

ComputerPals - Newcastle

Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

**Sandra Keen**

Dates to Remember

WE'RE BAAAAAACK!

Clubroom is reopening with Open/Enrolment Morning Monday 2/11 and classes beginning Tuesday 3/11. Stay safe and healthy.

You can still **BE A ZOOMIE** & join us online— Friday @ 9.45 am or for Special Interest Groups most Mondays @ 1:00 pm

Car Observation Rally Picnic - Saturday 7/11

ASCCA Annual Conference—10th Nov

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Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

President's Report -

What a great time many of our Computerpals had during Get Online Week! Our brains were challenged while solving the online puzzles created by our Zoom team. We also did some armchair travel via the Google Earth lesson on be Connected. Thanks to Carolyn and Mitzi for their creativity. It was fantastic that so many joined the spirit of the event by dressing up with a hat or scarf.

It is hard to believe that seven months have passed since we were having lessons in the clubroom (last sign-in in our attendance book—13th March!!). In preparation for restarting activities in the clubroom we have registered as a COVID-Safe organisation with NSW Health. This requires having a COVID-Safe Plan to which we must adhere. Class numbers are limited and strict social distancing rules apply. Additional cleaning will be undertaken after each class to help keep everyone safe. If anyone has a fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or has travelled overseas in the past month we ask that they do not enter the clubroom. Wearing of masks is encouraged.

On Monday 2nd November an Open Morning will be held for those new to Computerpals and others wishing to book in to a class. Classes begin on Tuesday 3rd November with our Be Connected sessions in the morning and afternoon. It is essential to book in even though Be Connected classes are free. We don't want people to arrive and then be turned away due to the restrictions on numbers. Just Phone: 49616576.

In April we took the first steps toward keeping our members connected through online video calling. We had to learn to use the Zoom platform and then devise some online sessions that were interesting for everyone. Each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday our friendly 'Zoom community' connected, had a chat and even learned something about technology all from the comfort of their own homes. We intend to continue Zoom sessions each Friday and add the Special Interest Groups on a Monday afternoon. Due to the fact that our rent has reverted to full charge we can no longer do these sessions for free, but \$10 for the rest of 2020 is a bargain! We will email the link to those who decide to join us.

This year's ASCCA Conference will be online on Tuesday, 10th November, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Some of the highlights include:

- Conference opening by Senator, the Hon. Richard Colbeck
- Googler - Alexander Lynch – taking about Quantum Computing
- Australian Traveller editor – Quentin Long – taking us through travel trends
- eSafety Commission - Greg Gebhart – introducing the Grandparents guide
- Charlie Brown – Technology trends expert and regular guest on the Today Show

Tickets are \$15 each. Registration and Payment will be found at this link <https://ascca.org.au/index.php/news-events/conferences-events/69-uncategorised/349-2020-conference-title-page> If you want to attend the AGM and Photography Competition announcements it is free (after 3:00 pm) but you need to register at the link.

Have you registered for our Computerpals Outing—Car Observation Rally on Saturday (7/11)? Should be fun! It is not too late, but we need to know if you will be joining us!

Sandra

A FEW SCAMS TO BE AWARE OF

Be aware that not everybody who offers “HELP” is your friend...there are some nasties out there. Many are just nuisance texts and you can “educate” your smart phone to take care of them for you. They consist of messages informing you that your “order” will be cancelled if you don’t verify by a certain time, or your transaction needs to be completed by a particular time or you will miss out. There are many variations—way too many to list here. My phone dings very often with the message that they have just located another one and dealt with it. I have set my phone to automatically report and block spam and to let me know - just in case they get over-zealous and block ‘good stuff’.

More information:

sign up to the Stay Smart Online Alert Service,

www.staysmartonline.gov.au/alert-service.

To check for current scams and risks visit

www.scamwatch.gov.au

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

One recent Phone Scam that would frighten any person who is a genuine law abiding citizen is the call with what sounds like an automated voice telling you that “This phone number has been associated with criminal activity and the Home Affairs Department has a warrant out for your arrest. Click 1 to speak to an official.”

Would you believe I have had three of these calls recently, two on the one day and other ComputerPals tutors also.

