



SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President



Sandra Keen

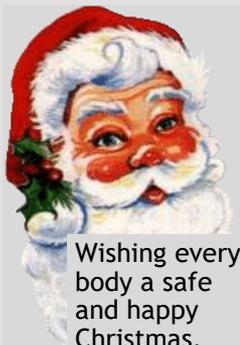
Dates to Remember

Friday, 8th December
Christmas Lunch

Monday, 12th Feb 2018
WriterPals - 1 pm

In This Issue

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Tech Info | Page 2 |
| Special Interest Groups | Page 3 |
| ASCCA Awards | Page 4 |
| Funnybone | Page 5 |



Wishing everybody a safe and happy Christmas.

President's Report

This is the last Newsletter for 2017 and I cannot let the year pass without saying 'Thank You!'

Thank you to our members for continuing to support ComputerPals Newcastle. This is your club so make sure you have input because we are interested in everyone's ideas.

Thank you to the Committee, Tutors, Technical, Roster and Education Teams and all those who work so hard to ensure the continued success of our club. Your help, enthusiasm and willingness in giving so much of your time is really appreciated.

Speaking of the success of our club ... Congratulations to Special Interest Groups - WriterPals and DigiPals for their success in the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) Australia-wide competitions for Creative Writing and Digital Photography. For the **fifth year in succession Newcastle WriterPals was named Champion Club** with Harold Franks taking out Second position in the Champion Writer Award.

Newcastle DigiPals was Second place Champion Club with Barbara Bartlett receiving Champion Photographer - Third Place. Thank you to all members who entered these competitions. Our club receives points for your entries and those points go towards the Champion Club placements. Even if you did not receive an award your entries helped the Champion Club Awards. See Page 4 for full details of all Awards.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from Newcastle City Council for Mobile Communication. The new 'Know Your Mobile Phone' course has been extremely popular and members have kept the Roster Team and Tutors busy as they tried to schedule extra classes.

At our recent Committee Meeting we welcomed Ray Hinton to the Committee. Ray has made valuable contributions to the club over many years and we are pleased he finally agreed to the nomination.

The ComputerPals **Christmas Party** is coming up soon - **11:00 am, Friday, 8th December at Club Mex, Hanbury Street, Mayfield.** Please reply on the form in the email by this Friday, ^{1st December}.

My wish for you and your loved ones is to have a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Keep watching your emails and our website for all the upcoming news for 2018.

Sandra Keen – President



Increase in online credit card fraud: Alert Priority high

Online credit card fraud increased significantly in 2016 with criminals netting \$417.6 million, up from \$363 million in 2015. The new finding has been revealed by The Australian Payments Network in its annual fraud data report. Other key findings included the overall amount of fraud on Australian cards cost \$534 million, up from \$461 million last year, and that for every \$1000 spent online, 74.7 cents were lost to fraud, up from 66.9 cents in 2015.

Ways to protect yourself

Online credit card fraud occurs when valid card details are stolen and then used to make fraudulent payments over the internet, telephone, or by mail order. To help protect against your credit card details being stolen, things you can do include:

Be wary of clicking links or opening attachments in emails if they're not from someone you know. In particular, watch out for messages supposedly from banks or government departments that ask you to verify your details or provide login details by visiting a website.

Look for the padlock in the navigation bar at the top of the browser window, which indicates that your connection to the site is secure.

Only enter your credit card details on reputable sites. Consider using an online payment service so that you don't need to enter credit card details for every purchase.

If possible, use online payment methods that support two-factor authentication.

Details

As Australians embrace the convenience of paying by credit card rather than cash, so fraudsters continue to develop a variety of techniques to steal credit card information. According to the Australian Payments Network, these include malware and phishing attacks to capture sensitive card data or cardholder passwords, and masking tools to try and bypass the risk-based rules used in fraud analytics products.

In a nutshell

Stolen card details accounted for 78% of all fraud on Australian cards in 2016.

Online spending in Australia is growing five times faster than traditional retail spending.

By 2020, forecasts estimate that online shopping will have doubled since 2015 and will account for 14.6% of all retail sales.

