



SWITCHED ON SENIORS

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President



Sandra Keen

Dates to Remember

Enrolment Day -
Friday May 3rd

Social Day out -
Saturday 18th May

Members Morning
Tea— Monday 3rd
June

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President's Report -



May is a very busy month in the special days and weeks calendar. Firstly, there is **Mothers' Day on Sunday 12th** and we wish all the mothers, grandmothers and all those who have had a mothering role at some time in their lives, a very Happy Day – maybe it should be Mothers Day every day!

Also in May is **Privacy Awareness Week 13th to 19th May** which aims to raise awareness of privacy issues and promote the importance of protecting personal information.

Our club has its **Social Day Out on Saturday 18th May** visiting the Rail Motor Society at Paterson. See page 2 for a full report. Remember the Federal Election - vote early on the day or before at a pre-polling booth.

A very important week on the calendar is **National Volunteer Week 20-26 May**. ComputerPals Newcastle owes its entire operation to the dedication and generosity of the wonderful team of volunteers. They definitely live up to the motto: 'Making a World of Difference'.



During April our club started an Outreach Program for Be Connected at Sugar Valley Lifestyle Village. This involves several of our tutors working with the group once every two weeks to acquaint them with the Be Connected website.

Keeping lesson notes current is a constant task due to the online world being in a perpetual state of change. You will notice some of our courses have evolved:

- Facebook now has two forms – Facebook Basics (for computers) and Facebook Basics for Tablets and Phones. This will help with the way Facebook presents differently on mobile devices as opposed to computers.
- Messenger (also known as Facebook Messenger) is a separate course because it is no longer necessary to belong to Facebook to use Messenger, which is a very useful communication tool.
- eBooks is now eBook Management and Library Apps with new notes to explain the online Council library system.
- Camera to Computer will be for cameras (not phones) and there will be a new class: Tablet / Phone to Computer .
- Some new classes will be announced soon for early next term.

To ensure you are well informed we will participate in several webinars from the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner. Please reply promptly when the emails are sent regarding these, as numbers are limited.

Finally, put **Monday 3rd June** in your diary for our **next Morning Tea** event!

Sandra

FROM THE DESK OF THE SOCIAL SECRETARY:

Just a reminder about our next Social Day on Saturday 18th May 2019 when we will be visiting the Rail Motor Society at Paterson. Here we will visit the old Station Master's Cottage (now the Society's headquarters) containing railway memorabilia of years past, have a tour of the Depot and the small museum within the old Station Master's cottage, understanding the ongoing restoration work associated with these old workhorses. The highlight of the visit will be a ride on one of the rail motors (or 'Tin Hares' as they were fondly termed), some of which have passed their 90th birthday and still going strong. More details closer to the time – meanwhile, **mark your diaries!**

THAT IS ALSO FEDERAL ELECTION DAY SO DON'T FORGET



After the construction of the Sydney-Parramatta Railway in 1855, the expansion of the NSW rail network proceeded along the three principal trunk routes to the north, south and west from Sydney. Branches were constructed to major towns and all of these lines necessitated loco hauled services. After 1895 one of the many difficulties confronting the New South Wales Government Railways was the provision of adequate services for passengers and parcels over this growing network of branch lines on which traffic was very limited.

The solution appeared to be a light vehicle with limited seating capacity and able to carry a certain amount of perishable or other light goods and parcels while leaving the general freight business to the regular goods trains. It was not until the post World War I period that the internal combustion engine had reached a sufficient degree of development to enable it to be reliably deployed in railway vehicles.

In 1924, a Royal Commission into the operation of the NSW Railways severely criticised the services provided by the mixed trains. The lines that were serviced by mixed trains were generally non-paying and the few trains that were run did not give those lines the opportunity of realising their full value. The Commission also observed that while a number of rail motors had been built, the engine design proved faulty except for the one working at Lismore (Rail Motor No.1). It also commented on the operational success of similar vehicles in many countries, particularly in the United States and set the expectation that well-designed cars should prove successful in NSW. The first NSW experiment was Rail Motor No.1, based on an obsolete truck chassis that was fitted with a passenger carrying body and railway wheels. No.1 entered service in 1919 and proved successful, working over the isolated Casino to Lismore section. No.1 was withdrawn from revenue service in 1925, but continued in service as an Inspection Car for the Signals Branch until 1929 after which it was dismantled.

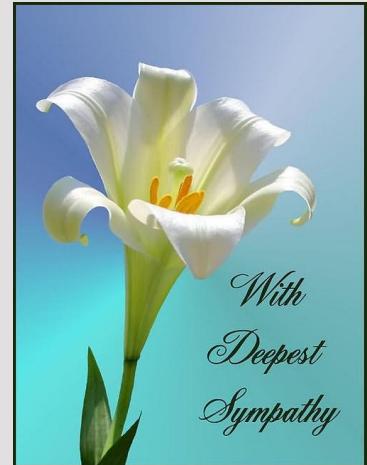
The first of new series of 42-foot Rail Motors was designed and built at the Eveleigh Carriage Works and the first unit (No.3) entered service in December 1923. Rail Motor No.3 was the first of a class of 37 (numbered 1 to 37) that provided reliable service to NSW Railways for over sixty years.

