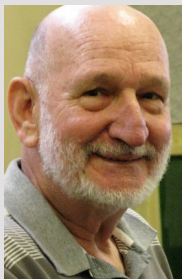




SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au



President

Barry Keen

Dates to Remember

- * **End of classes 10/12/21**
- * **BeConnected 6/12/21 at Club Lambton**

Stay safe, dry and healthy.

You can still **BE A ZOOMIE** and join us online. Fri mornings @ 9.45 am (last one this year 10/12)

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

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President's Report



This past month has been another of progress towards our goal of re-purposing the club in the matters of how we will deliver future classes and where.

You will all be aware by now that we are meeting on Monday mornings at Club Lambton (Lambton Bowling Club, 51 Karoola Rd Lambton—near the swimming pool in Lambton Park). Basically these meetings are for delivery of BeConnected sessions where we present a specific topic from the BeConnected range and then encourage people to arrange themselves onto tables of 3 plus a tutor to work on matters of their own interest with the help of a mentor. Everyone is encouraged to attend our last session at Lambton for 2021 on Monday 6th December.

We've now had four gatherings there in COVIDSAFE manner. They have proven popular with over 20 people there each day. The Committee has met there twice and the venue is definitely working well for us. We have met a couple of times at the Newcastle Men's Shed at New Lambton. Another session is planned with them on Thursday 9/12. Our regular Friday Zoom session run by Carolyn & Mitzi is also a very popular time with attendances upwards of around 20 each session. Last Friday, we took a break from teaching and Zooming classes and 24 members gathered at Speers Point Park for our Christmas Picnic. The weather was overcast but fine and warm and we were happy to have cover of the shelter and enjoy a light breeze until we were ushered off home with the advance of thunder & lightning (which ultimately didn't develop into anything much). Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. Our year is rapidly nearing it's end for our Christmas break from 10/12. When we return in the New Year we will begin with the delivery of our new program and hybrid lessons—some face-to-face and the continuation of some classes via Zoom and the resumption of the regular Friday Zoom sessions. Mondays at Club Lambton will resume on 17th January. I'll see some of you over the next week and I wish all of you the very best of Seasons Greetings and look forward to 2022.

Stay safe and well, 'til I see you again in the New Year,

Cheers

Barry Keen

10 signs you're talking to a scammer:

from the Scamwatch website, where you will find much more information on each of these points:

1. Odd-looking phone number - Be highly suspicious if you don't know anyone in the area code showing.
2. Delayed greeting - If you answer but the person on the other end doesn't respond right away, chances are they used an automatic dialer.
3. Caller can't communicate - It's one thing to have an accent, but quite another to have very little command of the English language.
4. Caller says there's a problem with an unknown account - A sure signal that a scammer has reached you is if they say there is a problem with your credit product or utility provider – but you don't have an account with that company. At first, you may be confused and wonder if it could be for an old account you've forgotten about. Don't take the bait.
5. The tone of the conversation becomes heated - At first, the person you're speaking with may sound normal, so you won't suspect anything is wrong. Yet when it starts to seem off and you question the nature of the call, the so-called representative becomes irritable or even belligerent. It's an intimidation tactic and a major red flag.
6. You have to identify yourself - No, you don't. That person called you, so they should know who you are. If they tell you to provide personal data so the conversation can continue – especially your name, age or birthdate, address and account numbers – you're on the line with someone hoping to bilk you. If they are supposedly calling from a company you deal with, hang up and call the company to see if there is a problem. Report the scam to them.
7. Caller uses a generic greeting - Another sign that a person could be a scammer is if they address you generically. If they know who you are, they will greet you with your name.
8. The call starts with threats or dire warnings - It is easy to spot a scam call when it begins ominously as in someone purporting to be from the Tax Dept claiming you owe money and it must be paid immediately or you will be arrested.
9. You need to act fast to take advantage of an offer - Scammers will often play on your emotion. If you don't do something now, you'll miss out. Sometimes they're legit, but you have to take time to question it. Maybe you did enter a contest and win a prize. Great, explain that you will call the company back. If they say no, and you have to decide now, it's a scam. This can also take the form of them giving you a spur-of-the-moment opportunity to pay to reduce or cancel a debt
10. Responses are canned - When you're on the phone, you may think that you're discussing matters with a human – particularly when they're using your name and the sentence structure is natural. Listen closely for responses that follow a precise pattern. This is what's known as a deepfake. Bots use real-sounding voices and are cued to pause at certain times during the conversation and say 'um' or 'let me check on that for you. It's just a recording, but it can trick you into providing your credit card numbers and other private information, which it will capture and exploit.

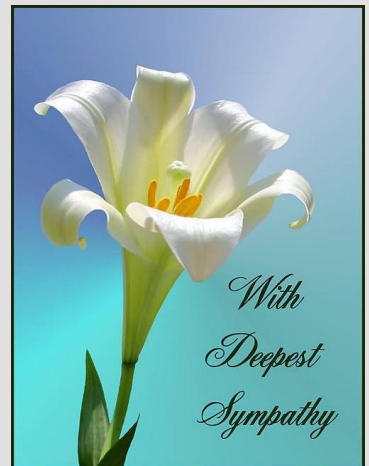
The "it won't happen to me" outlook is both foolhardy and dangerous. Go to the ACCC and Scamwatch website and educate yourself. Get knowledge of the latest scams and how to recognize and deal with them. If you fall into a trap and divulge your credit card numbers, immediately call your bank and get any charges stopped. Beware of buying online through the Facebook, Twitter and other ads - they aren't all genuine companies. Google them and get more information. It can be a technologically scary world out there but knowledge and your own common sense are your best protection.

