ComputerPals - Newcastle
Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Sandra Keen

Dates to Remember

Monday,13th November:
Writerpals - 1 pm

Monday 20th November

Digipals—1 pm

Friday, 24th November

TabPals—iPad/iPhone 11 am;
Android tablets & phones-1 pm

Friday, 8th December
Christmas Lunch— 11:30am

In This Issue

President's Report

Judging by the attendance at our morning tea held earlier in October the topic of Internet Banking was certainly popular. The guest speaker was impressed by the number of members who already use the internet to access banking facilities and the questions from the audience.

The Annual Conference for ASCCA (Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association) is being held in Sydney on 8th and 9th November. Barry and I will be attending with the intention of bringing the latest information back to share with our club. A number of our members entered the Annual ASCCA Digital Photography and Creative Writing Competitions. Results of the competitions will be announced at the AGM on the Wednesday afternoon. Several of those who entered have received invitations to the AGM so we know they will receive awards for their works.

We have launched our series of classes on Mobile Communication which are subsidised by a grant from Newcastle City Council and they are proving very popular. The new class 'Know Your Mobile Phone' has been so well received that we have had to timetable extra times and all three classes are full! There will be a few subsidised classes on Mobile Communication at the start of 2018 so don't despair if you missed out this time.

The thought of 2018 being so close is almost unimaginable...where did 2017 go? There is just one month of learning before we break for the Christmas Season. Our team of volunteers has been working hard at providing an interesting mix of tuition which you can view on the website or at the clubroom. Although some classes are full there are others which have some vacancies, so don't miss out.

We have a big event coming up! *ComputerPals Christmas Lunch* will be held on *Friday, 8th December* at *Club Mex* (Ex-servicemen's Club) **Hanbury Street, Mayfield** starting at **11.30 am** in the **Star Buffet Restaurant. Cost $12.50** per person pay at the door– at that price bring a friend or two! An email with attendance form will be out in the next couple of weeks as we have to inform the restaurant of numbers prior to the day. **Put the date in your diary and ask your friends!**

Sandra Keen — President

CHRISTMAS IS CANCELLED

Apparently **YOU** told Santa that you had been **GOOD** this year...

HE DIED LAUGHING!

'LOCKY' RANSOMWARE CAMPAIGN

In light of recent publicity about the potential threat of Bad Rabbit ransomware, it's important to be aware that some longstanding ransomware threats are periodically circulated to Australian internet users. Currently malicious emails are being sent from numerous fake email addresses containing an attachment entitled 'Invoice_file_26530.doc' or similar that could infect your computer with Locky. The email simply says:

"Your Invoice is attached. If you feel you have received this email in error, please reply to this email to inform us of any necessary corrections."

Never open attachments from unexpected sources. The following key steps show how you can become infected with Locky ransomware if you have mistakenly opened the attachment.

Stay Smart Online recommends not opening the attachment.

If you open it without knowing exactly what you are reading, you can install the ransomware on your computer and potentially your network.

What is ransomware?

Ransomware is a type of malicious software (malware) that makes your computer or its files unusable unless you pay a fee. However we recommend you do not pay the fee as there is no guarantee you'll recover your information, and you'll become a target for more attacks as the criminals know you're prepared to pay up!

Overseas, there are reports of another ransomware campaign called Bad Rabbit that is disguised as an Adobe Flash update from websites. Currently there are no reports of this in Australia but it is important to be aware of suspicious requests to download files.

What to do if you've paid the ransom

If you've given your credit card or account details to pay the ransom, contact your financial institution immediately.

How to stay safe

If you receive the Locky ransomware email, delete it immediately. Never open attachments from unexpected sources.

The best way to reduce the impact of a ransomware incident is to create regular backups of your important files **on a separate drive**.

It is important to be vigilant in combating the threat of ransomware as new types are constantly emerging.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU FIND A USB STICK?

A recent survey showed that one in five people who find a random USB stick in a public environment will plug the drive into their personal device or office computer without giving it a second thought.

However, scammers and fraudsters are using USB sticks to deliver malicious software to infect computers. Once it is plugged in, the Trojan known as USB Thief will look to steal data, such as files and images.

Best practice is: If you find a USB stick then take the property to the nearest police station and hand it over to them.
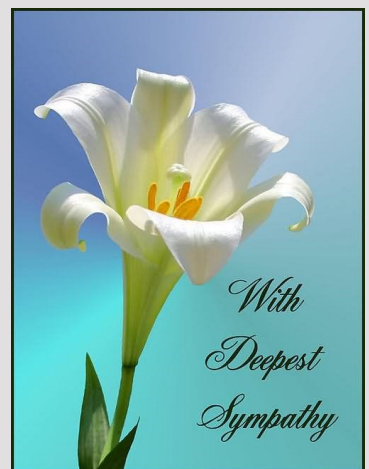
Do not take the risk.

