

ComputerPals - Newcastle

Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

**Sandra Keen****Happy and safe Easter to everyone**

Dates to Remember

**19th April : Special Event—
Lunch & Learn 10-12:30pm**

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President's Report

Happy Easter!

It is hard to believe we are a quarter way into 2021 and Autumn is here. The past few weeks have tested the resilience of many communities in our state as well as parts of Queensland. To those of you whose families and friends have been affected may the cleanup be as swift as possible.

This week I attended a webinar hosted by Good Things Foundation who run Be Connected. Associate Professor Anthony McCosker from Swinburne University led a team in evaluating the social impact of the Be Connected Program. The report revealed:

- The Be Connected program created a social return on investment of \$4.01 for every \$1 invested.
- The program has reached more than double the expected number of older Australians and has also had benefits for the wider community.
- Be Connected learners are safer online, more skilled, more confident, more socially connected and less lonely because of their participation in the program.

To those of you who are part of this amazing picture: “Thank you” and a special vote of thanks to all our Mentors who help deliver this program.

Now to what is coming up for our members...

Firstly, it is the Easter School Holidays and ComputerPals takes a break at this time. However, many of our tutors are going to be present at the Wallsend Shopping Village on 13th, 14th and 15th April to chat to seniors about their technology needs. They will also be at the Jesmond Centre on 20th, 21st and 22nd April.

Our own **Seniors Festival Special Event: Lunch and Learn** will take place on **Monday 19th April from 10:00am to 12:30pm** at the **Islington Public School Hall** (right next door to our clubroom). Come along, bring friends and enjoy interesting presentations, demonstrations and workshops. Choose your favourite photo to help judge our competition of photos from our recent outing. A light lunch of sandwiches, tea / coffee, etc will be served. Someone will win the lucky door prize of a Google Home Mini !!!

The timetable of classes for next term (April to June) is now available. If you have a need or interest and cannot find a class listed please speak to one of our tutors or Phone 4961 6576 and we will try to accommodate your wishes.

See you on 19th April for Lunch and Learn,

Sandra



A FEW SCAMS TO BE AWARE OF - AND BEWARE OF

I heard a warning on early morning radio this week about two friendly, chattymen coming round supposedly checking for flood damage for compensation claims, wanting to inspect your home but people who let them in were finding their homes burgled. Evidently these two parasites were eliciting information about shopping and social habits during their “chats”...BE CAREFUL

Phone and email scammers are still proliferating. I have just checked the spam folder on my mobile phone to find 48 spam texts that have been detected and blocked in the last 24 hours. Every day I find at least a dozen that the phone has blocked. Remember a ringing phone is an invitation to chat, not a royal command, so sometimes it is safer to let your answering machine monitor your calls, and then you can call back in your own time

Please be careful. If there is something you are not sure of, please phone Computerpals and we will be very happy to help you.

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](http://www.cyber.gov.au/report)

To find out more information about scams, or to find out other ways to protect yourself, visit www.scamwatch.gov.au. If you have been the victim of a scam, you can report it to local police or to the ACCC online at the ‘SCAMwatch report a scam’ page.



Because of Covid for the first time since 1945 the National Spelling Bee is cancel... cancel... cancel...
It's been called off.

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



... and that is WHY the chicken crossed the road.

SOME PEOPLE WON'T ADMIT THEIR FAULTS. I WOULD, IF I HAD ANY.

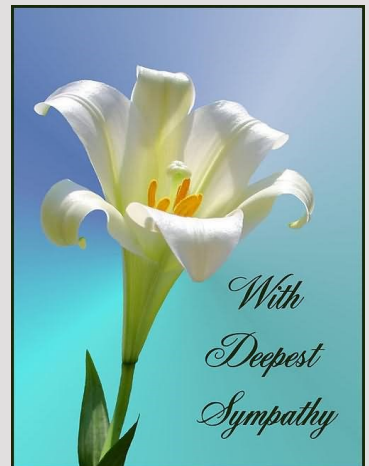


Best Wishes

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.



From the desk of Brenton, our incredible social organiser

With the BOM report promising???? a cloudy day with a possible morning shower, 20 intrepid photographers gathered in Carrington for a photographic walkabout.

