

ComputerPals - Newcastle

Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

**Sandra Keen***Winter is on its way...stay warm and well*

Dates to Remember

Clubroom has reopened with classes only - on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Stay safe and healthy.

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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Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

President's Report - May 2021

Our first Members Meeting in over a year was our Seniors Festival Event / Lunch and Learn on 19th April. The numbers in attendance were the best in quite a while and everyone seemed to appreciate the friendly atmosphere, the learning and the lunch. Huge thanks to all those who helped make this event a wonderful success. (See Report on the event – Page _)

May is another busy month, starting with our ComputerPals Outing – An Observation Car Rally on Saturday 1st May. Should be fun!

Privacy Awareness Week 2021 - Monday 3 May to Sunday 9 May is an annual event that highlights the importance of protecting personal information.



Mothers' Day on Sunday 9th May. We wish all the mothers, grandmothers and all those who have had a mothering role at some time in their lives, a very Happy Day.

17th to 23rd May is National Volunteer Week to celebrate the significant contribution of Australia's almost six million volunteers. Each

year these volunteers dedicate over 600 million hours to help others.

Each and every Computerpals Committee Member, Tutor/Mentor and Assistant should take a bow. The job you do is appreciated and valued.

During the recent school holidays and the following week, several of our committee members and tutors volunteered to 'man' a stall at the Wallsend and Jesmond Shopping Centres. They chatted to local folk about the benefits of joining ComputerPals and Be Connected. Thanks to all of those who took time out of their busy weeks to spread the word about our club. I also attended The Hive in Hamilton for their Seniors Expo and will be attending the Newcastle Digital Library later in May to give a talk on using the internet safely. Check the Newcastle Library website for that event.



A FEW SCAMS TO BE AWARE OF - AND BEWARE OF

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.

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.

Term 2 has commenced.

We had a really great turnout for our Seniors Festival Learn & Lunch on Monday - the atmosphere was fantastic and everyone was engaged in the learning and photo competition voting/judging and enjoyed the sandwich lunch. The winners of the eight sections each won a box of chocolates. Ian Watson won the Google Smart Home Mini door prize. Congratulations, Ian

A team of volunteers have been attending a stand promoting Computerpals & BeConnected for the Seniors Festival at Wallsend Village 3 days last week and we're at Jesmond Central 3 days this week. Also Sandra did a one off stand at 'The Hamilton Community Hive' for the Seniors Expo today.

ZOOM class - this Friday 21/4 from 10:00 am - the topic will be Smart Home Devices (eg Google Home).

If there are enough requests it is possible that this class may be repeated at a later date. The presentation by Carolyn and Mitzi at the Learn & Lunch was very interesting and hugely informative, so if you weren't there you might like to check out the Smart Home Concept. Being able to turn on my lights, air conditioner or kettle remotely using my mobile phone so I am not walking into a cold dark house is a big plus and points to being very much a safety issue.

Special mention - your contribution \$10 for Zoom sessions covering all of Term 2 is now due. On your remittance please note your name and #5 Zoom in the details section.

Bookings are essential (ph 4961 6576) and payment in advance please...

Next week there are still some vacancies in classes - phone 4961 6576 to check whether places are still available...

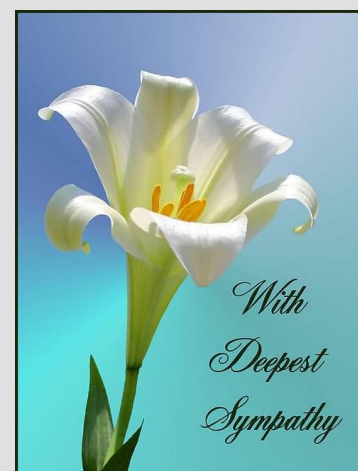
If there are particular classes you are interested in or others that you would like a second go at, please let us know. Just ring the club and all the information you could possibly need will be forthcoming and probably quite a lot you didn't know you needed.

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**REPORT – COMPUTERPALS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL 2021**

As part of Seniors Week activities, our Club held a 'Learn & Lunch' Meeting on Monday 19th in the Islington School Hall (a little different from the usual Morning Tea Meetings) as we took advantage of a 'school free day'.