Special Interest Groups
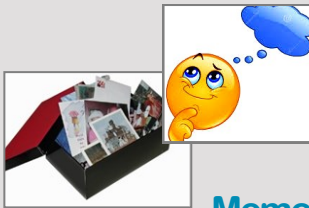
MemoryPals

*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 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 **Apple devices** at **11 a.m**, **Android** at **1pm** in the clubroom.*

MemoryPals

Monday 6th November is the last MemoryPals meeting for the year.

At this meeting it is intended to discuss a common mistake when scanning family photos—the fact that scanning doesn't archive the information about your photo—you have to manually enter this information along with names/places etc.

Last meeting in October we experimented with PowerPoint and we were wondering how people are using it to share with family.

WriterPals

Greetings everyone. Our last meeting of the year is on 13th November and by then we will know just how we did at the ASCCA competition. There was a different judge this year so standards and expectations will have changed. Some judges are sticklers for punctuation, others less so but they are tougher on other requirements. We will keep you posted. We have been Champion Club for the last 4 years and it would be great to retain this title, but if not then we will just have to redouble our efforts for next year and get it back.

We would love to see you at our meeting next Monday with or without a story. Turn your imagination loose and see what you come up with.

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

Give it a try—you might just surprise yourself.

DigiPals

Digipals people watch your inbox for an email from Barry who will let you know where and when the next get together is.

Digipals group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1 pm.

Next Meeting in the club room is Monday 20th November…. See you there!

TabPals

There was a good attendance at TabPals on 27/10—our next meeting is on Friday 24th November.

Want to know more about your phone or tablet? Come along.

You will learn things you weren't aware you didn't even know!
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.

Contact Us

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

islingtonpals@gmail.com
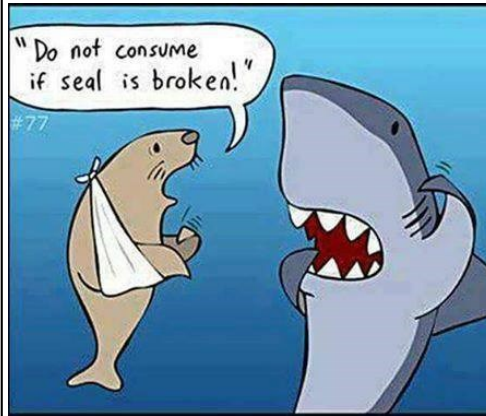
Roster Team

Barry Keen

Mitzi Gordon

Carmel 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.
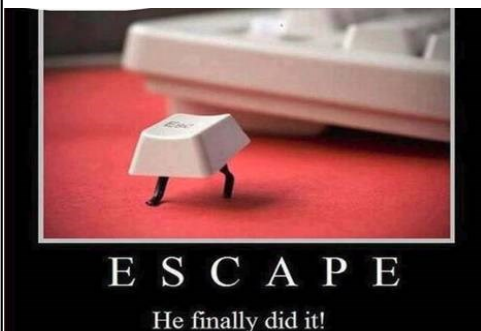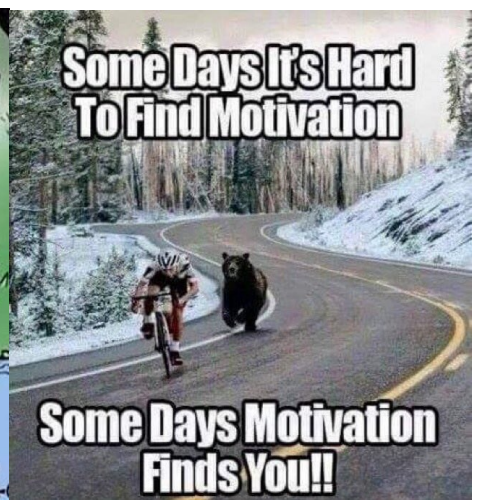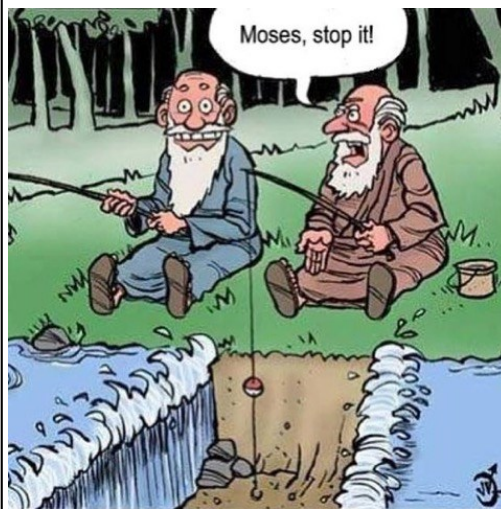
Funnybone—

Share a hug today—One size fits all;

satisfaction guaranteed.