



SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President



Sandra Keen

Dates to Remember

**Christmas lunch -
11am Friday 6th Dec.**

**Digipals Photo Comp -
Writerpals Comp -
ALL RESULTS IN**

Photography results and pictures are on the website - click the link and enjoy.

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President's Report -



As 2019 year at ComputerPals draws to a close my message is a very special “Thank you” to all members for continuing to support ComputerPals Newcastle. You all are a very important part of our club. Thank you to all of our Tutors, Tech Team, Roster Team and Committee. Your help, enthusiasm and willingness in giving your time are really appreciated.

This Thursday, 5th December is International Volunteer Day which was designated by the United Nations in 1985 as an international observance day to celebrate the power and potential of volunteerism. It is an opportunity for volunteers, and volunteer organisations, to raise awareness of the contribution volunteers make to their communities. Our volunteers have this year received the 2019 Newcastle Volunteers Award in recognition of their contributions. We certainly want to celebrate their efforts again on Thursday!

This year has been full of surprises; no doubt many of you have seen or heard the ABC story on “The Digital Divide” featuring a couple of our members. The link is on our website if you missed it. Another surprise occurred in November; our photographers achieved the “Champion Club” Award in the ASCCA Digital Photography competition. See a following page for details.

The results of our own Creative Writing Competition will be announced at our Christmas Lunch this Friday, 6th December at Club Mex, Mayfield. The Roster Team is working on the program for Term One next year and hope to have it available by the Christmas Lunch.

We have been promoting the club at opportunities throughout the year. If you know of any group that would benefit from receiving information about ComputerPals please let us know. The Be Connected Program continues to be a huge success providing valuable support for seniors wanting to learn about technology.

Next year we will be involved in Seniors’ Week with an event on Monday, 24th February. We are intending to have a Guest Speaker and, of course, introduce seniors to our wonderful club. More information will be given closer to the date, for now please add Monday 24th February to your diary.

In 2020 ComputerPals Newcastle turns 20! A celebration is being planned so stay tuned!

Our volunteers all deserve a well-earned rest while they deal with the Festive Season and recovery from all the hustle and bustle. The 2020 year will commence with two Open / Enrolment Days – 30th and 31st January.

Have a restful time over the Summer break and hopefully you will be excited to come and join us in Term One.

Sandra



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

Judy Wallace



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.

I said to myself, "Self." (and I knew it was me, cause I recognized my voice, and I was wearing my underwear) "Today is going to be a good day!"



Rest Your Mind

I know you have been laying awake at night wondering why baby diapers have brand names such as "Luvs", "Huggies," and "Pampers", while undergarments for old people are called "Depends".

Well here is the low down on the whole thing.

When babies crap in their pants, people are still gonna Luv'em, Hug'em and Pamper'em. When old people crap in their pants, it "Depends" on who's in the will!

Glad I got that straightened out so you can rest your mind.

An old cowboy walks into a barbershop for a shave and a haircut.

He tells the barber he can't get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age. The barber gets a little wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells the old cowboy to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin.

When he's finished, the old cowboy tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he'd had in years, but he wanted to know what would have happened if he had accidentally swallowed that little ball. The barber replied, just bring it back in a couple of days like everyone else does.

TICK WARNING

If someone comes to your front door saying they are checking for ticks due to warm weather and asks you to take your clothes off... and dance around with your arms up.

DO NOT DO IT! -- THIS IS A SCAM!
I wish I'd seen this yesterday... I feel so stupid.

Open sesame!

Your username or password are incorrect.

OpZn \$e\$ame?

BIZARROCOMICS.COM

Facebook.com/BizarroComics Dist by King Features

ALL MY PASSWORDS ARE PROTECTED BY AMNESIA

are yours too?

Well I've finally reached the Wonder Years. Wonder where my car is -parked? Wonder where I left my phone? Wonder where my sunglasses are? Wonder what day it is?

PHARMACY MEDICINE
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

HESASOOK[®] FML
Contains New & Improved Stuff

new

man flu relief

Shit Aussies say
12 years - Adult (do they ever REALLY grow up?)

May provide temporary relief (if your lucky) from:

- whinging and whining
- the I'm going to Die symptom
- nobodycaresitis
- and possible (although unlikely) fever, headache & aches

Each tablet contains
50% Placebo
50% Hard the f**k up

48 tablets

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.

MemoryPals

Our next MemoryPals session will be on the first Monday in February.

We would like those interested in Family History or preserving precious photos to let us know of the type of help they need. Send us an email or drop a note in the Suggestion Box at the clubroom.

