious morning tea provided by Dorothy and Audrey.

Put your thinking caps on because we need a new President and Secretary. Both Carmel and I are stepping down from our roles on the Committee by mid-August. There is no way I will be able to continue as my life is taking a new direction.

Lindsay Threadgate will be a guest of Charlestown Probus, speaking about our club, on Monday 2nd March. It is good to know that our reputation is spreading.

The new ComputerPals Website is very close to being a reality, with those who have been given authority having lessons with John Hendricks our Web-Master. In the meantime our old webpage is still accessible.

It is pleasing to report that all seems to be running smoothly with the computers, printers and club. Thank you all for the support you give to the success of our club.

Agapé, Elaine

President

Elaine

Butler



Dates to Remember

Saturday 7th March: Social Outing to Barramundi Farm

Monday 16th March : Seniors Week Morning Tea

Friday 20th March: Enrolment Day

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Contact Us



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Roster Team



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Social Report

On Saturday 7th February, a full rollup of 21 participants met in the Lake Macquarie Art Gallery car park to commence the outings activities.



First up, we wandered the extensive and picturesque grounds to capture a photographic record of the many and varied sculptures erected there. Some intuitive shots were mixed with more traditional angles and a few of the participants

later posted their samples on the Digipals web album site for all to enjoy.



Next up was a visit to the Art



Gallery, where local artist Ben Quilty had some of his works on display. However, most of us were really taken with the high and imaginative standard shown by local high school students in a second display which included paintings, photography and free-form models. There was no lack of talent in this section, and we are sure to see further expansion of their works in the future.



With a mixture of weary legs and tummy rumblings, we headed for the Gallery Cafe for a very welcome and beautifully presented morning tea. Our next excursion will be to the Barramundi Farm at Bobs Farm on Saturday 7th March.



Best Wishes

For our members who are celebrating birth-days 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 sincere condolences.

Reminder

The next ComputerPals Enrolment Day is Friday, 20th March from 9:00 am. to 11:30 am. in the Clubrooms at Islington Public School.

New courses are being developed as needed. Come along and see what is available.

March Social Outing—Saturday, 7th March—10:00 am

Our next excursion will be to the **Barramundi Farm** at Bobs Farm on **Saturday 7th March 2015**. Participants will meet at 10:00 am at the Farm. The outing will commence with Morning Tea in order to sustain everyone during the tour. It is sure to be interesting to understand the workings of a commercial fish farm.



The Cookabarra Restaurant and Function Centre, Bobs Farm, also offers lunch for those who may wish to stay on after the tour.

Check the Home Page on our website for further details and the attendance reply form which includes a section for car pooling for those members who would like a ride there and those who are able to accommodate passengers.

March Morning Tea - Monday, 16th March - 9:30 am at Islington Public School Hall.



We are very pleased to have Natalie Darcy as our guest speaker for Seniors Week Morning Tea. Natalie is an Accredited Specialist in Wills and Estates Law and will explain the details of dealing with our online estates. With Facebook, email, Music, Photos, PayPal accounts, etc being held by so many people it is important to know how to deal with the intricacies of these online assets.



Everyone welcome! Bring along a friend or two! Please be early to ensure you don't miss Natalie's presentation. Also make sure you come along to enjoy the delicious Morning Tea. This will be followed by....

Open Day - 11:30 to 3:00 pm - D Block Islington PS

In the Club's classroom in the old historic building we will show off our facilities and explain what's on offer for Seniors (55 & over) in the way of courses, learning about computers and tablets, until 3pm.

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.*

WriterPals February 2015

After a long break over the school holidays, we are back!!!!!!

With other commitments for some of us, and life happening for all of us, we settled back into our stories and the rumblings of remembrance and imagination gave us some very interesting listening.

Because one or two of us had not prepared anything – my fault for giving such short notice of the resumption of our meetings – some of our attendees doubled up and gave us an extra dose of enjoyment of their efforts. Thank you, Fred, Barbara and Harold.

Our topic for our March meeting is to take the accompanying picture and tell a story.

Topic for March - The topic concerns the picture below. You will notice some words on the picture, and to help pad out a story around those words, this is my suggestion.

1. Answer the question posed in the picture but tell where the seat is (planet, state, ???)
2. Who the person will be (past, present, future - maybe your grandchild at your age)
3. Why would you like to talk to that particular person?
4. What would your preferred topics of conversation be and why?
5. Can you create a possible conversation you might have with that person - or maybe just your side of it?



We meet the second Monday of each month at 1 o'clock in the clubroom and all are welcome - with or without stories. Come see what we do, you might find yourself interested and inspired enough to want to write your own family stories.

Cheers & blessings

Carmel



**At CPN we provide Tea, Coffee and Biscuits
BUT You have to bring your own CAKE!**

Tutors

Our 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.

Funnybone

Stupid computer
Keeps saying
"you got mail"



Press Any Key
To Start.

WHERE IS THE
"ANY" KEY?!



Laptop, Tablet or Desktop: Which Computer is Right for You?

When you are in the market for a new computer, one of your biggest decisions will be deciding which features and benefits are consistent with your needs. Let's take a look at the pros and cons of each, and you will be that much closer to finalising your decision.



