

ComputerPals - Newcastle

Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

**Sandra Keen**

Dates to Remember

**Enrolment Day -
Friday June 7th**

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President's Report -

This month brings the end of ComputerPals financial year and time to renew membership. Renewal is \$25 for the 2019 – 2020 year. For new members there is also a one off joining fee of \$5. Members are entitled to participate in social outings organised by the club and to take advantage of Special Interest Groups, Assistance Sessions and Lessons at very reasonable cost. You do not have to join the club to do Be Connected classes which continue to be free.

For all Be Connected learners, especially those who have not logged into their learning site recently, take a look at the new courses in the Topic Library. Remember the web address: www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au Make sure you are logged in to have a record of your progress recorded. We need everyone to complete at least two full courses by the end of this month.

Those who joined the outing to the Rail Motor Society at Paterson had a very enjoyable day. Many of the group have talked about the friendly atmosphere and the memories recalled by the trip. (These could be fodder for the Creative Writing Competition!)

For those who were unable to attend this outing, the Society opens its doors on the third Saturday of the month. We have directions and a map for those who decide to 'go it alone'. Send an email to computerpals2010@gmail.com if you need directions. Keep watching your emails for details of next term's outing.

The Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) has announced it is running the Digital Photography Competition again this year (there is a link on our webpage).

Our Writerpals leader, Carmel, has decided to conduct a Creative Writing Competition again this year. Full details are on our website and on page 5 of this newsletter, so get those creative juices flowing.

Winter is here and what better way to spend a cold day or evening than with a good book. We have a new eBook class starting this month. If you learn how to access the Library while sitting in comfort at home you will be able to borrow, read and even listen without leaving the couch.

With only a couple of months to Computerpals AGM it is time to think about having nominees lined up for several of the committee positions. Any members with appropriate skills are encouraged to accept nomination or just to come along to a committee meeting. If you know someone, give them a nudge!

Spread the word about our club and encourage those seniors who need to learn about the online world to 'give it a go' with friendly help from ComputerPals Newcastle.

Sandra

FROM THE DESK OF THE SOCIAL SECRETARY: Brenton Elsey

A fine day beckoned on Saturday 18th as 16 members paid a visit to The Rail Motor Society, Paterson.

After a scenic drive through the rolling countryside, members met up at the old Station Master’s Cottage which today houses some railway memorabilia and doubles as the Society’s headquarters. First up was a ride in the historic CPH Rail Motors out to Wallarobba and return. These units were built in the 1920’s for use on the NSW branch lines and provided sterling service for over 60 years before being retired from active service. Given the age of these trains, their condition and running was a tribute to the expertise and dedication of the volunteer workforce entrusted with preserving this area of railway heritage.

Back on the ground, it was up to the Cottage where tea, coffee and hot dogs provided much needed sustenance before a tour of the depot. Inspection of additional Rail Motors, the workshop area and some old railway carriages being meticulously restored rounded out a very interesting and enjoyable day. Several members showed further interest in the operations of the Society, as they operate numerous shuttles, trips and tours throughout the year – well worth consideration.

My sincere thanks to Lindsay Threadgate for supervising our group, as being a member of The Rail Motor Society, I was on duty there on the day.

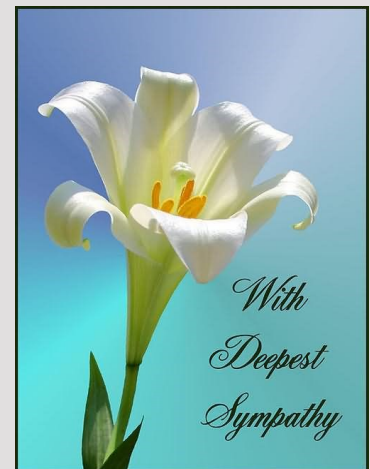


Best Wishes

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.

Device Assistance



The **fourth Friday** of the month is our regular device assistance.

Apple devices at 10 am, Android at 12:30 pm in the clubroom.

MemoryPals

Last Monday those at MemoryPals did some research on Trove—an online digital resource of newspapers and gazettes. It was interesting to see how weddings were documented in the newspapers of early 1900s.

Monday 1st July is our next group meeting. Unless someone has a particular topic they would like investigated we will continue with our foray into Trove.

WriterPals

Everybody has a story to tell...Our next Writerpals meeting for the year will be on July 13th and we would love to see you there. Please join us then at the clubroom.

Remember— **EVERYBODY HAS A STORY TO TELL.** It all starts with a thought, a memory, a picture and builds one sentence at a time.

