

**ComputerPals - Newcastle**

Where Seniors master technology

# SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : [contact@computerpals.org.au](mailto:contact@computerpals.org.au)

## President

**Sandra Keen**

## Dates to Remember

### Tuesday 31st Jan

Classes resume—

10:00—11:30am

**Open Day session** (check us out—enrolments—membership)

### Wednesday 1st Feb

10:00—11:30am

**Open Day session** (check us out—enrolments—membership)

### Thursday 2nd Feb

10:00—11:30am

**Open Day session** (check us out—enrolments—membership)

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Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

## President's Report

Firstly, a hearty CONGRATULATIONS! to our Special Interest Groups -- WriterPals and DigiPals - for their success in the ASCCA Competitions, an Australia-wide competition. Carmel, Harold, Barbara and Marilyn received awards in the Creative Writing section and for the fourth year in succession Newcastle WriterPals was named the Champion Club. In the Digital Photography section Barbara and Liz won awards. Thank you to everyone who entered.

What an interesting year it has been. Our move into the new venue meant many long hours of work by a number of our Tech Team members and much 'behind the scenes' organisation. The Open Days to showcase the clubroom at the beginning of the year were so successful we have decided to begin 2017 with Open Mornings. More details will be sent in January. Although our clubroom comes at a high price we will continue our lease into next year, while still working towards a viable option at a more affordable rent.

The Roster Team has commenced the timetable for the New Year. Once the first term is complete all members will receive an email and may enrol online or by phone. Please let us know if there is a course you would like to see in the timetable.

Our last outing for the year, the Christmas Party, was held on Friday 2nd December. It was wonderful to see so many members enjoying the celebration, including former President Elaine Butler who made the journey from Sydney for the occasion. Special thanks to Beryl and Brenton for organising the day and the great table decorations. Brenton is no longer Social Organiser but has continued on until the end of the year to ensure everything ran smoothly. We do need two or three people to step up and take over this role.

Thank you to all our members for continuing to support Newcastle Computerpals. Thank you to the Committee, to all our Tutors, the Tech Team, Roster Team, Education Team, Special Interest Group Coordinators, Morning Tea Helpers and to everyone who volunteers their time to make our club work. Your willingness, help, enthusiasm and friendliness are an inspiration, and truly appreciated.

Finally, to each and everyone one of you, I wish Seasons Greetings. May you and your families have a Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2017,

Sandra Keen

## Social Day Out—December

### Christmas Lunch



Our member's Christmas lunch was held on Friday 2nd at the Mayfield Ex-Services Club with some 53 participants.



After the usual mixture of fun and a small 'dollop' of stress, Christmas decorations were again sourced for decorating the tables. This year saw some mini balloons added, with marbles pressed into the necks as weights – quite tricky to do and a whole lot easier to take

out after the event. However, most agreed that they added to the colourful occasion, helped along by most attendees wearing something red and/or green as requested – thank you and well done! After the usual formalities, President Sandra then presented a lovely flower arrangement to Audrey Mahaffey who is stepping down after many years in charge of catering for our Club morning teas as well as the daily M/T requirements throughout each Term – a great job well done Audrey. With a slight dose



of hunger pains amongst those present, it was time members to select their favourite dishes and enjoy each others' company prior to the Christmas/New Year break. A great time was had by all, creating a happy conclusion to the Computerpals 2016 year.

2017 - While there are never any social events held in January, we still do not have anyone (or a small group) to take charge of the Social activities for 2017. As previously mentioned, it may well be time to scale back on the number of Social Days Out, so please give it some thought over the Christmas/New Year break and "have a crack" next year, either individually or with a colleague or two – there will be plenty of assistance and guidance available. In the meantime, stay safe, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

### Funnybone ...

Q: Why does Santa have three garden plots up at the North Pole?

A: That way he can hoe, hoe, hoe!