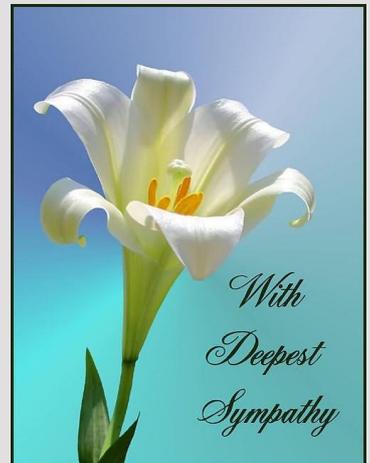
Payment cards continue to be the most common payment method used by Australian consumers, accounting for 66.7% of non-cash payments in Australia.

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.



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

There will be NO MemoryPals meeting in December.

Next meeting will be on Monday 5th February at 1 pm in the club room.

WriterPals

CONGRATULATIONS WRITERPALS

Computerpals Newcastle—Champion Writing Club for 2017
5th consecutive year.

Harold Franks is runner-up for Champion Writer of the competition. . Fred, Barry, Lindsay and Carmel were the other entrants and 9 awards came home to Newcastle. See them on the Awards Display Board

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 1pm, and all are welcome - with or without stories in hand.

Make your New Year's Resolution to give it a try—you might just surprise yourself. There is a lot of satisfaction in putting words on paper

DigiPals

CONGRATULATIONS DIGIPALS MEMBERS

We had our share of success at the ASCCA Photographic Competition (see page 4). We took out 2017 2nd place Champion Club. A lot of that success comes from the 20 members who submitted entries and points they gained for the club.

Tuesday 19th December will be a special day out. Starting at Stockton (parking outside 16 Wharf Crescent) at **7:45 am** we will see P&O Pacific Jewell arrive in Newcastle and other photographic opportunities.

Our first DigiPals meeting in the New Year will be on Monday 19/2 at 1 pm. See you there. Bring your cameras.

TabPals

There were some 'curly' questions at the November TabPals sessions, but we managed to solve almost all of them.

We will not meet until February in the New Year because it is Australia Day on 4th Friday in January.

Apple users—tablets and phones—meet at 11 am
Android users—tablets and phones—meet at 1pm
Bring your device fully charged.

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.

ASCCA Competition Awards 2017

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

2017 Champion Club
ASCCA Creative Writing Competition

First Place – Newcastle

Howard Franks
Fred Schinkel
Barry Keen
Carmel Smith



Creative Writing

Fred Schinkel – Newcastle
“My Place – The Very Core of Me”

1st Place Poetry My Place



“Brilliant – love this; a lifetime told and a place kept - so even though just a shack is a keep.” Alison

Now, years on, I stand alone,
the shack long gone,
unfinished limestone walls a simple shrine
to dreams of peace and sweet tranquillity:

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

2017 Champion Writer
2nd Place



Harold Franks
Newcastle

Howard Franks - Newcastle
“Snowy Mountains Lament”

3rd Place Poetry Open



“Very good and very well done, commentary on recent changes to state forest to keep cattle out from these for feeding – the play on the more famous poem is appreciated.” Alison

Howard Franks – Newcastle
“My Home in the Sheltered Glade”

2nd Place Poetry My Place



“Love this – children would too.” Alison

Our kits have arrived; there are six balls of fluff
With six mouths to feed, I feel that’s enough
But we rabbits are tough, this I am sure
And in six months time, I know there’ll be more.

Howard Franks – Newcastle
“Trees – The Sigh of the Wind”

2nd Place Poetry A Tree / Trees



“Brilliant” Alison

The trees upon the forest floor
Defy the strength of winds that roar
But lift their heads up to the sky
As if the winds were but a sigh.

Barry Keen – Newcastle
“A Day Out”

2nd Place Prose - Open



“A very pleasant day out with observations; an inspiration to other Seniors to enjoy using transport.” Alison

Weaving in and out of the throng of people on the streets all busily going about their daily lives largely oblivious to the other people around them. The odd homeless person huddled in a corner trying as best they could to get out of the wind.

