



SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President



Sandra Keen

Dates to Remember :

AGM - Cardiff RSL
Friday, Aug 6th - 11 am

Social Outing

Saturday, Aug 14th—see
Page 2

You can still

BE A ZOOMIE and
 join us online. Fri
 mornings @ 9.45

Special Groups -

**Memorypals, Writ-
 erpals & Digipals will**
meet via ZOOM on
their usual Mondays

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President's Report:

The beginning of this term has been very busy with many new members joining the club. We also welcomed back former members who rejoined. Unfortunately, the Members' Morning Tea / Special General meeting could not go ahead as a face-to-face meeting as planned due to the COVID situation and last minute decision of schools not allowing any visitors. Thank you to the members who quickly responded to the changed arrangements. The updates to our constitution were unanimously agreed to by those who attended the meeting via Zoom and in the Clubroom.

This term most classes have been well attended. With the current COVID restrictions we must adhere to the 4 square metre rule and have just nine people in the clubroom. This has meant classes are limited to six learners, so on several occasions lately we have split the afternoon class into two sessions; first at 12:30 pm, followed by another at 2:00 pm. This has meant volunteer tutors staying longer but it allows those who enroll in class to participate. A big thank you to all our volunteers.

I do hope our writers and photographers are putting their thoughts or images together for the ASCCA Competition. Remember, we have a reputation to uphold—Champion Club in both Writing and Photography from previous years. Each entrant receives points for participating which count to our overall score. See Pages 7 and 8 for the details. We are willing to assist with the entry procedure. It is up to all of us to have a go!!

Our next big event is the **Annual General Meeting Luncheon at Cardiff RSL Club**, corner of Munibung and Macquarie Roads, Cardiff on **Friday, 6th August, starting at 11:00 am**. Numbers at this event are restricted because of current health guidelines but a few spaces are still available [CLICK HERE](#) for the form to advise your intention to attend. Lunch cost is \$17.50 if you are staying for lunch (pay Computerpals - we have to pay Cardiff RSL Club).

Our Club's 20th, now 21st, Birthday celebrations have been deferred and will be held later in the year.

We have had nominations for several positions on the committee. However, we are still to receive nominations for President and Secretary. As I have exceeded my term as President I am not standing for nomination. It is essential we fill this position, as well as Secretary, because **ComputerPals Newcastle will cease to operate without someone in these positions.**

Stay safe and well,

Sandra

Social Outing—Saturday, 14th August

Our next outing will be a nature walk and photographic opportunity at Tilligerry Habitat along with Tanilba Bay Foreshore Reserve, Tanilba Bay on Saturday 14th August next.

With ongoing COVID - 19 concerns, an outdoor experience has been preferred, hoping it will be a sunny Winter's day. With few options at Tanilba Bay and Lemon Tree Passage, we will meet at McDonalds Williamtown for a coffee 'fix' before tackling the main event.

The Tilligerry Habitat is a State Reserve Trust run entirely by volunteers - the paths throughout the area are a credit to them, with well graded gravel paths and timbered bridges and walkways where required to traverse low lying areas and creeks. There are numerous paths to explore, along with the main walk circuit which will begin and end at the Centre's office, taking you through a myriad of trees, palms, grasses and herbs including Scribbly Gum Eucalyptus, Burrawang palm like plants, Blady Grass, along with Egg & Bacon Herbs. Along the foreshore you will see a number of trees fallen into the water and virtually rooting into the sand below the surface. Numerous bird species call this area home, along with Koalas (if you are lucky enough to spot them). The main circuit should take approx. 1 hour plus exploration and photographic stops, while there are a number of other tracks to explore. With the Visitor Centre closed (COVID), information (including a map) can be obtained from