LAPTOPS Vs TABLETS

A quick checklist of the benefits laptops have over tablets:

- A physical QWERTY keyboard is faster, comfortable and more accurate than typing on a tablet's virtual (onscreen) keyboard.
- A laptop's screen is bigger than a tablet's, so it is more suited for multitasking and watching video. A laptop's screen is typically 12 to 17 inches, compared with a tablet's 7- to 10 inch screen. A desktop monitor, however, offers even more screen size.
- A laptop (and desktop) usually has multiple ports, which makes it easy to get info on and off the computer. This includes USB ports for thumbdrives and external hard drives, as well as SD card slots, webcams, printers, microphones and game controllers. Many laptops (but only some tablets) have an HDMI port to connect to a TV, monitor or projector. Most new laptops support **Bluetooth connectivity** to external devices, but not all do.

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No you don't get a cheque because your computer is disabled.

Q: What did the spider do on the computer?

A: Made a website!

Q: What did the computer do at lunchtime?

A: Had a byte!

Q: What does a baby computer call his father?

A: Data!

- Laptops offer more capacity (storage) than a tablet; most laptops start at 500 gigabytes and many have a terabyte of storage, compared with an average of 32GB on a tablet. A device's internal storage determines how much stuff you can cram into it, from photos to music to high-definition videos. If you want a device where you can dump 30,000 photos or an entire digital music collection without thinking this would be a fundamental problem for the tablet.
- Tablets have less Random Access Memory (RAM). The less RAM a device has, the more often it will need to dump old information from its memory. You'll see this when you return to an old browsing tab or jump from a game to email and back.
Less RAM means these apps will need to refresh more often—a minor nuisance that can become particularly irritating. Note that today's laptops tend to start with 4 to 8GB of RAM, enough to store information from several applications at once. Tablets vary from less than 1GB to approximately 2GB, with a few having 3 or 4GB of RAM.
- A fold-and-go "clamshell" design protects the laptop screen when not in use.
- Because they've been around longer than the two largest tablet platforms (Apple's iOS and Google's Android), Windows and Macs both offer a ton of software, including programs recommended by educators. Many laptops and desktops still have a disc drive for those who want one for DVDs and CD-ROMs.

WHERE TABLETS ARE TOPS....

Tablets, on the other hand, offer a number of compelling advantages:

- Tablets are thinner, lighter and smaller than laptops, making them more portable (& comfortable) to tote around all day. While laptops are usually 2 to 3 kgs, most tablets are under 500gms.
- While laptops and desktops are getting better with boot-up times, you don't need to wait for a tablet to turn on and launch programs.
- Most tablets can last 10 to 12 hours between charges, which might be twice or even three times as long as the average laptop.
- Because they're lighter and shaped more like a real book, tablets are more conducive for reading electronic books than laptops, as well as digital newspapers and magazines.
- Using your fingertip on a touch-screen tablet, like an iPad or Android tablet, is incredibly comfortable and intuitive. Many users who might struggle with a keyboard and mouse don't have these obstacles with an all-touch interface.
- Not only are tablets less expensive than laptops, on average, but applications ("apps") are very affordable compared with computer software. In many cases, tablet apps are \$1.99 or even free.
- Some tablets have integrated cellular connectivity — therefore you don't have to hunt for a Wi-Fi hotspot to get online — whereas laptops may require connection to a modem via cable or Wi-Fi.
- Tablets also boast one or two cameras (front & back), GPS and Bluetooth.
- Because tablets use durable flash memory (like your digital camera), with no moving parts, your data won't be as susceptible to damage.



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DESKTOPS AREN'T DEAD

Finally, while their popularity has waned over the years, stationary desktop computers are still a consideration for many. Here's why:

- Since they're not designed for on-the-go use, desktops are less prone to damage; they sit in one place and can't be banged or dropped easily. They are also less likely to be stolen as they are always in one (presumably safe) place.
- Desktop computers have larger screens than a laptop or tablet therefore are better for multitasking (having multiple windows open at once).
- Just as laptops now offer tablet-like touch-screens in most models, many desktops let you use your fingertips on the screen itself — along with or instead of the keyboard and mouse.
- Parents with young students might consider a desktop in a central location in the home, such as a kitchen, family room or any other highly trafficked area. Why? Kids can feel independent while surfing online but not be "alone."



SUMMARY

Deciding between laptop, desktop and tablet relates to needs, budget, mobility and comfort level.

Laptop or Desktop:

Choosing between a laptop and desktop can be a difficult decision.

The bottom line comes down to portability. If you will need or use the portability of a laptop, then it can be a powerful tool for you and worth the extra money.

However, if the laptop will simply act as a desktop with very occasional need for portability, a desktop is also an excellent choice and far less expensive.

Laptop or Tablet:

Before deciding between a tablet vs. a laptop, think about what you need to do with it. While a laptop might be too bulky to take on holiday, a tablet adds little weight to your hand luggage, and is ideal when the in-flight entertainment isn't very good.

Get a tablet if:

You already have a laptop or desktop computer and want a companion device.

Your needs are very basic: checking email, posting to social networks.

You want something purely for entertainment: movies, TV, music, eBooks.

You're looking for a device that's very simple and easy to use.

Get a laptop if:

You're shopping for a primary computer and want something portable.

You need a device for work, school, designing, creating content, or anything that requires high performance and storage for photos, videos and music.

Source acknowledgement: www.pcworld.com www.amazon.com

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