I've given up social media for the New Year and am trying to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles. Every day, I walk down the street and tell passersby what I've eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before, and what I will do tomorrow. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and me gardening. I also listen to their conversations and tell them I love them. And it works. I already have three people following me—two police officers and a psychiatrist.

Lead me not into temptation...  
Oh who am I kidding!  
**FOLLOW ME**  
I know a shortcut.



### Why Australia is in Trouble

The population of this country is 23 million  
10 million are retired

That leaves **13 million** to do the work

There are 8 million in school

Leaving **5 million** to do the work

Of these, 2.7 million are "employed" by the federal government

So there're only **2.3 million** to do the work

400,000 are in the armed forces

Which leaves **1.9 million** to do the work

Take from that total the 1.5 million people who "work" for state and city governments

Just **0.4 million** left to do the work

At any given time there are 18,800 people in hospitals

Leaving **381,200** to do the work

Currently we have 380,198 people in prisons

That leaves just **two people** to do the work

You and me

And there you are

Sitting on your butt

At the computer, reading the Newsletter

*So who is doing all the work?????*

Instead of a sign that says:  
"Do not Disturb"  
I need one  
that says:  
"Already  
Disturbed  
Proceed  
with Caution".



DespicableMeMinions.org



**YOU WERE RIGHT...**

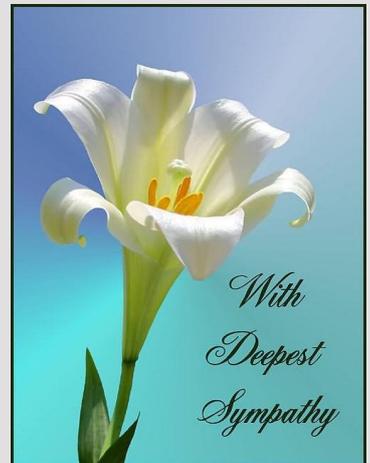
People don't land on their feet...

### 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.

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

## Special Interest Groups



### MemoryPals

Our new group meets on **first Monday** of each month at 1:00pm in the clubroom. Reminisce about your childhood memories and learn how to preserve them.

### WriterPals

Our Creative Writing group is for enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the **second Monday of each month** at 15 Hubbard Street, Islington. Meetings are from 1:00 pm. 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 Apple devices at 11 a.m, Android at 1pm in the clubroom.

## MemoryPals

Our November meeting saw a few problems and hiccups ironed out for people moving steadily forward with their projects to record and preserve their memories. Getting those slides and photos onto the computer is proving to be very engrossing and every success is encouraging. Once that is done, the stories will follow. Over Christmas, talk to other family members & old friends and gather more stories for your projects. Join Writerpals and get the stories recorded.

Your recorded memories are your ticket to immortality. Leave your memories to be passed on to those you love. Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year. Members are encouraged to follow the links on our ComputerPals website to read some of the WriterPals stories.

## WriterPals

As with MemoryPals, everyone has a story to tell!!! We just have to get them on paper. Reminiscing with family and friends brings up some great yarns and memories, so tap into that wealth of knowledge. Grandkids find it hard to believe that we could exist without technology — God forbid a teenager should be caught without a mobile phone.!

We meet on the second Monday of each month at 1pm in our clubroom, but we are in recess now till next February when we will meet on the 13th with lots of stories to tell and share. It is amazing how many stories and memories can be triggered with that one phrase “Do you remember when.....?” Try it over the Christmas dinner table and see what happens. With multiple generations present, the results could be hilarious.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year.

## DigiPals

Our attempt in October to wander Hamilton and photograph old/interesting houses was washed out. We entertained ourselves looking at past outings photos in the comfort of the classroom instead.

The meeting on Monday 21st November was our last for the year. We put blind faith in the weather and managed a good day for our second attempt for a wander around Hamilton. It was a lovely outing enjoyed by all and we managed some interesting photos and a refreshing ‘cuppa’ afterwards.