WriterPals

Everybody has a story to tell...Our last Writerpals meeting for the year will be on **December 10th**. Please join us then at the clubroom.

I have a big idea about our group and would like to run it past any interested members. I intend doing it with my writings anyway, but as a group it would be much more fun and enjoyable. Intrigued? Interested? See you on the 10th.

If you can tell a story—you can write a story. Just have a go. We would love to help, so please come join us. Once you start the rest will come easily.... Not sure where to start? Come talk to us... we can help

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 1pm, and all are welcome - with or without stories in hand. Just turn up. Bring ideas to talk about for future writings or meetings.

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 next meeting will be 17th February 2020.

Heartiest Congratulations to all the award winners in the ASCCA 2019 Photographic Competition. The individual results are on our website, and, due to their brilliant work, the club was awarded the certificate for **Champion Club** - a huge achievement for such a small club in comparison with the large city clubs. Everybody who entered contributed points towards the winning of this award so this belongs to all of you. Well done....




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 Digital Photography Awards

Sandra Keen – Newcastle NSW
“Which One is Mine?”




2nd Place
Photo
Journalism





Jim Bartlett – Newcastle NSW
“Modesty Prevails in Bali”

2nd Place
Photo Travel





Margaret Pope – Newcastle NSW
“A Rajasthan National”

3rd Place
People/Portrait



Mervyn Pope – Newcastle NSW
“A Captivating Citizen”

2nd Place
People/Portrait


Deirdre Eastwood – Newcastle NSW
“View – walking Milne Island, Greenland”

Highly Commended
Landscape/Seascape

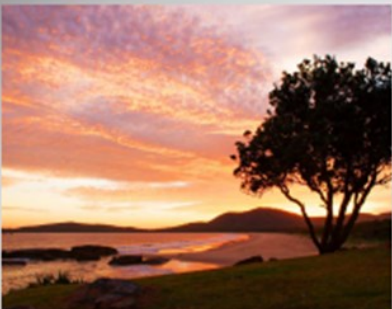



Dianne Williams – Newcastle NSW
“Tranquility”


3rd Place
Landscape
Seascape




Beryl Elsley – Newcastle NSW
“Sunrise Splendour”



2nd Place
Landscape
Seascape



Liz Temple – Newcastle NSW
“Library”



3rd Place
Landscape
Structural/Manmade

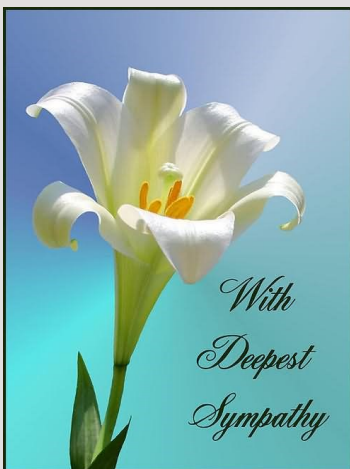


Best Wishes

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.



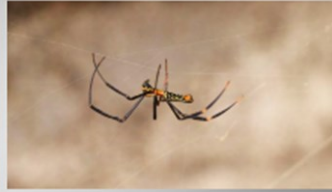
Condolences

To those of our members who have lost loved ones recently, please accept our sincere condolences. You are in our thoughts.



Barbara Bartlett – Newcastle NSW
“Incy Wincy Spider”

Highly Commended
Animals



Sandra Keen – Newcastle NSW
“Fashionistas”

Highly Commended
OPEN



Mervyn Pope – Newcastle NSW
“Thoughtful Compassion”

Highly Commended
OPEN



Gerry Eastwood – Newcastle NSW
“Tango in La Boco Buenos Aires”

OPEN
3rd Place



SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Phone Calls to ComputerPals

There has been a change to our telephone system to eliminate the little gremlins that seem to be creeping in occasionally. :

- Previously you could speak to whoever was manning the phone but this is no longer possible due to external issues with our phone system and NBN.

- NOW when you phone our club number - 49616576 - to enquire or book into classes you will be answered by a voice recording. The voice recording will ask you to leave your name, telephone number and a short message.

Our volunteer who is looking after the phone will return your call as soon as possible.

Please at least leave your name and number when asked by the voice recording so our volunteer can do their job.

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The Scammers are out in force.

Protect yourself with knowledge and awareness of what is happening out there.

Visit [scamwatch.gov.au](https://www.scamwatch.gov.au) and sign up for their newsletter which will alert you to the scams that are appearing every day. Most scam safety is simple common sense, but the scammers can be very persuasive and persistent and can absolutely scare the dickens out of people - but only if you let them talk.