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 SOCIAL ORGANISER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Our Committee decided the safest option for our Christmas get-together would be to again **meet in Speers Point Park for a picnic lunch**. As was the case last year, the Club booked the large Open Shelter (near the Stage) to cover any vagaries in the weather.

Friday 3rd December

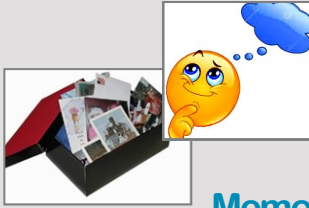
It turned out to be reasonable weather despite the forecast. 24 intrepid members gathered for what turned out to be a very pleasant picnic in the park. All enjoyed the day.



Thank you Brenton. Another brilliant example of your organisational abilities



Special Interest Groups



MemoryPals

Our new group meets on **first Monday** of each month at **2:00pm** 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 begin at **2:00 pm**.



DigiPals

DigiPals is an active group of ComputerPals members who meet on the **third Monday** of each month at **1 p.m.** to explore digital photography.

MemoryPals

The next meeting of MemoryPals will be **December 6th, via ZOOM**

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 **February 14th** starting at 2pm via Zoom...

For that meeting, how about going back to school-day style and sharing some stories about Christmas from your childhood, back when Christmas was more family oriented and less of the opulent gift giving.

Try jotting down a short story from your Christmas past, no matter how distant.

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 (the next one will be on 21/1) and no doubt Barry will have some great ideas for your enjoyment and entertainment.

Friday Zoomies

Friday will be devoted to regular Zoom classes. Start at 10:00 am. Last one for 2021 will be on 10 December.

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

Roster Team

Sandra Keen



Mitzi Gordon

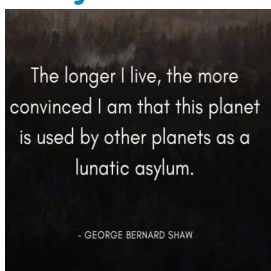
Judy Wallace



Jackie Lampe

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.

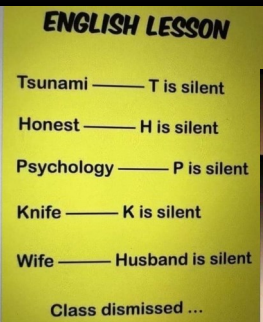
Funnybone —



With the rise of self driving vehicles, it's only a matter of time until there's a country song where the guy's truck leaves him



So bills are washed, the laundry is paid, the clothes are in the oven and the last load of dinner is in the dryer... who says I can't multitask?



An old lady lay dying. She sent a message for a Tax Office Supervisor and her Lawyer to come to the hospital.

When they arrived, they were ushered up to her room. As they entered the room, the old lady held out her hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed.

The dying lady grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything. Both the Tax Office Supervisor and the lawyer were touched and flattered that the old lady would ask them to be with her during her final moments, however they were also puzzled because she had never given any indication that she particularly liked either one of them.

Finally, the Lawyer asked, "My lady, why did you ask the two of us to come here?"

The old lady mustered all her strength, and then whispered weakly....."Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I'd like to go."

Two Irishmen were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up. A blonde walked by and asked them what they were doing. Paddy replied, "We're supposed to be finding the height of this flagpole, but we don't have a ladder."

The blonde took out an adjustable spanner from her bag, loosened a few bolts and laid the flagpole down.

She got a tape measure out of her pocket, took a few measurements and announced that it was 18 feet 6 inches.

Then, she walked off. Mick said to Paddy, "Isn't that just like a blonde! We need the height, and she gives us the length"



Let's all take a moment to appreciate the time and effort this guy spent putting a strap on his dirt so it wouldn't fall off.



Yesterday his wife told him that the leftover chicken would make a great sandwich. He took it out of the fridge and waited, but the chicken did nothing. He had to make his own sandwich.



CAR FAINTS AFTER SEEING THE PRICE OF FUEL
Wisconsin couple were treated for minor injuries at the local hospital emergency. After their Smart Car hit a squirrel on highway 8. The squirrel refused treatment and left the scene!



My wife just opened my car door for me.
Would have been a nice gesture had we not been going 70 mph.

You can tell me this is a bird flying all you want I still think it's a rabbit on skis in the middle of a long jump



Good luck my little bunny friend.

Researchers for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority found over 200 dead crows near greater Boston recently, and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu. A Bird Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was definitely NOT Avian Flu. The cause of death appeared to be vehicular impacts. However, during the detailed analysis it was noted that varying colours of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws.

By analysing these paint residues it was determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by an impact with a car. MTA then hired an Ornithological Behaviourist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of truck kills versus car kills.

He very quickly concluded the cause: When crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger.

They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", not a single one could shout "Truck."

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