ComputerPals - Newcastle
Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Sandra Keen

Dates to Remember

Friday 6th March Enrolment Day

Monday 9th March Writerpals—1:00pm

Friday 13th March Laptop Assistance

In This Issue

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association ASCCA

President's Report -

Our year is off to a good start with many new faces at our clubroom. Welcome to all the new members! Please let the tutors know if there is any particular need you have with learning about technology. If you are seeking a class that is not listed please let us know via email or by putting a note in the Suggestion Box in the clubroom.

Last week we held our Seniors Festival event over two days and judging by the comments from those present it was highly successful. From the demonstrations on smartphones and computers to the thought provoking presentation by our guest speaker, Dr Gary Ellem, there was something of interest for everyone. Those who stayed on for the workshops and demonstrations during the afternoon were appreciative of the technical input from ASCCA Board member Alex Zaharov-Reutt. The following day we repeated the afternoon workshops and demonstrations for another group of interested seniors. (Full report of Morning tea on Page 3)

This **Friday, 6th March** brings us to another Open **Enrolment Morning from 9:30 to 11:30am** in the Clubroom. We are halfway through Term One's classes and a couple of changes have been made to the rest of the term as well as new classes added. It is time to make sure your name is added to the Be Connected classes if you wish to attend. Don't forget to spread the word about the amazing work our volunteer tutors do in providing this learning.

Hope to see many members in Morpeth on Saturday for our first outing for the year.

Special mention to all the women—this Sunday, 8th March is International Women's Day which is a global day to recognise women the achievements of women.

ComputerPals Newcastle is a very busy club … it is up to you to make the most of what is offered.

Sandra

Our Top Alerts of 2019 – scams, exploits and data breaches!
27 February 2020

With a new year well underway, we've recapped some of our top alerts from 2019, with pointers on how to protect yourself against each threat.

1. Check before you click. Scammers pretended to be Australia Post multiple times in 2019

Last year, widespread scam text (SMS) messages were sent to people using the Australia Post brand. Scammers imitated the AusPost caller ID, often mentioning a 'missed delivery' or 'unverified address' – with a link directing people to a (fake) AusPost website. The site asked for payment or personal details, which hackers then stole and used. Clicking on these links could also infect your device with malicious software (malware). You can view the alerts here and here.

Our top tips to protect yourself against scams like this are:
Remember: your financial institution and other large organisations like Australia Post will never send you a link asking for personal or financial details.
If the message seems suspicious, contact the person or business separately, using contact details you have found from a legitimate source.
Don't click on links in unexpected messages or emails from people or organisations you don't know.

2. Keep everything updated – including your phone. **Hackers used a WhatsApp loophole to spy on users**

Cybercriminals exploited a vulnerability in the WhatsApp smartphone messaging app to remotely install surveillance software and hack into users' confidential conversations. An update was issued on the 15th of May 2019 to address this vulnerability in the app, but there were concerns across the world that many users would ignore or delay the latest update and remain vulnerable to attack.
It's vital for your device's security that you keep your software up to date. Our top tips to protect yourself now and in the future are:
Turn on automatic software updates on your devices, including your phone.
When a pop-up message from a trusted application requests an update, accept it.
If you need to delay, set a reminder so you can update overnight or at a more convenient time.

3. Don't reuse your passwords. Hackers got access to millions of emails and users names in the 'Collection #1' Data Breach

In January 2019, Australian cyber security expert Troy Hunt made public a significant data breach affecting 773 million email addresses and usernames. Titled 'Collection #1', unauthorised access to usernames and other details on multiple websites and services resulted in email addresses and passwords being shared on a known hacking forum.
Our top tips to limit the impact that a data breach may have on you are:
Use a strong password (13 or more characters that are unrelated and difficult to guess) and don't re-use the same password on multiple websites.
Use multi-factor authentication where available (like a code sent to your phone, or your fingerprint on a mobile device) to give your accounts an extra layer of security.
Change your password on any accounts where you may have used the same email and password combination.
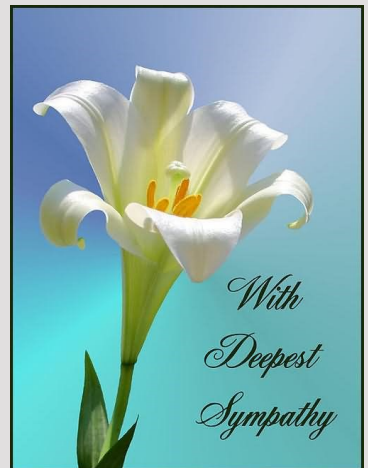**More information**:
sign up to the Stay Smart Online Alert Service,
www.staysmartonline.gov.au/alert-service.