www.tilligerryhabitat.org.au

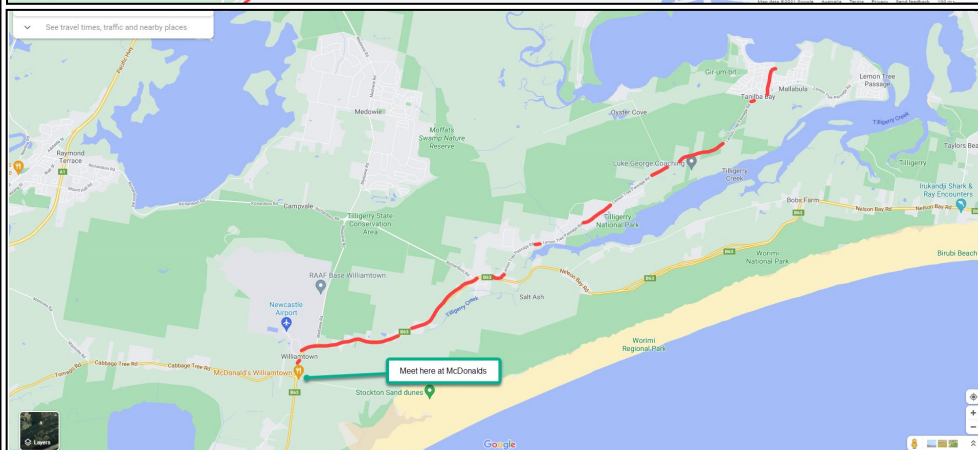
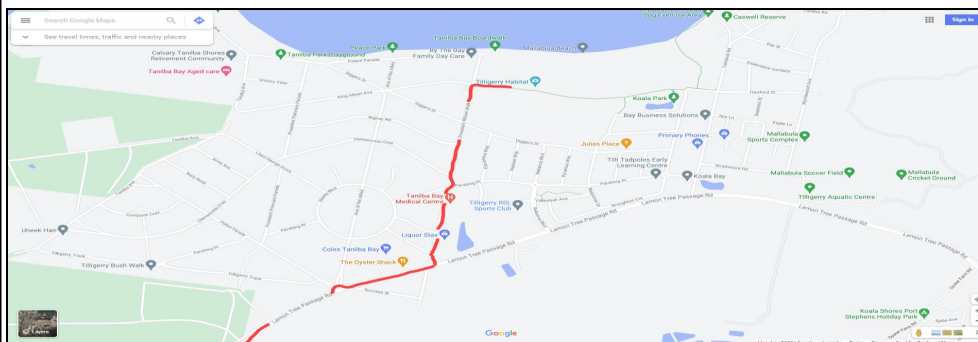
When: Saturday 14th August 2021

Meet: McDonalds, Williamtown

Time: 9.15am - Morning Tea
10.00am - Leave for Tilligerry Habitat

Cost: Morning Tea, Lunch wherever ??? (your option),
No Charge for Habitat entry

The usual outdoor activity 'necessaries' are suggested, including comfortable walking shoes, hat/cap etc. and of course, your camera. It is suggested that you print out the walking trail map and bring it with you for obvious reasons. Direction maps are attached **CLICK ON MAPS** below.

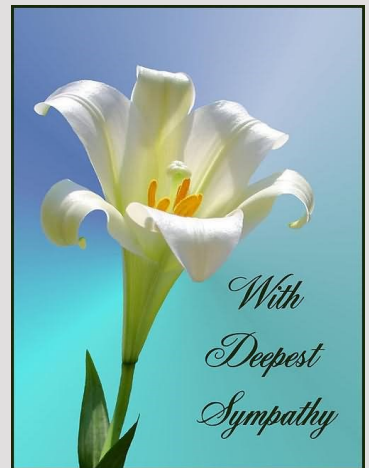


Best Wishes

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.



A few days ago we farewelled one of my favourite people, Fred Schinkel. Talented writer and teacher extraordinaire. His knack of reducing a complicated concept to the simplicity of a Dr Seuss story made his classes a pleasure to attend. A kind, gentle man he never lost that mischievous twinkle in his eye when telling a story or a joke. Vale, Fred. You are sadly missed....

That Word - "Travel" - a *Tongue-in-Cheek* story by Fred Schinkel of a traumatic journey that never happened.