The numbers appear to be Australian mobile phone numbers with only one or two digits difference at the end. **Best advice—HANG UP!**

There is still that other nuisance scam that comes in the form of text message. I have been receiving 3 to 4 a day. My phone has now picked up on them and deals with them (as mentioned above) but the “good” ones advising of a genuine Australia Post delivery get dealt with the same way. If I am expecting a delivery, I can check for delivery date and time when the phone dings with its notification. The bogus messages supposedly come from either Australia Post and/or the company supplying the goods. They claim that the parcel cannot be delivered because there is still a small amount owing for postage. They give a website for you to go pay and because it is such a small amount, many will go pay and thus give the requested card number. Very bad idea! There are many ways to shop safely online, and we conduct classes as well as a ZOOM session advising people on the best way to do that.

Your own common sense can keep you free from a lot of these problems, so avoid the knee-jerk reactions and think a little about what you are looking at. If you are not expecting a delivery, then obviously it is a scam. They don’t all come from the same phone number. In fact of the dozens that are in my blocked folder, I think there are only about 3 duplicate numbers.

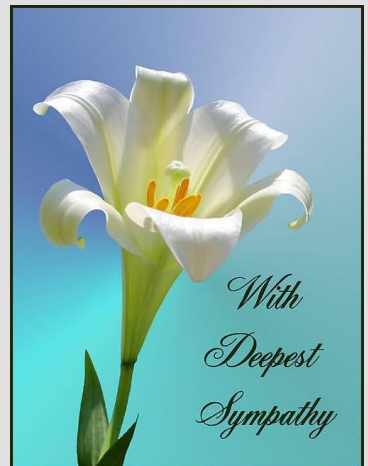
Technology is wonderful and can make life much easier but can also bring some enormous headaches with it. Care and caution can be your biggest protection. If you are unsure what to do about something, phone Computerpals and ask for help. We don’t bite - not anymore anyway! :-)

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 monthly meetings and Special Interest Group meetings via Zoom.

- ⇒ Lessons will commence in the Clubroom from **Tuesday 3rd November** as per the Timetable which you will find on the website.
- ⇒ **Enrolment / Open Morning will be held on Monday 2nd November - 9:30 am to 12 noon - Attendance by appointment** - Phone 49616576 with name and phone number for a call back.
- ⇒ **Be Connected classes** will still be conducted at no cost to learners (conditions of our grant) but we must have people book in so we adhere to the COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- ⇒ **Register for Zoom** by email or phone 49616576 and send your \$10 registration fee to ComputerPals bank account. **Computerpals with Newcastle Permanent Building Society BSB 650000 A/c No. 962205402 with (important) your name in the details section (so the Treasurer can identify who sent the payment).**
- ⇒ Limited numbers - up to 6 learners and 3 tutors - with social distancing
- ⇒ We suggest you bring your own laptop / tablet / phone. Our laptops will be available for use if needed.
- ⇒ Bring your own snacks and drinks
- ⇒ We strongly suggest that masks be worn as we are all in the vulnerable age group
- ⇒ At the end of each lesson the tutors will wipe down any of the club's laptops that have been used and clean / disinfect tables and touchpoints throughout the room to ensure everyone's safety.
- ⇒ Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the clubroom.
- ⇒ Disinfectant spray, hand soap and paper towel available in the toilet area.

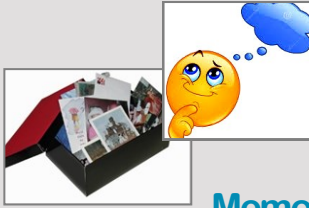
WORD PUZZLE...EXERCISE FOR THE BRAIN

Find the words from the list on the right - All Australian

N I C O L E K I D M A N E N A B S I R B A
 A R H C W O M B A T U Q U E E N S L A N D
 C U E T O S E L A W H T U O S W E N S T R
 O A S T R M L I A T A S S O S E H C A E B
 R V T S S E M S D S N U U E G R M O U E N
 A I R T I I P O M I P E L R A N E A W U B
 L C E E A E N A N Y D I N I F U I O G O U
 S T S U S R N I T W D G N I C I R D O H O
 E O E G A I R A M O E F E A T C N M T U U
 A R D O A R L U C E O A L R L N E G T G O
 P I R N S P R O B R M Y L L I R O B S H O
 A A E I U N R E E A P I E T A D A C L J R
 R S D M M C A S B T K S R N H C O I A A A
 L S N E E S T E U N S O G P K T H O I C G
 I E U I L S E S C U A L O S H R I M P K N
 A A N L A A T R R O G C E K S T R O U M A
 M F W Y C R I K N A B R U H T I E K S A K
 E O O K E I N D V E G E M I T E T H R N E
 N O D E S Y D N E Y M O N A R C H Y A W O
 T D S R E N R U O B L E M A L A O K M L D