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.



*With
Deepest
Sympathy*

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.

Remember - TabPals is now Device Assistance and you need to book in to ensure enough tutors are available. 4th Friday of the month—times shown opposite

MemoryPals

This month we will investigate ways to research ancestors. Come along and share your ways of researching if you have done this or learn from what others have done.

If you have a project started and need help, now is your chance So those still working on photos don't be disheartened. Bring a couple you want to work on with you. Remember the scanner is available for your use or get help with the CamScanner app.

No need to book - \$2 on the day. **Hope to see you on Monday 6th May.**

WriterPals

Everybody has a story to tell... Our next Writerpals meeting for the year will be on **May 13th** and we would love to see you there. Please join us then at the clubroom. How about jotting down some notes about an event that made you laugh and we will help you flesh it out into a story....

Remember— **EVERYBODY HAS A STORY TO TELL.** It all starts with a thought, a memory, a picture and builds one sentence at a time. Find a picture that rouses a thought or three and write the story.

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. Is there any interest in holding our own competition again?????

DigiPals

The ASCCA Photographic Competition is back on...see the club website for details—email has already been sent out. Photos from Sept. 2017 are eligible for entry. Bring photos along to Digidals on Monday 20/5.

Project for this month—take a landscape photo

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

Device Assistance

There usually a good attendance in the clubroom for people wanting to learn more about their tablets and phones— even more so now for those who received those goodies last Christmas and need a little help to master them.

You will learn things you weren't even aware that you didn't know!
Apple users—tablets and phones—meet at 10 am
Android users—tablets and phones—meet at 12:30pm

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



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 —

THE FACT THAT THERE'S A HIGHWAY TO HELL AND ONLY A STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN SAYS A LOT ABOUT ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC NUMBERS.

I ENJOY A GLASS OF WINE EACH NIGHT FOR ITS HEALTH BENEFITS. THE OTHER GLASSES ARE FOR MY WITTY COMEBACKS AND FLAWLESS DANCE MOVES

DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING OLDER.

YOU'RE STILL GONNA DO DUMB STUFF, ONLY SLOWER.

Why Men Are Not Allowed to take messages.

SOMEONE FROM THE GYNA COLLEGES CALLED.
THEY SAID THE PABST BEER IS NORMAL.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU LIKED BEER.

No one believes us oldies . . . everyone thinks we are getting senile. An elderly couple was celebrating their sixtieth wedding anniversary. They had married as childhood sweethearts and had moved back to their old neighbourhood after they retired. Holding hands, they walked back to their old school. It was not locked, so they entered, and found the old desk they'd shared, where Jerry had carved, "I love you, Sally."

As they walked back home, a bag of money fell out of an armoured car, practically landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up and, not sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money - fifty thousand pounds!

Jerry said, "We've got to give it back".

Sally said, "Finders keepers". She put the money back in the bag and hid it in their attic.

The next day, two police officers were canvassing the neighbourhood looking for the money, and knocked on their door. "Pardon me, did either of you find a bag that fell from an armoured car yesterday?"

Sally said, "No."

Jerry said, "She's lying. She hid it in the attic."

Sally said, "Don't believe him, he's getting senile"

The agents turned to Jerry and began to question him.

One said: "Tell us the story from the beginning."

Jerry said, "Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday"

"The first police officer turned to his partner and said, "Senile's right. Let's go!"

THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING OVER 40 IS THAT WE DID ALL OUR STUPID STUFF BEFORE THE INVENTION OF THE INTERNET, SO THERE'S NO PROOF!

When You

wake up with
a song stuck in
your head, it
means an ANGEL
sang you to sleep.

Denise Baer *Healing Hugs*
PHOTOGRAPH BY LOUISE

A few contributions from our Writerpals group.

From the convoluted brain and the desk of Barry Keen. In answer to a challenge involving the very old poem Hist! Hark!

"Hist! Hark! The night was very dark!"..... AND it's Bloody Raining!!

Raindrops keep fallin' on my head.....heard that one before have we?

It's a good thing you didn't ask me to sing it!!!

This past month or so has been rather spectacular; firstly for the bush-fires all over the place and then..... down came the rain – mainly in coastal regions but certainly a few inland areas copped it too.

From flames to flood! You just can't beat nature for extremes and intensity to show you how puny mankind is in the bigger scheme of things.

Dogs and cats got shown the door, buckets were thrown away, and 'Hughie' filled the clouds to capacity then wrung them out on us in extremely copious amounts 'til the dams and rivers were overflowing and towns and country-side were inundated and swimming in it. Sadly as with nearly all of nature's extremes, lives (human and animal) are lost as well.

And yes~! "Hist! Hark! The night was very dark!"..... the SES and Fire-fighters were not getting any rest!