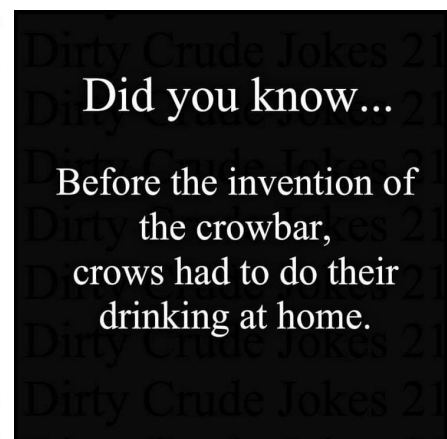
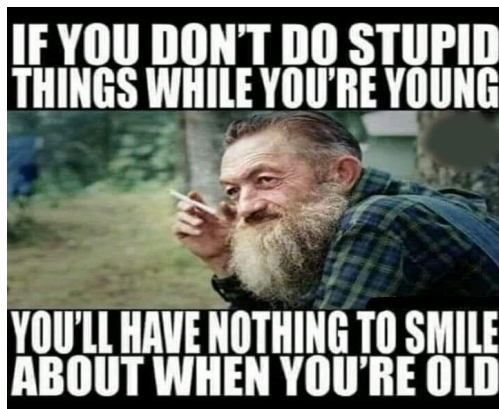
Cards were handed out showing 8 topics to capture, all within a marked territory on the participant’s maps, covering parts of Carrington, Maryville, and Wickham. With one of the topics being Exercise, a few shooters grabbed an early lead by snapping a short 4-legged canine chasing after his athletic master around the adjoining park – quite a laugh for all to see. The wide range of topics to cover saw the field quickly scatter in all directions, hoping to capture those special shots. With 4 ‘eateries/drinkies’ located throughout the target area, there was ample opportunity to call in for a pit stop refresher. With their mission accomplished, the shooters then dispersed in all directions to fill in the rest of the day, no doubt a little weary in the legs, but hopefully satisfied with the result of their efforts.

At our Seniors Week Event on Monday 19th April next, all those attending will have an opportunity to view images taken on this outing and vote for a People’s Choice for each category.

The **next outing** is scheduled for **Saturday 1st May** – please note this in your diary, with details to follow.

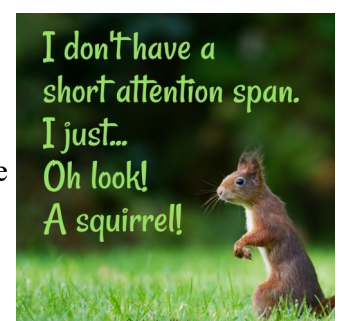
From the Newsletter Editor: There are no photos to accompany this report as normally happens because they will all be on display at the **Seniors Festival Special Event: Lunch and Learn on Monday 19th April from 10:00am to 12:30pm** in the school hall next door to our clubroom. No doubt they will also be up on our website afterwards.

Thank you Brenton, for the thought and effort that goes into the excursions and outings you devise for us. You and your lovely offsider do a fabulous job and it is much appreciated by all.

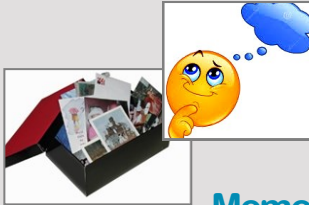


This little yarn is on me and I’m sitting here cackling like an idiot while trying to do this newsletter. I recently acquired one of the large surplus computer monitors from our clubroom to give me a larger more easily readable surface to work with. Today I connected everything up and it was wonderful...till I got a bright idea from some weird place in my brain. I now have two screens in front of me, so decided to put the newsletter on the big screen and use my little laptop screen to hunt through the newsletter stuff so I wouldn't have to keep chopping and changing back and forth which takes so much time that I would prefer to spend reading. Of course it didn't work because that's not what happens. Many snarls and much teeth-gnashing later the penny finally dropped and I realised the lunacy of what I was trying to do. While I was hiccupping through my chucklefest, my phone rang (as it does when it's least wanted) and my son was quite alarmed at the sound of the madwoman who answered his mother's phone. Finally told him what I had done and his reply was "do you want a corner room, or one with padded walls?" I can't even claim it as a senior's moment because my mind has always wandered off and done it's own thing whenever it felt like it. Sometimes it came back on its own and sometimes not. Today it came home when the rain started.