“There’s a little scene,” said Ozzie, “in ‘The Wind in the Willows’, just before the expedition to recapture Toad Hall. Remember it? Rat is busily preparing everything he thinks needed: “Here’s a sword for Badger; here’s a sword for Mole; here’s a sword for Toad; here’s a sword for Rat. Here’s a pistol for Badger; here’s a pistol for Mole; here’s a pistol for Toad; here’s a pistol for Rat.” And so on and so on, as the little piles grew and grew. Finally Badger interrupts declaring gruffly: “We four, with our sticks, shall clear the floor of all the lot of them in five minutes!”

“Mention the word ‘travel’ in our household, and that’s exactly the scene. Virgo wife immediately constructs piles of ‘necessaries’ for each of the family: ‘Here’s five underpants for Ozzie; here’s five underpants (giggle), I mean ‘panties’, for me; here’s five leopard-skins for Mick; here’s five knickers for Helen; etc, etc, etc.’ Driven to distraction at the sight of these growing piles, Badger-like, I protest that I, for one, won’t need a tenth of all that.”

“All very well for you who spent his first twenty-odd years living out of the contents of two suitcases! You know I wouldn’t want you to say: ‘We should have brought this, we should have brought that, and our holiday be ruined!’ ”

“You see what’s happened, of course? The noble expedition to seek out new places, foreign people, strange customs, exotic grog and tucker, has been perverted into a holiday’. Admittedly I’m a Pisces and rather too casual (so I’m told) about Things That Matter, but I have nightmares of lugging eight lots of super-sized suitcases round marathon sized air-terminals, then guarding them obsessively on railway platforms, either against being confiscated as suspect bombs, or the depredations of ‘porters’ who descend declaring: “Monsieur has a formidable need of help with all that luggage, n’estce pas?” and, foot planted on the most valuable case, demanding a huge ransom.”

“Then comes the struggle to squash everything into the two taxis— one being grossly inadequate—which have magically appeared with drivers whom the porter ‘very highly recommends, monsieur’.”

“Then those stations and their ridiculous platforms, almost on the level of the very train tracks, requiring what the French call ‘climbing up into the train’ or ‘descending from the train’— very apt, those phrases.”

Ozzie pauses reminiscently... “Let’s take what you and I might consider a simple trip: say from Rome Central to Zurich.” “Our mountains of luggage unloaded at the station, and hovering porters summarily dismissed, we tag along in the wake of Child 1 who, because of his cheek and arrogance (very handy in Italy), has been sent ahead (like one of Caesar’s scouts) to acquire ‘information’ as to: platform number, departure time, cost of tickets, availability of Valium tablets, and then rendezvous with the baggage-train (i.e., the rest of family) at the Waiting Room. Twenty minutes later, Child 1 returns, his scouting in vain; not because of lack of cheek - heaven forbid! – but because the Information Official has declared cappuccino break and left, impervious to the insults of the multitude of those not-about-to-be-informed. Meantime we have spied what we think is the ticket office and Child 1 is dispatched in that direction loaded with thousands of lira (the gods be thanked introduction of euros!) to purchase ‘four, going-only, adult, second class tickets to Zurich’. Wife 1 (and only) and Child 2 are appointed trustees of baggage-train whilst Husband 1 goes to consult the Arrival/Departure oracles (aka the Indicators). They indicate nothing. Supposedly this is because it is more than twenty minutes before departure time of said train. This is manifestly untrue. Having waited another ten minutes at the Milan platform entrance where the baggage-train has been strategically positioned, Child 1 dashes up, waving tickets and yelling: “Quick, dad, it’s on platform 18, leaving in three minutes.” Baggage-train alerted and loads apportioned, it gallops in wild disarray from platform 9 to 18. There is no time to locate carriage or seat (irrelevant in Italy). Wife 1 and Child 2 mount the ladder-steps to the carriage. Husband 1 and Child 1 shoulder bags, heft them into the train door and scramble after them. For the All present, items barely accounted for, the train lurches forward, depositing family willy-nilly into seats where it subsides gasping to await the arrival of Milan. The whole ignominious manoeuvre has gone unremarked by other passengers.”

“At Milan, the same in reverse. Suitcases are ‘descended’, counted and re-organised. The baggage train sets up post hopefully at the adjacent platform entrance. Not even the Italian passengers know from which platform the ‘rapido’ departs.”