The ASCCA Conference is over and we congratulate Barbara Bartlett and Liz Temple on their success in the photographic competition. Have a look on the club noticeboard for their certificates and thumbnail of their photos.

We extend our appreciation to all members that took part in the competition.

## TabPals

This group is filling the niche that spans the gap between classes and people are taking advantage of both the social and technological elements of both genres.

A couple of the morning attendees, Apple users, have said that they ran out of time, but the tutors in attendance took care of their problems anyway.

Splitting the group into separate times for Apple 11 - 12:30 and Android 1 - 2:30 is working well and relieved a lot of confusion.

## 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.

## Contact Us



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

[islingtonpals@gmail.com](mailto:islingtonpals@gmail.com)

## Roster Team

Judy Wallace



Mitzi Gordon

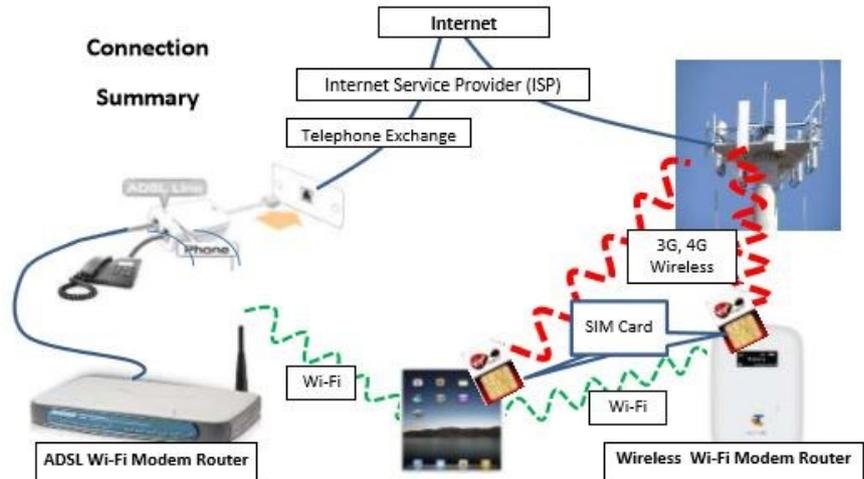
Camel Smith



Wendy Cripps-Clark

These people are all volunteers who also teach classes at Computerpals. We ask that you take this into consideration when your phone call is not answered immediately.

## Tech Talk—



### For Wi-Fi to Work

**At the Modem** • Wi-Fi has to be ON in the modem / router • Wi-Fi router security set. Many routers come with this password written on a card or under the modem. If no password is set then anyone in the vicinity can log onto your modem and use up your internet allowance, or worse.

**At your computing Device (eg laptop, tablet, smartphone)** • Wi-Fi has to be ON in the tablet / phone/ PC. Sometimes this will be indicated by an LED, sometimes an icon in the status bar, sometimes nothing obvious. • Logged on to the Modem / Routers Wi-Fi signal. This is the Wi-Fi password mentioned above. The password is case sensitive.

**Troubleshooting** • Know what the LEDs and icons stand for on your modem. Typical ones are: • Power is on • Status of any Ethernet connections, typically 4 LED's on a modem/router • Status of the Wi-Fi wireless in the modem • DSL or PPP connection LED indicates that your modem can communicate with the matching modem at the telephone exchange. Failure of this LED indicates a poor phone line or interference, not connected to a phone line, your line filter incorrect or failed • A final LED that indicates you have an internet connection. • If you have the DSL or PPP LED on but can't get the Internet connection LED then this can indicate incorrect log on settings in your modem (usually the email address provided by your ISP and its password), or problems at the Exchange, or you haven't paid your bill for that ISP. • Know how to turn the Wi-Fi On and Off on your laptop/ tablet/smartphone. • Sometimes you simply need to turn the modem off, wait 20 secs for the electrons to drain out and then turn it back on again.

Thank you to Sandra for finding this item.