We were crying out for rain to beat the heat and stop the fires. We just can't be satisfied when our prayers were answered and we're given a tad more than we wanted and needed and not all areas were given their share to quench all the flames.

Forget about 'GLOBAL WARMING' its proper description is 'CLIMATE CHANGE' and despite all the political posturing and profiteering with 'Carbon Taxes' and opportunities for interest groups to hold their hands out for funding for this project or that, it really has happened all before and part of natures cycle the way it wants to be – not the way we want it to be. Get used to it and get on with it!

We are going to have extremes in the weather and we have to get smarter. Build on higher ground out of flood areas and areas which may go under with rising sea levels as ice caps melt. Build structures that will withstand hurricane winds and resist burning or collapse from earthquakes – it's not beyond us, it just requires the will and fortitude to do it. Dykes like they have in Netherlands to keep the sea levels at bay. Very high levies around towns on river banks and move homes which can't practically be protected in that way out of flood areas. Country properties should be built on hills (real or artificial) with similar high areas (constructed in need) to give stock and wildlife a safe refuge with hay & feed reserves cordoned off for controlled feeding. Proper sustainable fire plans and vegetation control – fires are part of nature. We can endeavour to legislate, catch, convict and imprison those who wantonly start fires that endanger property and lives, but we can't legislate against lightning strikes and natural causes or accidents that start fires. We can mitigate the results with proper building design codes and materials and the clearing of fire material from close proximity to our buildings.

We know what we have to do, but.....

"Hist! Hark! The night was very dark!"..... the dumbos don't have the will and fortitude!!!!!!

And YES, OF COURSE IT'S GOING TO BLOODY RAIN AGAIN!!!

A short one from **Bruce in our early days**. Choose a picture and tell the story. **Cats are sneaky - even the little ones!!!**

Kitten: But I didn't do it! – Honestly. – It was the dog.

Human: Yes? – But what are you doing licking up the milk?

Kitten: I was just trying to stop it from spreading all over the floor.

Human: Anyway, the dog's outside so he couldn't have done it.

Kitten: No he's not. When you went out to get the paper, he sneaked in through the open door.

Human: Well, if it was the dog, where is he now?

Kitten: He's probably hiding in the laundry.

Human: He'd better be. If he's not then you're in big trouble Kitty.

Here boy! – Where are you? Oh there you are!

What's that all over your head? – It looks like milk and cereal to me!

Dog: Whine!!!!

Human: Yes. I can understand why you're hiding in here with your tail between your legs.

Righto! You're going in a bath right now.

Forget about warm water, it's under the hose outside for you my lad!

Dog: Whine – Whimper.

Human: I'll teach you to try to eat my breakfast.

Kitten: (snicker) Stupid mutt. That'll teach him to growl at me when I'm having a taste of the boss's breakfast. You should have seen the look on his face when I tipped the plate over his head.

Dog: (From the backyard) Whine – Yelp – Whine. - You little snitch

Kitten: Looks like I have time to lick up a bit more of this before anyone comes back in.

Poetry under Protest from Lindsay

Write some poetry Carmel said

It's easy the words just comes from your head

Here I sits and sits and sits

No words just come from my head

Am I at the end of my wits

Or is it that my imaginator is dead

Imagine having no imaginator

No wonder there are no words

Here I sits and sits and sits

Come on imaginator give me some words

Anything as long as it fits

It might be good enough for birds

Does anyone write poetry for birds

Just to see if it gets heard

Here I sits and sits and sits

I really want to show that I can cope

This poetry stuff really tests my wits

See Carmel there is no hope



Fred's Other Class

Carmel Learning More about Photoshop Elements

I went back for another dose of knowledge from our Fred
And all the stuff I learned is running rampant through my head.
Layers was the class this time, and I finally think I know
Just how to put a friendly face on a big ripe red tomato.

We moved the clocks and keyboards and the bearings all around
Added some letters and arrows, and then a shape quite round.
Those marching ants all came back too but now I've learned the way
To make them behave their pesky selves or send them all away.

Barry controlled the mouse this time while Fred told what to do
The rodent wouldn't cooperate - chaos for a minute or two.
The eyes not what they used to be, the easy point and click,
With distance between, (some shakes as well), became more miss than hit.

Trouble was, when we all clicked, if the place was a little bit wrong
The picture did much more than change - it was often completely gone.
The shock of this made panic set in and arms waved high and wild
Fred sorted it all with a click or two, his manner still calm and mild.

Some computers then chose to rebel and adopted a will of their own
They did some complicated things we hadn't yet been shown.
Fred came round and fixed each glitch, still with a smile and a click
“It’s time for a cuppa” he told us all, “but we have to be real quick”

“There’s lots of work still to be done if we’re to get through on time.”
So back we went to try to bring our reluctant ants in line.
As we worked on, Fred’s voice as guide, it became so wonderfully clear –
If I don’t want “him” in a picture - I can make him disappear.