“Husband 1 rushes after a red-headed signora with whom he has chatted during the Rome-Milan journey: hopeful she will be his Moses. He loses her in spite of her fiery pillar of hair. He speaks to the engine-driver – the locomotive being nearest the platform entrance, the rear carriages pointing in the direction of Zurich. The engine-driver declares loudly, gesticulating wildly, that he does not know where this train is going, ask the guard! Husband 1 pelts frantically down the platform and finds a guard. The guard urges him to mount ‘subito!’, and not ‘preoccupy yourself on’ the carriage, the seat number or the destination: if the driver doesn’t know, how can he know? And this train ‘departs here’ in one minute!”

Husband 1 tears back to alert the baggage train. There is a repeat of baggage hefting, and seat-acquiring. By this time Husband 1 has double hernia and is speechless with exhaustion. He subsides painfully, consoling himself that Zurich is, hopefully, the end of the line and all, luggage included, can be descended at leisure.”

“Travel,” Ozzie sums up, “is not for the old or the faint-hearted. A wife may see it as a holiday, or treat it as a shopping splurge. Believe me, for a mere male it is a route march, destination uncertain, time-frame unknowable, and cost prohibitive.”

FRED (A tribute by Harold Franks)

A man of his calibre is hard to find
 One who had such an inquisitive mind
 Could tunnel this thoughts into big or small
 To the rest of us, he's ten feet tall

A request for help was often heard
 He's the first with a helping word
 With eyes afire and smile so bright
 Would work on a problem half the night

Computerpals was his great love
 Helping people, he'd give a shove
 Prose and verse, his real acclaim
 Never a thought of praise or fame

A humble man, through his long life
 Helped along by a loving wife
 But the Lord in heaven called his name
 It's time for Fred to leave earth's game.



Carmel wrote the following poems on the way home from two of Fred's classes. Sitting at red lights, the words just flowed. The classes were Photoshop Elements and what we could do with our photos.

Fred's Class

He stood beside the monitor, the pointer in his hand
 "Just yell at me" he told us, "if you don't understand.
 I'll show you how to change things in your family snaps
 This program's quite involved, so put on your thinking caps."

As he started to explain just what we had to do
 He swished that little pointer round like Zorro used to do!
 We took a little bit from here and moved it over there
 And things that didn't work right had us tearing out our hair.

"Now are there any questions, or are you all confused?
 Can you all fix up your photos with the tools I've helped you use?"
 "I can't get rid of marching ants and now my sky's turned red.
 These tips and tricks you've taught us just won't stay in my head."

"The magic lasso thingy wants to stitch my picture through
 And I just cannot stop it no matter what I do.
 I've hit the backspace often and whacked K on the head:
 I think I'll have to close the lot and start again instead."

"You need to run the mouse round there and then you hit this key
 And everything will be just fine" was what he said to me.
 So I ran the little rat around and clicked it here and there
 And then I hit the enter key and marching ants were there

And then I clicked another place and everything was gone
 "Don't worry" he said. "It's all still there. We'll find it later on.
 Right now it's time to take a break and have a cup of tea
 And then we'll work real hard to see how clever you can be."

Tea break over, back we went to have another try!
 Those rotten little marching ants; enough to make me cry.
 With combination key and click the little blighters ran.....
 I'll have to practise hard at home, and do the best I can.

Fred's Other Class

I went back for another dose of knowledge from our Fred
 And all the stuff I learned is running rampant through my head.
 Layers was the class this time, and I finally think I know
 Just how to put a friendly face on a big ripe red tomato.

We moved the clocks and keyboards and the bearings all around
 Added some letters and arrows, as well as a shape quite round.
 Those marching ants all came back too but now I've learned the way
 To make them behave their pesky selves or send them all away.

Barry controlled the mouse this time while Fred told what to do
 The rodent wouldn't cooperate - chaos for a minute or two.
 The eyes not what they used to be, the easy point and click,
 With distance between, (some shakes as well), became more miss than hit.

Trouble was, when we all clicked, if the place was a little bit wrong
 The picture did much more than change - it was often completely gone.
 The shock of this made panic set in and arms waved high and wild
 Fred sorted it all with a click or two, his manner still calm and mild.