- ADELAIDE
- AUSSIE
- BEACHES
- BOOMERANG
- BRISBANE
- CANBERRA
- COMMONWEALTH
- CONTINENT
- CORAL SEA
- CROCODILES
- DESERTS
- DIDGERIDOO
- DINGO
- DOWN UNDER
- EMUS
- EUCALYPTUS TREES
- HUGH JACKMAN
- KANGAROO
- KEITH URBAN
- KOALA
- KOOKABURRA
- KYLIE MINOGUE
- MARSUPIALS
- MELBOURNE
- MONARCHY
- NEW SOUTH WALES
- NICOLE KIDMAN
- OCEANS
- OUTBACK
- PARLIAMENT
- PERTH
- PLATYPUS
- PRIME MINISTER
- QUEENSLAND
- RAINFORESTS
- RUSSELL CROWE
- SEAFOOD
- SHRIMP
- SURFING
- SYDNEY
- TASMANIA
- VEGEMITE

Special Interest Groups



MemoryPals

Our new group meets on **first Monday** of each month at **1:00pm** now via Zoom. 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 via Zoom. Meetings are from **1:00pm**.



DigiPals



DigiPals is an active group of ComputerPals members who meet on the **third Monday** of each month at **1:00 p.m.**

Meetings will now be via Zoom unless a special outing is organised to explore digital photography.

MemoryPals

The next meeting of MemoryPals will be on the **first Monday of December (which will also be the last for this crazy year) at 1pm.**

All are 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 - just join the Zoom group—it will be the same link we use for Friday Zoom Classes.

Its going to be Christmas again **in about 50 days**, so get your ideas ready.....

WriterPals

Everybody has a story to tell...Our next Writerpals meeting will be **November 9th** starting at 1pm via Zoom. No need to book - just join the Zoom group—it will be the same link we use for Friday Zoom Classes.

I hope you've all been writing on your walls, windows or sliding doors, even on your driveways with chalk - that can be fun although your neighbours might be a bit dubious about your state of mind.

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

Start with one small story about just one person, thing, pet, event

I think I'm looking forward to catching up with some of you on our first 2020 swapping of ideas.

DigiPals

Digipals people watch your inbox for an email from Barry who will let you know all the DigiPals details. Take your cameras with you when you go on the upcoming Car Observation Run on 7th November (see the website for details).

Digipals group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1 pm and no doubt Barry will have some great ideas for your enjoyment and entertainment. No need to book - just join the Zoom group—it will be the same link we use for Friday Zoom Classes.

Friday Zoomies

For those not yet ready to head back into the classroom, Friday will be devoted to regular Zoom classes.

To find out what is on check your email or send an email to us at contact@computerpals.org.au to enquire what is coming up and how to join our Zoom sessions.

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 —

I remember the good old days...



When Snap, Crackle and Pop were sounds I heard from my cereal, not my body!



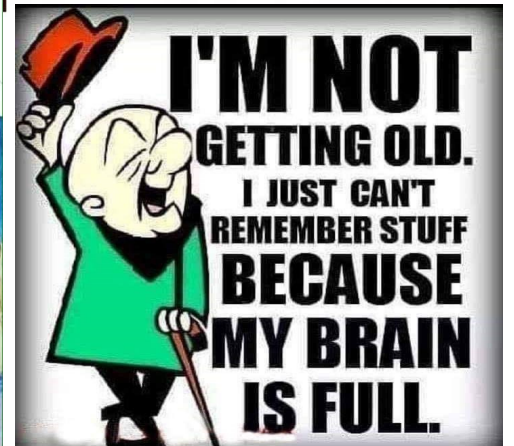
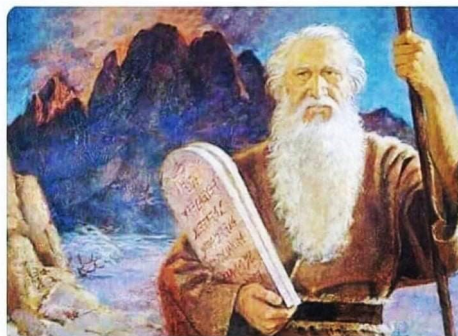
Sometimes being **short** is not that bad



MY KIDS LAUGH BECAUSE THEY THINK I'M CRAZY.

I LAUGH BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW IT'S HEREDITARY.

So technically Moses is the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



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