

**ComputerPals - Newcastle**

Where Seniors master technology

# SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : [contact@computerpals.org.au](mailto:contact@computerpals.org.au)

## President

**Sandra Keen**

## Dates to Remember

**Clubroom is closed till further notice. Stay safe and healthy.**

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR REOPENING DETAILS.**

*In the meantime*  
**BE A ZOOMIE** and  
join us online. Wed &  
Fri mornings @ 9.45  
Thurs Morn @ 9.45

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Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

## President's Report -

The main topic for discussion at our recent committee meeting was; 'if and when we will be able to open the ComputerPals Clubroom'. Upon reading the information from NSW Government Health we are reluctant to start face to face classes during winter. The necessity to have 1.5 metres social distancing and 4 square metres space per person, together with the strict cleaning regime puts added pressure on our tutors who are all volunteers. We want to keep everyone safe so we will wait a little longer before returning to normal activities in the clubroom.

Meantime, free Zoom sessions are available on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Those who need help to get started with this new way of communicating, please send us an email. We are happy to assist with practice sessions.

The Be Connected website has had a makeover and some new classes added. Those of you who joined Be Connected but haven't looked at the lessons recently will be surprised. Find your login password and catch up with some practical lessons. We are only a phone call or email away if you need help reconnecting with Be Connected. For anyone who has a friend or relative that needs help or a refresher of their skills Be Connected is a good solution. Do make sure they Sign Up with our group (*Computer Pals for Seniors - Newcastle*) as the Support Centre.

Next month is usually the time for our Annual General Meeting. Due to the current situation the committee is proposing to postpone the AGM until conditions allow such gatherings safely. An email with information and opportunity for you to vote on this proposal will be sent out in the next week so watch for that and vote on the online form.

With the current membership year extended to end of September, the new membership year commences on 1<sup>st</sup> October. An outline of the fee structure is in the email with this newsletter. Our Treasurer Grahame has sent the 2019 - 2020 financial report to the auditor so he is now ready to accept payment of membership fees.

Looking forward to seeing some more of you on Zoom,

Sandra Keen

**A FEW SCAMS TO BE AWARE OF - AND BEWARE OF**

**How it works:** You’re sitting in an airport or a coffee shop and you log into the local Wi-Fi zone. It could be free, or it could resemble a pay service like Boingo Wireless. You get connected, and everything seems fine.

**What’s really going on:** The site only looks legitimate. It’s actually run by a nearby criminal from a laptop. If it’s a “free” site, the crook is mining your computer for banking, credit card, and other password information. If it’s a fake pay site, he gets your purchase payment, then sells your card number to other crooks.

**How it works:** You get a “tweet” from a Twitter follower, raving about a contest for a free iPad or some other expensive prize: “Just click on the link to learn more.”

**What’s really going on:** The link downloads a “bot” (software robot), adding your computer to a botnet of “zombies” that scammers use to send spam email.

**How it works:** A window pops up about a legitimate-sounding antivirus software program like “Antivirus XP 2010” or “SecurityTool,” alerting you that your machine has been infected with a dangerous bug. You’re prompted to click on a link that will run a scan. Of course, the virus is found—and for a fee, typically about \$50, the company promises to clean up your computer.

**What’s really going on:** When you click on the link, the bogus company installs malware—malicious software—on your computer. No surprise, there will be no cleanup. But the thieves have your credit card number, you’re out the money, and your computer is left on life support. Scams are everywhere

**How it works:** You see an Internet offer for a free one-month trial of some amazing product—often a teeth whitener or a weight-loss program. All you pay is \$5.95 for shipping and handling.

**What’s really going on:** Buried in fine print, often in a colour that washes into the background, are terms that obligate you to pay \$79 to \$99 a month in fees, forever or until you wake up to what is happening

**A warning from NSW Police** A new phone scam claiming your tax file number (TFN) has been suspended!

**How it works:** Recorded phone calls claiming to be from the ATO and other government agencies are trying to trick people into providing personal information. These scammers will tell you there’s a legal case against you, and if you don’t follow instructions and provide the information requested, you’ll be arrested.

The ATO will never threaten you with immediate arrest, do NOT provide any personal information, and do not follow their instructions, just hang up. If you’re ever unsure whether an ATO interaction is genuine, hang up and phone the **ATO scam hotline on 1800 008 540.**

**More information:**

sign up to the Stay Smart Online Alert Service,

<https://www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/register/individuals-and-families> .

