

**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

### Friday, 3rd March:

Enrolment Day 9:30am to 11:30am

### Saturday 4th March:

Social Day Out—Caves Beach

### Monday 6th March:

Members Morning Tea & Seniors Week Expo 9:30am to 11:30am at Islington PS Hall then 11:30am to 2:30pm in the clubroom

### Wednesday 8th March

Seniors Week Expo—Q & A 12:15-2:30pm cost \$8 bookings essential

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## President's Report

ComputerPals Newcastle has been conducting classes at our new 'home' at 15 Hubbard Street, Islington for twelve months. As with any downsizing change, we wondered how we would cope in the smaller space and different set-up. However, tutors and members should be congratulated for taking this change in their stride.

The cost of this venue is considerable and while we are continuing to look for a cheaper solution we are using up our reserved funds because our income is not covering the rent. We may be forced to make some changes to class fees, etc, if we cannot find a viable option for the longer term. While we have gained a small grant from Newcastle City Council as well as one from Seniors Week Council, these are for designated projects and the money has to be allocated to the particular project, such as the subsidised Beginners Classes.

Our year began with Open Mornings which were extremely busy with many members enrolling in classes; new members joining as well as those returning after several years. Welcome to all the new members and welcome back to the former members. We encourage you to make the most of your membership by participating in the Special Interest Groups and social activities.

Our club was approached by the Digital Transformation Agency to assist with research for the development of an online service to help people prove their identity to the government. We were chosen because of information on our website and the prompt responses of our team. They were impressed that all aspects of our club are conducted by volunteers who give a huge amount of time.

Are you aware that Seniors Week will be held earlier this year? Our special event is ComputerPals Newcastle Expo - Seniors Mastering Technology which will take place on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. Put these dates in your diary - especially Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March from 9:30am.

In conjunction with Seniors Week we are pleased to announce our Photographic Competition. Details on Page 5 in this newsletter. I urge everyone to 'have a go' and enter as many sections as possible. Those present at the Expo Morning Tea will do the judging by popular vote so everyone has an equal chance.

I am looking forward to another year of learning and fun,

Sandra Keen



## Brenton's Last Hurrah!!!!

On behalf of the club, Brenton, thank you for the mighty job you have done as Social Secretary .



### Social Day Out

As has been 'the norm', there was no social day out during December.

### Christmas Lunch

Our member's Christmas lunch was held on Friday 2nd December 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 and "have a crack" now that the new year is upon us. Whether you take on the task individually or with a colleague or two - there will be plenty of assistance and guidance available.

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

Our club was approached by the **Digital Transformation Agency** to assist with research for the development of an online service to help people prove their identity to the government. We were chosen because of information on our website and the prompt responses of our team. They were impressed that all aspects of our club are conducted by volunteers who give a huge amount of time.



To the right and below are some photos from the days spent with the ladies from the Digital Transformation Agency. It proved to be quite an interesting exercise in which a number of our members participated



## Funnybone



Mick, from Dublin, appeared on 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' and towards the end of the program had already won 500,000 euros. "You've done very well so far," said Chris Tarrant, the show's presenter, "but for a million euros you've only got one life-line left, phone a friend.

Everything is riding on this question. Will you go for it?"

"Sure," said Mick. "I'll have a go!"

"Which of the following birds does NOT build its own nest?"

- a) Sparrow
- b) Thrush
- c) Magpie,
- d) Cuckoo?"

"I haven't got a clue." said Mick, "So I'll use my last lifeline and phone my friend Paddy back home in Dublin ..."

Mick called up his mate, and repeated the question to him.

"Bloody hell, Mick!" cried Paddy. "Dat's simple it's a cuckoo."

"Are you sure?"

"I'm bloody sure."

Mick hung up the phone and told Chris, "I'll go with cuckoo as my answer."

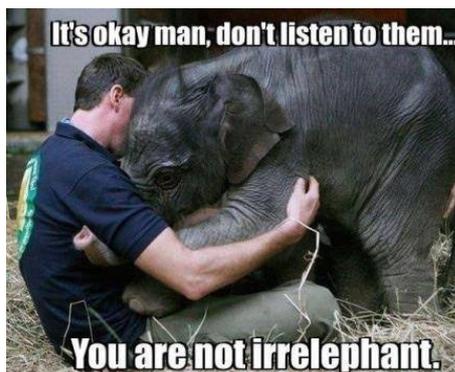
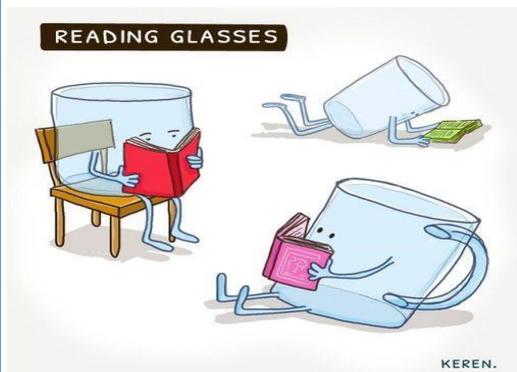
"Is that your final answer?" asked Chris.