Look through those stored memories and celebrate one with a story—a story that could be a competition winner

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. **See details on our writing competition elsewhere in this newsletter & on our website.**

DigiPals

For everyone interested in digital photography 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 in the Clubroom. We may go out for a photoshoot from there then return and view the results. Please be on time for the 1 pm start to ensure you are available to participate.

We have a challenge for this month—bring along a few portrait photos for friendly comment and maybe helpful suggestions. With or without the above—come anyway and bring your camera.

See the club website for details of the ASCCA 2019 Digital Photographic Competition.

Device Assistance

There usually a good attendance in the clubroom for people wanting to learn more about their tablets and phones. You need to book in for these sessions to ensure there are enough tutors in attendance. As this is a learning session, cost is \$5.

Apple users—tablets and phones—10:00–11:30 am
Android users—tablets and phones—12:30–2:00 pm

Bring your device fully charged AND your questions.

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

Camel Smith

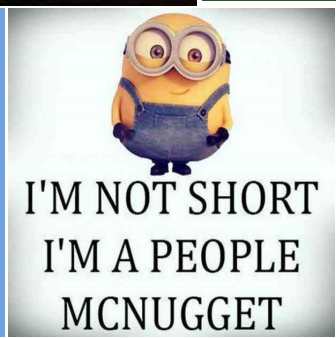
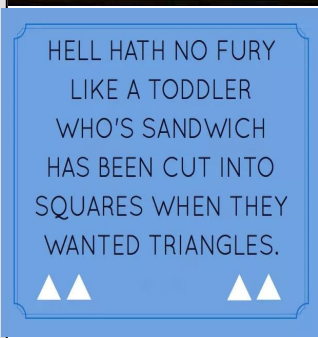
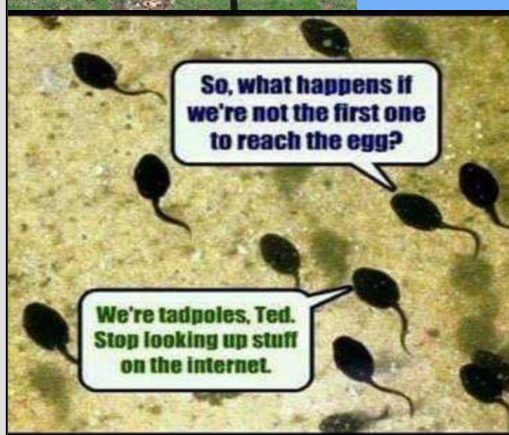
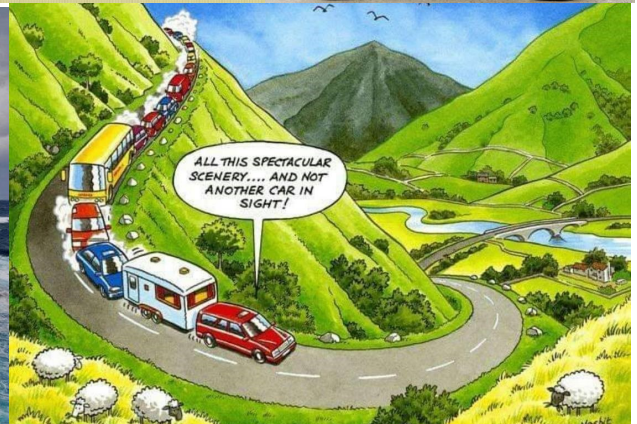
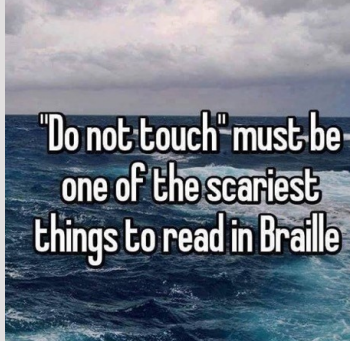
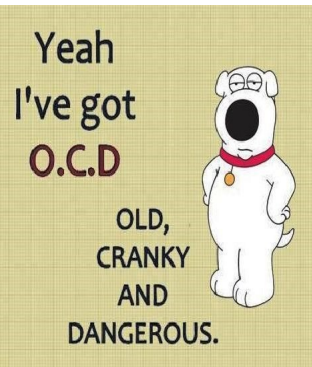


Wendy Cripps-Clark

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 —

Do you ever wake up, kiss the person sleeping beside you, and feel glad that you are alive? I just did and apparently will not be allowed on this airline again....



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.