Everything that can go wrong will go wrong: Murphy's law
Thinly sliced cabbage. --Cole's Law



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**. Meetings are from 1:00 p.m. via Zoom until we call quits!



DigiPals



DigiPals is an active group of

ComputerPals 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 **Apple at 10 am, Android at 12:30 pm in the clubroom. (book in)**



MemoryPals

The next meeting of MemoryPals will be on the 3rd of May at 1pm.

We will meet back in the clubroom, just bring some ideas with you of anything special you might enjoy doing to help preserve, protect and perpetuate your memories and memorabilia.

Sandra will send around an email reminder of the meeting

Help is readily available should you require it [Book in via email](#) to let us know who's coming.

WriterPals

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

How about logging in and sharing some tales about your activities and what you got up to during the last few months and over Easter.

Before you realised how clever you are with technology, how would you have dealt with the restrictions of 2020? What would you have done 40+ years ago with such restricted activities and opportunities. Try writing a letter to the person you were then telling them all about what they're in for - 40+ years in the future.

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

I know I'm looking forward to catching up with some of your ideas

DigiPals

Digipals people watch your inbox for an email from Barry who will let you know all the DigiPals 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.

Friday Zoomies

For those who can't make it into the classroom, there will be regular Zoom classes on Fridays. After the Easter break Term 2 will commence 23rd April.

An email will be sent out with "What's On" and the log in codes.

To find out what is on - check your email or send an email to us at contact@computerpals.org.au to find out 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

Class Roster Team

Barry Keen



Mitzi Gordon

Judy Wallace



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 goes to voicemail & is not answered immediately.

Funnybone —

George Bush was traveling through an airport recently when he saw a man who looked just like Moses. He had longer, white hair, had a shepherd's staff, he was wearing a cloak and holding two stone tablets. George goes up to him and says, "Pardon me, but are you Moses?" The man doesn't even acknowledge him. He doesn't look and him or say anything.

Again, George says, "Excuse me, you look just like Moses... are you?" The man still does not respond in any way.

By now, George is starting to get irritated. He's not getting any answers! About this time a secret service agent approaches and asks if there is a problem. George tells him, "I've asked this guy if he is Moses two times and he hasn't even responded to me!" The secret service agent looks at Moses and asks, "So, are you Moses? Why won't you talk to us?" Moses finally looks at the secret service guy and says, "The last time I talked to a bush I spent 40 years wandering in the desert."

Gravity is a contributing factor in nearly 100 percent of all accidents involving falling objects. - Dave Allen

If we knew what we were doing, it would not be called research, would it? - Albert Einstein

It's a 5 minute walk from my house to the pub and a 30 minute walk from the pub to my house. The difference is staggering

You can, in fact, think the unthinkable. With an ith-berg.

If vegetarians eat vegetables, then you really have to watch out for humanitarians.

Why was the biscuit so unhappy? His mother was a wafer so long.

Murphy while on holiday a bit sozzled stumbles upon a baptism in the River Jordan

There was a priest standing there, dunking people's heads underwater, and when they emerged he would ask if they'd found Jesus.

Murphy wanders down to the river to join in, and when it gets to his turn, the priest dunks his head under the water. when he gets back up, he asks Murphy if he had found Jesus, to which he replied no, so the priest dunks him underwater again, this time a little longer. and again, he pops back up, and after the priest asked if he'd found Jesus, he said no, a second time. the priest then dunks him under once more, only this time he kept Murphy underwater for a while. when he came back up one final time, the priest asked if he'd finally found Jesus, Murphy asked,

"Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

My friend, celebrating a special occasion, went to a restaurant and ordered what she thought would be a lobster tail. But to her dismay, the entire crustacean was on her plate. "He's looking right at me!" she exclaimed to the waiter. "I just can't eat him."

The waiter removed her plate, but returned it a few moments later. The lobster now had a little blindfold neatly tied around its eyes.

The English Language is weird. It can be understood through tough thorough thought though.