1. DO NOT enter into any discussion with them
2. DO NOT give them the tiniest bit of private information (Including your name)
3. DO NOT give any credit card or bank details to anyone
4. DO hang up quickly

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>

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PRIVACY STATEMENT: Information contained in this Newsletter is only for the members of the ComputerPals Newcastle Inc. The Editor accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, libels, in accuracy or other shortcomings of this newsletter.

Some Christmas nonsense from Writerpals...**Santa's Worst Christmas**

'Twas the week before Christmas and all round the Pole
 The elves had stopped working and gone on the dole.
 Santa had toothache, two reindeer were lame
 Some sleigh parts were broken – new bits never came.
 So he typed up an email to go far and wide
 "Christmas is cancelled – my brain's just too tired
 To deal with the problems it brings me each year,
 So Rudolph and I will kick back with a beer.
 He took his big boots off to set his feet free
 The smell put three reindeer to sleep for a week!
 The elves ran for cover, Mary Christmas as well
 For truly, they never had smelled such a smell.
 Rudolph turned green, his nose did as well.
 Mrs Claus sprayed some freshener to deaden the smell.
 The trees at the pole all turned withered and brown
 And the snow melted quickly for five miles around.
 But the letters kept coming by snail mail and fax
 As the kids all asked Santa for stuff that they lacked.
 They sent in their emails from laptop and iPad
 In high hopes that Santa had room in his bag.
 Mrs Claus and Rudolph and two kindly elves
 Decided to do the whole thing by themselves.
 They glued and they tacked and wrapped things up well,
 Some other elves helped – to get away from the smell.
 Just three days to Christmas and all was a mess.
 Whether Santa would travel was anyone's guess.
 The panic was on but the elves didn't care
 They'd found Santa's beer hidden under his chair.
 They drank all his beer and began on the wine.
 They couldn't walk straight, much less form a line
 To pack up the sleigh. O what could he do?
 Old Santa came up with a thought that was new!
 Saint Nick called our Lindsay in Newcastle town
 To see if a coal-loading belt could be found.
 An old one was found and sent right on through
 But without the instructions what could Santa do?
 He wired it up backwards, 'on purpose' some said.
 He claimed "It's not working" and went back to bed.
 Mary Christmas called Lindsay to ask what to do
 and he said "hang in there. I'll come and show you."
 So Lindsay grabbed Ray and our Judy as well
 And asked them to help with the coal-loading belt.
 It didn't take long to find what was wrong
 With engineer brain and technicians along.

While Lindsay and Santa sat down with a beer
 Our clever technicians soon had the fault clear.
 They fixed it all up then the elves had a go
 At riding the belt and dropping into the snow.
 They lined the belt up between workshop and sleigh
 It just might be ready before Christmas Day.
 With Ray and our Judy to manage the line
 The belt finally seemed to be working just fine.
 Then the elves staged a protest to get better pay
 So Santa said "That's it. It's near Christmas Day!
 You've pinched all my beer, and drank all my wine
 So get yourselves out to the loading up line.
 I'll pay you no more – you might all get the sack
 If Christmas Eve comes and that sleigh's not all packed."
 So the elves got real busy and loaded the belt
 But hid all the labels up high on a shelf.
 'Twas the night before Christmas and all round the pole
 The elves worked real hard since they'd gone off the dole.
 The sleigh was all loaded so Santa climbed on.
 The elves looked quite sheepish, just wanted him gone.
 He kicked off the footbrake, the reindeer rose high
 And the sleigh soared off up in the clear Christmas sky.
 When he got to the first house and found what they'd done
 He vowed that he'd find them and fire every one.
 But he dipped in his sack and filled each stocking up
 And what any kid got was a case of pot luck.
 Nobody got what they'd asked him to bring
 'Cause Santa just couldn't remember a thing.
 There were trucks for some girls and dolls for some boys
 And others got handfuls of small baby toys.
 While babies got iPads and iPhones and such.
 The parents were puzzled but couldn't say much.
 But back at the pole, they all started to wonder
 As Santa flew home – his mood black as thunder.
 The elves ran and hid, their feet hastened by fear
 Hoping Santa would forget all their sins by next year.
 With Santa so cranky and his eyes sparking fire
 The elves thought his whiskers would surely catch fire.
 But Ray, Lindsay and Judy soon had him calmed down
 Then they all flew back home to Newcastle town.
 It was all back to normal back home at the pole
 He fired all the elves who went back on the dole.
 Rudolph retired and said "life's now all right,
 Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight!