



SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President



Sandra Keen

Dates to Remember

Enrolment Day -
Friday 20th Sept -
9.30am - 11.30am

Digipals Photo Comp -
closes 30th Sept

Writerpals Comp -
Closes 1st Oct

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Australian Seniors
 Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

President's Report -

At the Annual General Meeting on 16th August the Computerpals Newcastle Committee was re-elected:-

President: Sandra Keen
 Vice President: Mervyn Pope
 Treasurer: Grahame King
 Secretary: Wendy Cripps-Clark
 Technical Officer: Judy Wallace
 Roster Officer: Barry Keen
 Tutor Roster: Mitzi Gordon
 Public Officer: Lindsay Threadgate
 Committee: Carmel Smith, Brenton Elsey,
 Tom Diamond, Ray Hinton
 and we welcome Fred Neal to the Committee

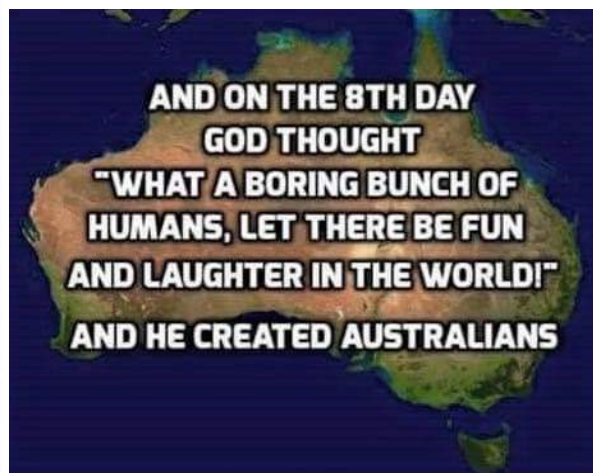
As is usual at the AGM, Membership and Tuition Fees were set for the forthcoming year. Membership Fees remain the same - \$25 per year with Joining Fee of \$5 for new members. (May we remind you that memberships are due.) As well, Class Fees will remain the same at \$5 per one and half hours.

Please note the **Open Enrolment Morning** due for this Friday has been **postponed to Friday, 20th September, 9:30 to 11:30 am**. The timetable of classes for Term Four will be available by then.

We are joining in **Get Online Week** again this year. Please put **Monday 14th October** in your diary. This will be a special **Morning Tea Event** – 'Get More out of Life Online with Maps and Apps'. This is a time to invite some friends to join you. Venue: Islington Public School Hall.

Sandra

Spring is in the air...



From the desk of Brenton Elsey, who organizes all our wonderful social outings - Thank you Brenton. You do an absolutely tiptop job.

COMPUTERPALS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST 2019

Social Day Out

Our 3rd Term Social Outing was to the Maitland Regional Art Gallery on Saturday 24th August.



As the writer was unable to attend this event, Barry Keen kindly stepped in and agreed to 'run the show' and provide a report on this event.

Our next excursion will be on a day to be confirmed during term 4 – details available a little closer to the day.

AGM/Lunch

Our member's Annual AGM and Lunch was held on Friday 16th at the Cardiff RSL Club, with 37 members attending.

Outgoing President Sandra Keen welcomed members to the AGM/Lunch and gave an update of the activities and happenings of ComputerPals



during the past year. She also asked those present for ideas regarding the upcoming 20th Anniversary celebrations to be held next year.

After annual reports by the various committee members were highlighted, it was then time for Returning Officer Harold Franks to declare all committee positions vacant and called for nominations for all those positions. Sandra Keen was re-elected President, along with Merv Pope filling the Vice President role and Grahame King as Treasurer. All other Committee positions were filled with a welcome to Fred Neal who has joined the team.

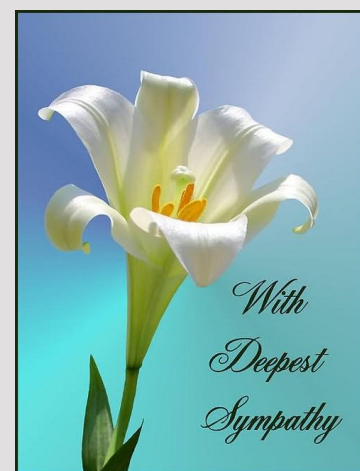
Formalities over, it was then time to sample the culinary delights of the Club eatery and enjoy a chinwag with fellow members.

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.

MemoryPals

The time for MemoryPals in October falls on the Monday of the Long Weekend so we will abort our meeting for October.

If you need help for your projects please send an email reply to this newsletter and we will organise a time.

If you're creating a project for Christmas, hop to it. After all, it's only a couple of months till Christmas..... Just saying!!!!