Some computers then chose to rebel and adopted a will of their own
 They did some complicated things we hadn't yet been shown.
 Fred came round and fixed each glitch, still with a smile and a click
 "It's time for a cuppa" he told us all, "but we have to be real quick"

"There's lots of work still to be done if we're to get through on time."
 So back we went to try to bring our reluctant ants in line.
 As we worked on, Fred's voice as guide, it became so wonderfully clear -
 If I don't want "HIM" in a picture - I can make him disappear.

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 Assistance Classes on the **Fourth Friday** each month is our regular meeting **Apple** at 10 a.m, **Android** at 12:30pm in the clubroom.



MemoryPals

The next meeting of MemoryPals will be on **Monday 2nd August at 1:00 pm** via Zoom—for about an hour

All are welcome to attend our Zoom meetings, 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 No need to book - just join the Zoom group.

WriterPals

Everybody has a story to tell...Our next Writerpals meeting will be **August 9th** starting at 1pm via Zoom...

This is also last week before the ASCCA competitions close, so please get your entries in. Entry form is accessible on the [ASCCA website](#) or [CLICKING HERE](#).

How about logging in and sharing some tales about your activities and what you got up to during the last few months and how you got on with your entries for the ASCCA Creative Writing Competition

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, Friday will be devoted to regular Zoom classes.

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 —

Just For Laughs...

Damn it, you're hired.

Interview in an IT company



So, what makes you suitable for this job?



I hacked your computer and invited myself for this interview

Banana Bread.



Follow me for more recipes.

You know it's a cold day when your teeth start chattering and they're still on the nightstand.



I'll never forget the look on the cashier's face, when she scanned the packet of bird seed, And I asked her how long does it take for the birds to grow once I plant them.

FIRST PICTURE OF WATER ON MARS...



www.facebook.com/DiedLaughing



Just once.

How often do planes crash?



"The 6 feet of safe distance makes things tougher for all of us."

A PESSIMIST sees a dark tunnel
An OPTIMIST sees light at the end of the tunnel

A REALIST sees a freight train

The TRAIN driver sees 3 idiots standing on the tracks.

A NEW STUDY RECENTLY FOUND THAT HUMANS EAT MORE BANANAS THAN MONKEYS



I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I ATE A MONKEY

Don't let them take the temperature on your forehead as you enter the supermarket, its a government plot to erase your memory. I went for a bottle of milk and a loaf of bread and came home with a case of beer and 12 bottles of wine!

Husband and I went grocery shopping with masks, got home, took off masks, brought home wrong husband! Stay alert people!

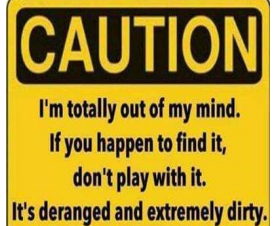
HEALTHY EATING #43



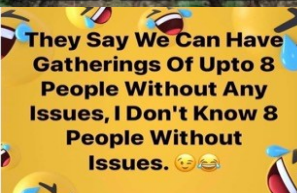
I PICK FRESH VEGETABLES EVERY DAY. I FEED THEM TO MY PIG AND HE CONVERTS THEM INTO BACON.



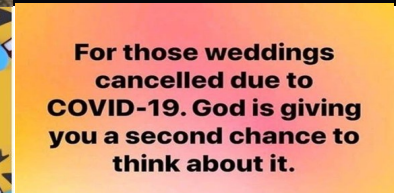
ONLY GOD KNOWS WHAT MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKERS HAVE TOLD THIS MONKEY



CAUTION
I'm totally out of my mind. If you happen to find it, don't play with it. It's deranged and extremely dirty.



They Say We Can Have Gatherings Of Upto 8 People Without Any Issues, I Don't Know 8 People Without Issues. 😂😂



For those weddings cancelled due to COVID-19. God is giving you a second chance to think about it.

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.

ASCCA has reinstated the Creative Writing Competition for 2021, and the guidelines for the entries are listed below.