From the desk of the Social Secretary, Brenton Elsey

REPORT – COMPUTERPALS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY 2020 - Morning Tea

Monday 24th February saw our Morning Tea put on a few weeks earlier than usual to coincide with the National Seniors Week. This was held as normal in the school hall adjacent to our premises.

With some 48 attendees, President Sandra Keen commenced proceedings with the usual housekeeping and an update of Club news and information, including a brief outline of the forthcoming afternoon's activities. She also introduced ASCCA representative Board Member, Mr. Alex Zaharov-Reuit who kindly filmed the day's proceedings. A reminder about the upcoming Social Day on 7th March to the Morpeth Museum was also highlighted. Next, Lindsay Threadgate gave us a demonstration of a new smartphone reading app which can convert in incoming text to a voice activated record of the text – handy if you are otherwise engaged. Carolyn Keane then showed us all how old black and white photos could be turned to colour – the transformation was excellent.

Morning Tea then beckoned, and members were able to 'feed and water the worms' and mingle with others. That done, it was time to introduce our guest speaker, Dr. Gary Ellem, a PhD graduate from the University of Newcastle. Dr. Ellem is a conjoint academic of that institution, and currently working as Head of Business Development with iSeeVC Pty Ltd, an organisation endeavouring to combine live video with 3D virtual worlds. Following on from his previous engagement with us back in 2013, Dr. Ellem expanded on the way sustainable transport had progressed, and gave us an fascinating insight into the future in this field, along with some amazing technological advances with special emphasis on the education sector using virtual technology – probably something that our grandchildren might grasp a little better as the changes roll on.

The lucky door prizes were then drawn and collected by those 'lucky' members, followed by the usual clean and pack up.

Our first social outing for 2020 will be to the Morpeth Museum.

Located in the historic old 1862 built Court House building (main street near the bridge), the museum is host to numerous exhibitions, both permanent and changing. These showcase the diversity and history of the Morpeth and surrounding districts from early times. Aside from the obvious courtroom history, early shipping, railway and other forms of transport are on display with models, actual pieces and photographs adding to the experience. A very interesting display of Arnott's memorabilia will have everyone thinking back to their trip to the local corner store and seeing the tin chair with the parrot, the rows of coloured biscuit tins and the old storekeeper with his white apron! Various other displays round off what should be a most interesting and informative visit. We will meet at the Savannah On Swan Café for morning tea prior to walking across the road to the Museum (opens at 11.00am).
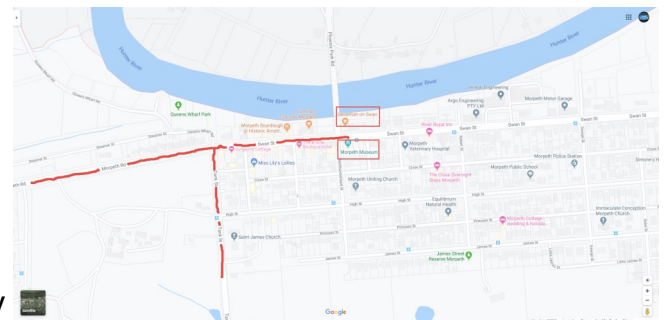
Details for the day are as follows;

Date: Saturday 7th March 2020

Time: 10.15am (M/Tea booking at the Café)

          11.00am Museum
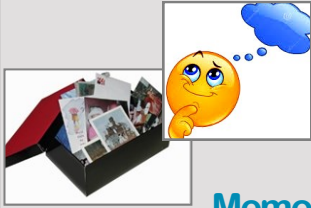
Cost: M/Tea - own expense, Museum - $2.00

As all the eatery's in Morpeth are especially busy on weekends, we have to make a booking, so it would be appreciated if you could be punctual. If you cannot make it after advising you were coming, please give me a call so I can advise the Café accordingly. Please note that there are some steps involved (some sections of the Café and Museum). A couple of maps have been attached showing the directions to Morpeth and locations of the Café and Museum. I will have your name tags on arrival at the Café and will collect them from you on your departure from the Museum.

Following our Museum visit, some of you might like to stay on and take a wander around this quaint little town, exploring the many and varied shops.

I look forward to seeing you there.

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 p.m.** 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

If you have a portable device; iPad, Android tablet we have a Special Interest group called TabPals.