WriterPals

Everybody has a story to tell...Our next Writerpals meeting for the year will be on **September 9th** and we would love to see you there. Please join us then at the clubroom.

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

Think of the last story you told your kids or grandkids. You CAN do it. If you're still in doubt, come to us for a confidence boost. I've heard some wonderful stories since the AGM 'harangue'....

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. **Just a couple of weeks left to enter our writing competition...check our website for details.**

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.

ASCCA Digital Photography Competition 2019 closing date has been extended to 30th September.

If you haven't yet submitted entries.... Members are encouraged to have a go. (send a BCC copy of your emails to islingtonpals@gmail.com for our information).

Something else you might like to participate in...

Awabakal Wildflower Walk

Sunday 15 September, 10am-noon

Awabakal Nature Reserve, end of Ocean Street, Dudley. Celebrate spring with a slow guided walk through the wildflowers of the coastal heath. Your guide will help with plant identification and ecological information. All welcome. All ages. Easy walking along sandy tracks. Bring a hat and a drink.

Hosted by the National Parks Association, Hunter Branch.

For more information visit the [Facebook event](#).

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



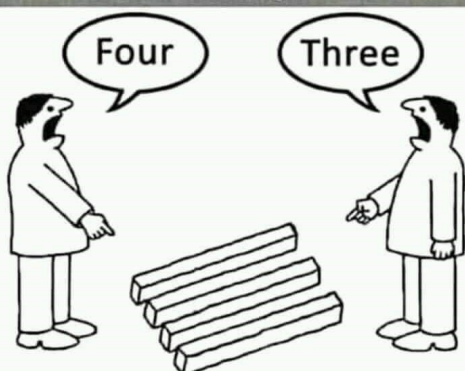
Wendy Cripps-Clark

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 —

This is really confusing!!

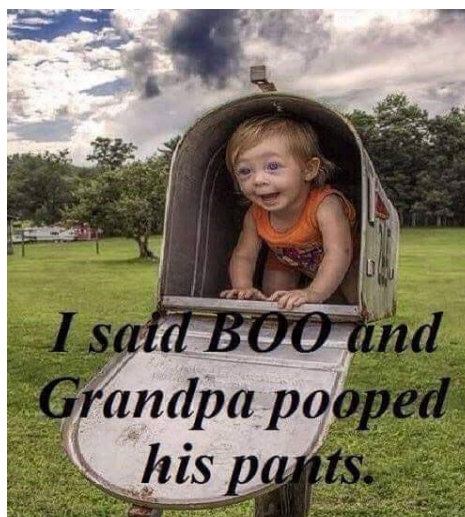
who is right



How to Wash a Cat

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may need to stand on the lid.
4. At this point the cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet — the cat is actually enjoying this.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a "Power-Wash" and "Rinse."
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand well back behind the toilet as far as you can and quickly lift the lid.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.
9. Both the toilet and the cat will be sparkling clean.

Yours sincerely,
— The Dog



Dear GOD!!
Is that what
I really look
like??



Don't stress about your eyesight getting worse as you get older. It's nature's way of protecting you from the shock as you walk by a mirror .



My mind is like an internet browser. Thirteen tabs open, five of them are frozen and I don't know where the music is coming from.

Taxiing down the tarmac, the jetliner abruptly stopped, turned around and returned to the gate. After an hour-long wait, it finally took off. A concerned passenger asked the flight attendant, "What was the problem?"

"The pilot was bothered by a noise he heard in the engine and wouldn't take off," he explained. "It took us awhile to find a new pilot."

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.

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.

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.

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—

“But I can’t write stories” is the refrain that I am constantly hearing....then I proceed to get told a wonderful story of some incident that is rattling around in that person’s memory.

If you can TELL a story... you can WRITE a story

especially with the phone and tablet apps that allow you to speak your story and have it turned into text. I was handed a wonderful story recently by someone who wrote about his stay in the hospital. Told part in verse and part in prose, it was a great read - and something he can be very proud of.

Have a go.

I think you will surprise yourself with what you can do, and with how much you recall once your memory starts releasing its treasures and once the words start flowing, you will be amazed at the stories you end up with...

If you need me to nag you in to it, tell me where you live and I will be happy to oblige..... :-)

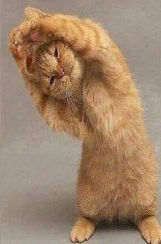
Pee on the electric fence
they said...
It will be fun they said...



I'M NOT OLD

I woke up,
I lifted my arms,
I moved my knees,
I turned my neck....

Everything made the same noise:
"CrrrrrrrrrrrrraaaaaaaaaaaaaacccccK!"



....I came to a conclusion:

**I am not old,
I am crispy!**



Becoming a grandmother is wonderful.

One moment
you're just
a mother.

The next you
are all-wise
and
prehistoric.