To check for current scams and risks visit

[www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

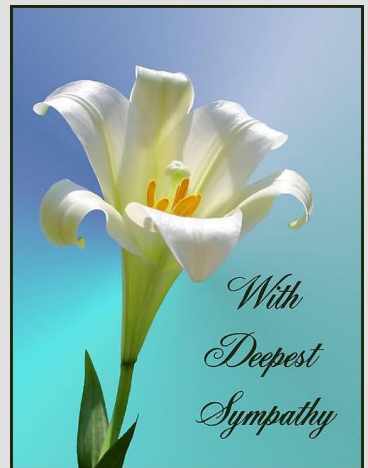
If you’ve been the victim of a cybercrime including financial loss, report it to **ReportCyber** at <https://www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/report>

**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.*





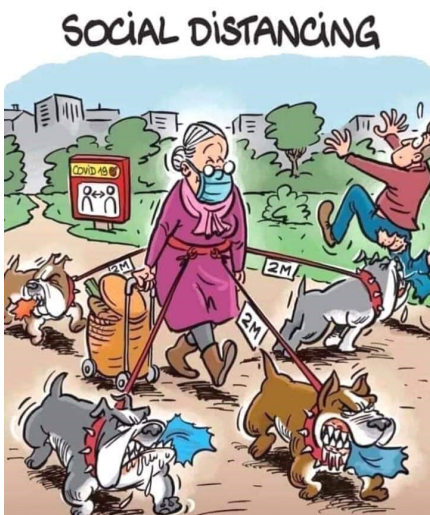
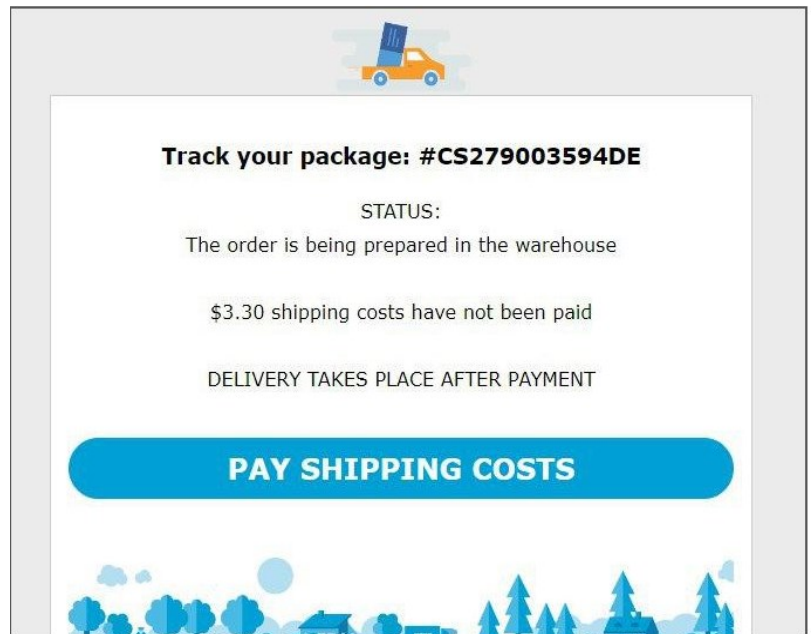
The ComputerPals committee is holding our meetings and get-togethers via Zoom - a whole new experience for most of us...

Some of our incredible tutors are conducting online help sessions through Zoom. The one on this Wednesday is designed to help you with eBay shopping. It will continue on Friday, all being well.

If there is a particular topic you would like help with, please send in an email or phone the club, leave your contact details and a message and somebody will call you back. Zoom is proving very easy and convenient to use for sessions involving multiple people.

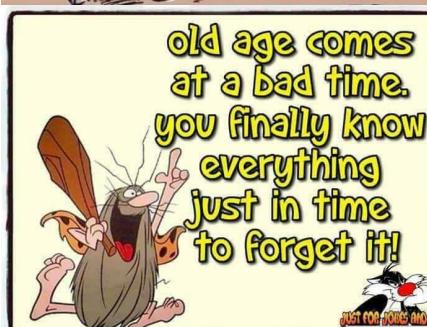
During these times when we have no classes for you to attend, you can keep up with your computer learning by either contacting Computerpals via email or phone, or you can do research for yourselves by using one of our favourite websites GCFlearnfree. Type this into Google, select TOPICS, then scroll through and find what you want to explore. There is a SEARCH option, so click on the little magnifying glass, type in what you want and if it will appear before your eyes. Also make sure you keep up with BeConnected. Lots of good info too and they add new topics on a regular basis.