Fred Schinkel - Newcastle
“Blest in the Decision”

Prose A Snap Decision 3rd Place



“Beautiful! Lovely story of how intelligent dogs are – how quickly they become part of families - a blessed decision indeed.” Alison

We had not heard from him for months. Minutes into the call Les suddenly said, “You don’t want a dog, do you?” I hesitated, caught off guard. “Why?” was the best I could manage. “The wife says it’s me or the dog.” I managed to strangle a laugh: he was serious.

Carmel Smith - Newcastle
“A Chance Meeting with Benjamin P. Bookworm 59th”

Highly Commended Prose - Open



“Knowledge that I still need to digest! Very clever – a good opine on our times.” Alison

Hello, gentle reader! How wonderful to find you in my small dark corner of the library!

2017 Champion Club
ASCCA Digital Photography Competition

Second Place – Newcastle

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

Digital Photography

Barbara Bartlett – Newcastle
“Doha - Capital City of Qatar”

1st Place Landscape Structural Manmade




Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

2017 Champion Photographer
Third Place
Barbara Bartlett - Newcastle



Margie Olsen – Newcastle
“Bikaner Jain Temple - Circle of Friends”

1st Place People/Portrait




Barry Keen - Newcastle
“Rockscape”

Open Highly Commended




Barbara Bartlett - Newcastle
“I know a good Barber”

3rd Place Animals




Barry Keen - Newcastle
“Lines”

Landscape Structural/Manmade 3rd Place




Now is the time to start working on your 2018 entries.

Contact Us



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

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Roster Team

Barry Keen



Mitzi Gordon

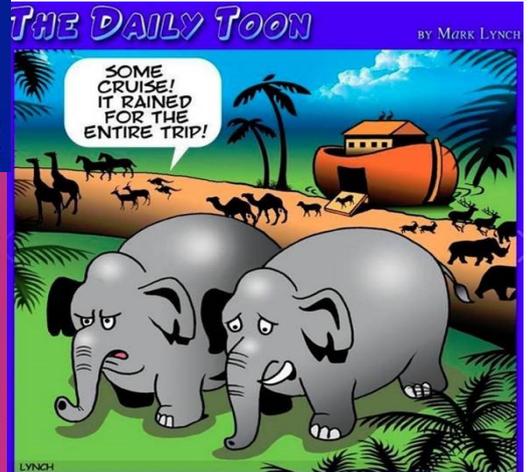
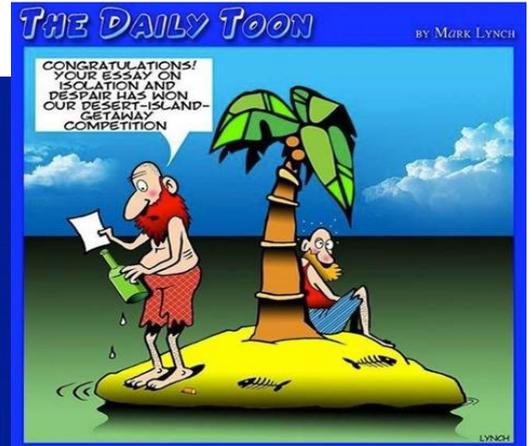
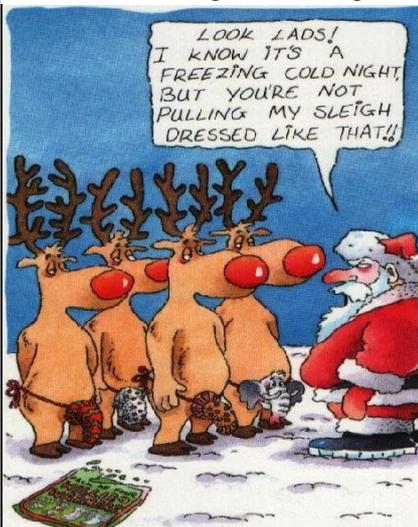
Camel Smith



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.

Funnybone—



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018
REMEMBER:
It takes 24,637 bolts to put a car together, but only ONE NUT to spread it all over the road.



DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE!
DO NOT TEXT AND DRIVE!



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