"Dat it is."

There was a long, long pause and then the presenter screamed, "Cuckoo is the correct answer! Mick, you've won 1 million euros!" The next night, Mick invited Paddy to their local pub to buy him a drink.

"Tell me, Paddy? How in Heaven's name did you know it was da Cuckoo that doesn't build its own nest?"

"It's simple, ye daft fool. The Cuckoo lives in a bloody clock!"

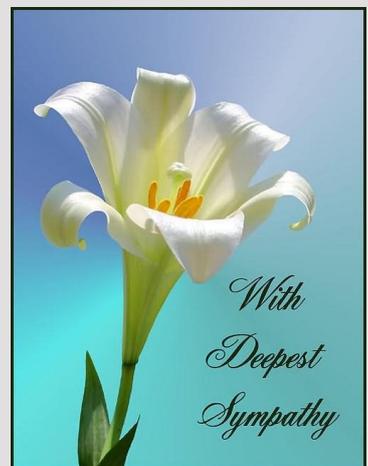


## Best Wishes

*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 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 Computer-

Pals members who meet on the **third Monday of each month** at 1 pm. 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

This group had its first get together on Monday afternoon 6th February – **the first Monday of the month.** Next meeting—**6th March at 1pm.**

This group is for those interested in preserving family memories - photos and stories - for the next generation  
If we don't preserve them, who will?????????

There are lots of unique and innovative ways of preserving and enhancing old pictures and memorabilia. Come along and find out about them.

## 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, and our next meeting is on **13th Feb** so please come along with your stories to tell and share. It is amazing how many stories and memories can be triggered with that one phrase “Do you remember when.....?” I hope you tried it over the Christmas dinner table and got wonderful results. With multiple generations present, the results could be hilarious.

My sons get so caught up with reminiscing about their childhoods that I learn lots of stuff I was never supposed to know.....

## DigiPals

Our digital photography group—DigiPals people watch your inbox for an email from Barry who will let you know details about the next outing to Caves Beach on Saturday 4th March.

The picnic at Blackbutt Reserve on Saturday 4th February was a very pleasant outing and the report will appear in the next newsletter. You can also check out the Social page on the club website.

DigiPals group meets on the **3rd Monday of the month at 1 pm.** The next DigiPals meeting will be on **Monday 20th Feb.**

## TabPals

This group is filling the niche after or between classes and people are taking advantage of both the social and mutual help with ‘buddies’ sharing their knowledge and experiences in an informal atmosphere.

TabPals meets on the **4th Friday of the month—next meeting on Friday 24th Feb.**

**Apple users—iPads and iPhones—meet at 11 am**  
**Android users—tablets and phones—meet at 1pm**  
Bring your device fully charged and your charging cables.

## 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

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.



## Photographic Competition —

In conjunction with our Seniors Week Expo - Seniors Mastering Technology we are holding a Digital Photographic Competition.

There are five sections for members to enter:-

1. Portrait / Selfie
2. Animals / Birds
3. Landscape / Seascape
4. Macro
5. All-time Favourite Digital Photo



Entries in Sections 1 - 4 must have been taken in the last twelve months and Section 5 is open with no time limit as long as it is a digital photo.

Up to two photos may be entered in each section and must have been taken by the entrant.

Cropping and techniques that enhance the presentation of the image are permitted.

**Closing Date: Monday 27th February**

How to submit your entries:

- Complete the entry form which was attached to an email that was sent to all members (or see the club website)
- Copy photos onto a USB stick (thumb drive) giving each the same title as on the entry form
- Place your entry form and USB stick into an envelope labelled with your name
- Put in designated box in ComputerPals clubroom.

OR

- Complete online entry form which is available on website and emailed to all members
- Email entry form with photos added as attachments to [contact@computerpals.org.au](mailto:contact@computerpals.org.au)

Judging: This will take place at our Seniors Week Expo Morning Tea event at Islington Public School Hall commencing at 9:30 am on Monday 6th March.

All members present at this event will have the opportunity to vote for the most appealing photo in each section.

So... Go through those photos on your phone, tablet, camera, computer and choose up to two for as many sections as you can enter.

This is NOT a professional competition. With the type of judging everyone has an equal chance. You have three weeks to enter - **do it now!!**





## Seniors Week Photographic Competition Entry Form

**Please Print**

Name of Entrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter name of image/images for section/s to be entered.

Up to 2 images accepted in each section.

Sections 1 – 4 are to have been taken in past twelve months.

Section 5 does not have a time limit but must be a digital image.

Cropping and techniques that enhance the image are permitted.

**1. Portrait / Selfie:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Animals / Birds:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Landscape / Seascape:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Macro:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. All-Time Favourite**

\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the conditions of entry and fully accept them.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_