With so many people involved in shopping online, including myself, the package tracking scam is becoming very prevalent. Australia Post has released this warning, and I have received 5 emails like this in the last fortnight. Many would simply go online and pay, thereby possibly costing themselves the contents of their bank accounts. I tend to chase the Free Shipping offers so this scam was immediately recognisable, otherwise I would probably have logged on to pay without checking the package number. BE CAREFUL. Every email I have received has been identical, but from a different company name.



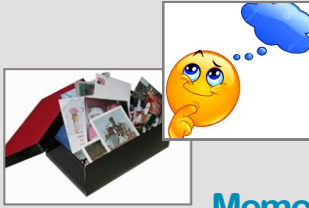
**Whoever said  
"Out of sight, Out of  
mind"  
never had a spider  
disappear in the  
bedroom.**

<b>Sherman_Beardman</b> 1.3k points 2 years ago	The fact that Kansas and Arkansas are pronounced differently bothers me way more than it should.
<b>madamplease</b> 13.7k points 1 year ago	Pronouncing words that end in 'ough'. Cough, bough, rough, dough, through, though...
<b>Vaxtin</b> 4.7k points 4 years ago	Is the "S" or "C" in scent silent?
<b>AdventurousMan</b> 4.6k points 4 years ago	Why does fridge have a "D" in it, but refrigerator doesn't?
<b>Djimmieboy</b> 248 points 1 year ago	Why are Zoey and Zoe pronounced the same but Joey and Joe aren't?
<b>MundaneRiot</b> 261 points 4 years ago	You can drink a drink but you can't food a food.
<b>cherlishPanda</b> 218 points 4 years ago	The word "queue" is just a Q followed by four silent letters
<b>saranowitz</b> 1 point 10 years ago	Why is a "w" called a "Double-U" when it is clearly a "Double-V"?



**In order to get through a rough day you need three things: a wish bone, a back bone and a funny bone. Dream often, stand tall, and laugh at least once a Day!**

## 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 Computer-

Pals members who meet on the **third Monday** of each month at 1 pm. in the Islington clubroom to explore digital photography.

### Tablet & Phone Help

If you have a portable device; iPad, Android tablet we have a Special Interest group called Tablet & Phone Help. **Fourth Friday** each month is our regular meeting Ipad at 10 am, Android at 12:30 pm in the clubroom.



## MemoryPals

The next meeting of MemoryPals will be on the **first Monday of whatever month we are able to resume activities at 1pm.**

All welcome, just bring some ideas with you of anything special you might enjoy doing to help preserve, protect and perpetuate your memories and memorabilia

Help is readily available should you require it

No need to book - \$2 on the day

Its going to be Christmas again soon, so get your ideas ready.....

## WriterPals

**Everybody has a story to tell...**Our next Writerpals meeting will be **Lord only knows when starting at 1pm.**

### NOTICE TO ALL

While Writerpals meetings are suspended for the duration of this isolation period, Writerpals itself can continue wherever you happen to be. Just get out your keyboards, your notebooks and pens, your slates and pencils, or even a clear space on your walls and start writing.

What can I write? I hear you say....

Stories, anecdotes, memories

Give it a go...you don't even have to tell anyone...just try!

How many little stories have you jotted down????

## 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. (yes you know it by now .... 'when we can')

**Don't forget the ASCCA Photography competition—see the club website for more information.**

## Laptop Assistance

### Meetings suspended till further notice

There usually a good attendance in the clubroom for people wanting to learn more about their laptop computers – even more so now for those who received those goodies for special gifts or hand-me-ups and need a little help to master them.

We meet on the second Friday of the month from 10.00 to 11.30 Bring your device fully charged AND your questions.

**At this time it's better to join us on a Zoom meeting.**

## 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](mailto: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 ONE TIRED ELEPHANT**



You left this on your plate and then walked away. I saved it from getting cold or falling on the floor.

**So far 2020 is like looking both ways before crossing the street and then getting hit by an airplane.**

**DURING THE MIDDLE AGES THEY CELEBRATED THE END OF THE PLAGUE WITH WINE AND ORGIES DOES ANYONE KNOW IF THEY HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT PLANNED WHEN THIS ONE ENDS?**  
(ASKING FOR A FRIEND)

**The Seven Dwarves have been told that from Monday, they can meet in groups of six. One of them isn't Happy.**



**TEACHER: GIVE ME A SENTENCE USING THE WORDS DEFENSE, DEFEAT AND DETAIL.**  
**STUDENT: WHEN A HORSE JUMPS OVER DEFENSE, DEFEAT GOES BEFORE DETAIL.**

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



**Swimming Pools will reopen on the 4th July. Due to continuing Social Distancing rules, there will be no water in lanes 1,3 and 5**



It's been a rough week, but I made it... How about you?

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