I have spoken to the organiser, Susan Jensen, to clarify a thing or two and can tell you that **poetry is not included...** at least not this year, so stories are all that will be judged.

With the English language being so tricky with grammar, similar sounding words, words that are spelled the same but have different meanings, plus many other idiosyncratic foibles, Susan suggested a free program that we may find helpful <https://www.grammarly.com> This little program is well worth checking out and might be helpful for those of us who sometimes get our words mixed up eg weather, wether or whether etc. There are heaps of these puzzlers out there. Give it a try. It is free.

Creative Writing Competition 2021 — Guidelines

Entries open 2nd August and close at midnight on 16th August 2021.

Send your entry, with your head and shoulders (selfie) photograph and a completed entry form to competitions@ascca.org.au.
ASCCA Board members and professional writers are ineligible to enter.

The six categories include enough scope and a broad enough explanation to allow for a range of entrants with a wide range of skills and imagination to confidently enter any category. All entries are to be submitted by the individual writer who is encouraged to present up to three pieces in total; each in a different category, and each of which has a 1000 word limit.

Please use — Font: Times New Roman, Size: 14 point, Lines to be double spaced.

CATEGORIES Up to 3 topics allowed

1 Femininity / Masculinity *The essence of being male or female of any age.*

2 Companion Animals *Capturing the magical attraction of small furry, hairy, scaled or feathered companions.*

3 Seasons and Weather *The delights and excitement of the seasonal or climatic changes in the natural world around you.*

4 Dusk to Dawn *Strange things that inhabit your dreams.*

5 Just Plain Ugly *It's in the eye of the beholder.*

6 Life Changing Event *What was the effect of the event?
Please avoid anything to do with a pandemic.*

Champion Creative Writers — winners will be selected by judge/s.

*40 points for first place, 30 points for second place
20 points for third place, 10 points for highly commended,
1 club point for each topic entered.*

Winners will be announced at the ASCCA Conference on 10th November.

Their names, their selfie and entries will be published on the ASCCA website after 10th November 2021

The list of subject matter for the **Photographic Competition** gives you a very enticing range of topics to display your creativity. If you have questions, please contact Barry Keen through the Computerpals email or phone number.

I wish you all the very best of good luck and happy shooting.

Digital Photography Competition 2021 — Guidelines

Entries open 15th September & close at midnight on 30th September 2021.

Send your entry, with your head and shoulders (selfie) photograph and a completed entry form to competitions@ascca.org.au.

ASCCA Board members and professional photographers are ineligible to enter.

The approach this year is on creativity and interpretation of the categories. Photographic technical ability is still important but not more important than the creative interpretation of the subject. Considering both will allow all entrants to show their abilities. The seven categories include enough scope and a broad enough explanation to allow entrants with a wide range of skills and imagination to confidently enter any category.

All entries are to be submitted by the individual photographer who is permitted to present one photograph, to a maximum size of 4MB in each category, taken between 2nd September 2020 and 15th September 2021.

No post camera manipulation will be permitted — except minor cropping, straightening and exposure adjustments.

CATEGORIES Up to seven photos in total allowed

1.0 People — Femininity/Masculinity - More than an image, rather a visual expression (your interpretation) of the essence of being male or female of any age.

2.0 Companionable animals - Filling a void (or finding a place) at any age. Capturing the magical attraction of small furry, hairy, scaled or feathered companions.

3.0 Nature — The Seasons and Weather - The delights and excitement of the seasonal or climatic changes in the natural world around you.

4.0 Night time — Dusk to Dawn - Any image captured at night with or without additional artificial lighting.

5.0 The Wild Card — Just Plain Ugly - It's in the eye of the beholder.

6.0 Simplicity - Images which say more with less and/or by powerful composition and/or the use or absence of colour.

7.0 Form in nature - Images that capture naturally created lines, shapes, patterns, or mathematical sequences, etc. in the natural world.

Champion Digital Photographers — winners will be selected by judge/s.

40 points for first place, 30 points for second place
20 points for third place, 10 points for highly commended
1 club point for each photograph entered.

Winners will be announced at the ASCCA Conference on 10th November.
Their names, selfies and entries will be published on the ASCCA website after 10th November, 2021.