This is Computerpals Newcastle Creative Writing Competition.

Even if you have never written a story or a poem before there is no reason why you could not win in this competition. You are encouraged to submit one story only for each of the three prose topics and one poem only for each poetry topic.

We will acknowledge an overall “Writing Champion” and also a “Champion Club” for Creative Writing.

Please read and comply with all the conditions of entry and keep strictly within the various word limits for each category - or your entry will be disqualified from judging.

The topics are:-

Prose – You can enter one story only for each of the three topics:

1. **Open Topic** – You are invited to submit your best piece of writing
2. **Memories** – A story of memories in general or a personal memoir of your own from your lifetime. Do not let truth get in the way of your creativity.
3. **Cameo** – it could be a charming piece of jewellery with a story, or a fleeting appearance by

Each story to be **1,000 words or less**

Poetry – You can enter one poem only for each of the same three topics

4. **Open** – A poem about anything you choose.
5. **Memories** - a poem about memories, singular or plural, general or specific
6. **Cameo** - a poem about a cameo, whether it be jewellery or an appearance by a person or entity

Any style of poetry may be entered, using **no more than 350 words**.

You don't need to be an expert or have visions of being published to enter the competition

—oOo—

FURBALL'S THIEVERY (a short one from Carmel)

She was just a tiny little dog, a Maltese / Shitzu cross
 But the people in the family knew that 'Furball' was the boss.
 She'd take their socks and slippers and bury them real deep.
 They had to hide possessions if they wanted them to keep.
 For everything she found to steal, she'd give back something new
 Most times a fragrant carcass which had language turning blue.
 One day she stole the master's shoe, Italian, shiny black;
 No matter how he yelled at her she wouldn't bring it back.
 She hid it with her treasures in a hole she'd worked to make
 And in return she'd given him a lovely, fat, green snake.
 He didn't like the exchange made, as snakey slithered free.
 With all the hidey-holes around, no telling where he'd be.
 Behind the stove, beneath the fridge, so many spots to look.
 He had to find the reptile soon; his wife would go real crook.
 She hated creepy-crawlies, they made her scream and shriek,
 He'd learned his lesson through the years; be silent, calm and meek.
 No matter that the dog was hers; he'd have to take the blame
 For leaving shoes upon the floor, results were all the same.
 If he did it he was damned, damned again if he did not,
 And so he searched both high and low, his nerves all in a knot.
 The time got short, his panic grew, where could that reptile be?
 He finally looked beneath the bed, so dark he couldn't see.
 He struck a match so he could see, and got an awful fright.
 The snake shot out, the match fell down and bedding caught alight.
 The house burned down, the snake was gone, and wifey never knew
 That Furball caused the trouble when she stole her master's shoe.

Another from the convoluted brain of Barry Keen.

I'm tasked to writing poetry
 By our Madame Lash in Chair.
 I don't know what I'll write....
 I'm fair fumbling in despair.

To say this is unfamiliar ground
 Is understatement in extreme.
 I don't know what the hell I'm doing
 Is it nightmare or a dream?

In other forms of writing
 I can push a pen or pound a key.
 With a dash of humour and you as subjects
 Last minute efforts are oft' set free.

As I ponder what to write.....
 To scratch my head would give me splinters.
 I thrash around to catch a theme
 This may take many months and maybe even winters.

The sweat pours off my brow.....
 I know it's hot and humid and rain is in the offing.
 I'm wondering when I'm finally done
 Will these efforts have the whole mob scoffing.

Cheers and Blessings, Carmel says as she signs off on the web
 That's all right for her who loves poetry and rhyme.
 Take pity on this poor sod
 Who labours with his writing and tries to get his efforts in on time.

I wonder what the other blokes and gals are doing
 And what their subjects might be.
 They're bound to be diverse and brilliant
 Not stuck with wondering what they'll write about, like me.

Short and sweet, get to the point....
 Stop messing about.... Get on with it.... pick a topic.
 And let's see where this might take us
 I'll write about not knowing what I'll to write about – don't call me myopic!

You think you can beat me down with poetry
 Well have another go.
 Hanrahan said "we'll all be 'rooned" from the depth of his despair
 Well I'll bounce right back, brush the hair from my eyes, and smile....you just never know

—oOo—

If you can tell a story—you can write a story. It doesn't have to be long or flowery or anything even remotely resembling a Lee Child thriller. Just a simple story is all that is asked for. Barry's poem above is 298 words and a 1000 word story is only about 1 1/2 pages of single spaced print. Give it a try - you really never know what you can do till you try.