~ Pam Brown

*A bit of nonsense from the warped imagination of Carmel**SPRING (in its many forms)*

Spring has sprung, the grass has riz!
I've no idea what the next line iz.
The boids is on the wing. It's true
Spring's here with lots of work to do.

Now Spring is quite a wondrous thing
The weather's warm and the boidies sing.
The bang beneath my car says "NO!"
My spring just broke, so I can't go.

My eyes fly open at clocks first ring
So up and out of bed I spring.
There's less spring in my step these days.
I'm slowing down - must change my ways.

Spring flowers blossom everywhere,
The sound of sneezing fills the air.
Germs fly high and fast and wide.
A spring cold's gotcha. You can't hide.

Now Winter snows and Autumn wind
And Summer heat all lead to Spring.
Mountain springs feed bubbling creeks.
Hope springs eternal - at least this week.

So spring has sprung and now it's here
Hay fever blocks my nose and ears.
I snort, I sneeze, my nose runs free
So pass the tissues, will you please?

--oOo--

SMALL THINGS

*It's said small things don't matter in this great world of ours,
The whine of one mosquito can wake you up for hours
It echoes through the silence till you just want to cry
So that's a crazy statement and now you know just why.*

*And have you ever had a flea you simply cannot find?
The little buggar bites you till you almost lose your mind.
You can't find where he is, but you sure know where he's been
You scritch and scratch relentlessly, your mood becoming mean*

*And don't forget the grandkids, though at times you wish you could
'Cause often when you've company and you need them to be good
They faithfully repeat the things you never should have said.
Makes you wish you'd followed instinct and chased them off to bed.*

*But worst of all are small things that float all through the air –
They wait their chance and dig right in before you know they're there.
The bugs and germs that seek you out and make you cough and sneeze
Will not give up attacking till they've brought you to your knees.*

*So small things really matter be they bad or be they good
Just take a timtam biscuit – do you really think you should?
Chocolate is a cure-all for each and every ill
Just call me Doctor Ducky, and I'll send you my bill.*

From the wonderfully informative mind of Lindsay Threadgate**A Snippet of Local History – James Fletcher**

Now that I have lived in Newcastle for 57 years, more than three quarters of my life, I consider myself a Novocastrian or at least a Para – Novocastrian. My earliest association with this city goes back to 1827, yes 192 years, when my Great Great Great Grandfather, John Grills, was posted here as a Private in The New South Wales Royal Veterans Company, that must count towards the points that I need to claim that I am a Novocastrian. Enough of that dribble... As I justify my claim, I am equally justified in my interest in local history, especially in the snippet form.

Today my snippet is on James Fletcher.

Who was James Fletcher? Where is Fletcher Park? And what makes the monument there in so special?

My guess is that many associate James Fletcher with the Hospital at the top of Watt Street, the former Lunatic Asylum for Imbeciles and Institution for Idiots, however I wish to bring out the man, I reference “James Fletcher, the Miner’s Advocate” a small volume by J. G. Lowndes, which is the source of much of what is contained herein.

James Fletcher was born in 1834 at Dalkeith, East Lothian, Scotland. As a boy he worked in the Scottish coal mines. In 1852, at the age of eighteen, he headed for the Australian goldfields seeking his fortune. James Fletcher was one of 370,000 immigrants to Australia during that year when gold fever hit the Colony. Soon after James Fletcher became a pitman at The Australian Agricultural Company’s Newcastle’s Borehole Colliery at Pittown (now Hamilton).

By 1860 James Fletcher was the inaugural president of the District Union, the Hunter River District Coal Miner’s Mutual Protection Association and campaigning for better ventilation in all mines. Following a prolonged strike of working conditions by 1862 James Fletcher was appointed Manager of the newly formed “Co-operative Colliery” at Plattsburg (now part of Wallsend).

These times must have been most interesting and by the mid 1870’s James Fletcher had been elected the first mayor of Wallsend, 1874 and 1875 and nearby Plattsburg in 1876. In 1876-89 he was the proprietor of the Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate.

James Fletcher was elected as a Protectionist Party member for Newcastle in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from 1880 until his death in 1891. He became Secretary for Mines in February 1886. He was Secretary for Public Works from January to March 1886.

In 1891 twenty thousand people, over one third of the district’s then population assembled for the funeral of James Fletcher at the Wallsend cemetery.

There is a Monument to James Fletcher in Lower Reserve, Fletcher Park, it is unique in that it is the only monument to a person in Newcastle. There is also a bust of James Fletcher in Wallsend on the corner of Nelson Street and Tyrell Street which was presented to the council by his granddaughter in 1937.

Main reference: James Fletcher, The Miner’s Advocate by J. G. Lowndes, Newcastle History Monographs No 10 1982.