The fourth _Friday_ of the month is our regular meeting **Apple devices** at **10 a.m,** **Android** at **12:30pm** in the clubroom.

MemoryPals

With Sandra and Barry swanning around on the high seas, and nobody else available to lead the group, MemoryPals had to be cancelled this month, so the next meeting will be on April 6th 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

WriterPals

Everybody has a story to tell... Our next Writerpals meeting will be on **March 10th** starting at 1pm.

. Please join us then at the clubroom.

With the 20th Anniversary of the club coming up, we are looking for ways to contribute to the celebration. If you have suggestions or ideas please bring them to the March meeting.

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.

No need to book— just pop $2 in the moose

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.

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 for special gifts or hand-me-ups 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 11 am
Android users—tablets and phones—meet at 1pm

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:

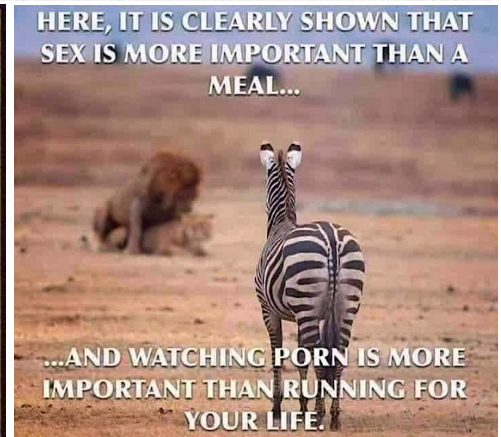*islingtonpals@gmail.com*
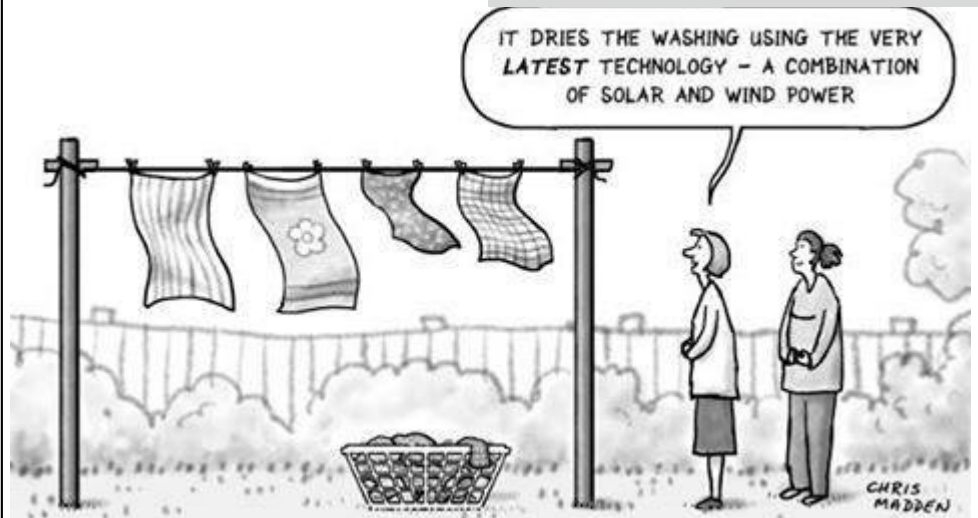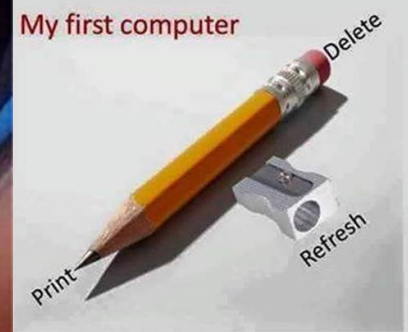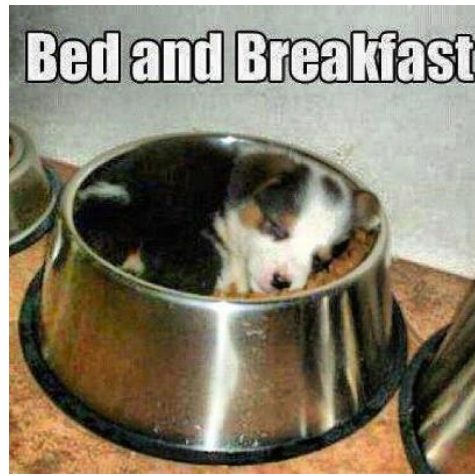
Roster Team

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 —

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