With a pleasing roll-up of 65 members, including a few potential members, President Sandra started proceedings with an outline of the Club's recent teaching activities. Following reports from the Social Secretary and Treasurer, Lindsay Threadgate then advised members of the numerous IT computer items that were surplus to the Club's requirements and were available to purchase. Next came a very interesting segment from Caroline Keane and Mitzi Gordon on the uses and benefits of using smart home devices – amazing what can be done with a swipe or a tap on your smart phone. The ability to turn home lights, air-conditioners etc. on and off and see who is pressing your front doorbell, all the while you are in another area altogether certainly had members and their guests sitting on the edge of their seats. Lucky door prizes of smart home devices were then drawn and won. A slideshow of photographs taken by members on the previous Social Day outing were shown with corresponding small prints displayed, members being asked to pick their favourite shot in each of the 8 categories the photos were grouped in. They say 'winners are grinners', and this was certainly the case with the winners of the various topic's photos who took home a yummy box of chocolates.

During the photo slideshow plates of assorted sandwiches, slices, crackers and cheese, tea and coffee were served by hard working helpers, ensuring everyone had a satisfying end to what was a most enjoyable and informative Club event.

A reminder about the Car Observation Run to be held on Saturday 1st May next.

Due to the popularity of our previous Car Observation Run, I have decided to try another for our next C'Pals Social Day, to be held on Saturday 1st May next.

Again, the starting point will be McDonald Jones Stadium, with a new route taking you through Broadmeadow, Islington, Carrington, Mayfield North, Kooragang Island and finishing in Stockton.

Details for the day are as follows;

Date: Saturday 1st May 2021

Meet: McDonald Jones Stadium, Lambton

Time: 10.00am (M/Tea - Darks Coffee at the Stadium)

10.30am (approx.) depart on observation run

Again, I would emphasize that this is not a race, rather a question and answer social drive to 'hopefully' arrive at said destination. At the pre-run briefing, you will be given your instruction sheets showing the route to travel and questions to be answered along the way. It is estimated that completing the run should take approx. 1.5-2 hours. Whilst a driver only entrant can participate in this event, it is strongly recommended that an observer is present (assisting with directions/looking for clues/writing answers/saving time etc.), enabling the driver to concentrate more on driving. All clues will be on the LHS (unless specified in your notes) while a few will necessitate leaving your vehicle.

Stop Press: Change of Itinerary - we will be lunching at a hotel (own expense) in lieu of a picnic, so no need to bring your own eats, drinks (or chairs/table etc.). It is felt this will be more comfortable, given the vagaries of the weather at this time. However, don't forget your hard folder (backing to write on) along with a pen/pencil.

If you intend coming and have not yet done so, please complete the attendance form with details of who is going, phone nos. etc. and submit it a.s.a.p. We do need this form sent in so all details appear on our master sheet, enabling us to ensure all entrants are accounted for, both at the start and at the finish. Conversely, if you are registered as attending and then cannot make it on the day, please be sure to ring and advise me on my mobile.

See you at the Stadium - Saturday 1st May next 10.00am M/Tea and 10.30am start. If you intend coming, please fill out the attendance form and submit it – we do need all your details for insurance purposes and to ensure that no one goes missing on the day.

Special Interest Groups

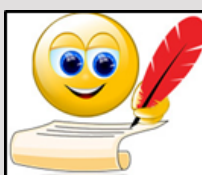


MemoryPals

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 a Special Interest group called Tablet & Phone Help. **Fourth Friday each month** is our regular meeting. iPad at **11 a.m.**, Android at **1pm** in the clubroom.



MemoryPals

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

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 **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, 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

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 — HOW TO CALL THE POLICE WHEN YOU'RE OLD, AND DON'T MOVE FAST ANYMORE.

George Phillips, an elderly man from Walled Lake, Michigan, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window.

George opened the back door to go turn off the light, but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked, "Is someone in your house?"

He said, "No, but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me.

Then the police dispatcher said, "All patrols are busy, you should lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available"

George said, "Okay."

He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again. "Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot and killed them both; the dogs are eating them right now." and he hung up.

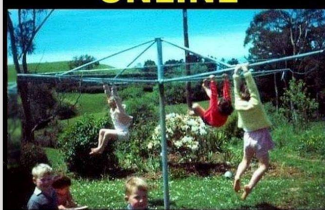
Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a Helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a Paramedic and an Ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence, and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

Don't mess with old people

HOW WE PLAYED "ONLINE"



BEFORE THE INTERNET!

Paddy took 2 stuffed dogs to the Antiques Roadshow....

"Ooh!" Said the presenter, "This is a very rare breed, do you have any idea what they would fetch if they were in good condition?"

"Sticks." replied Paddy.

I don't pretend to be something I'm not. Except normal. I've pretended to be normal a few times.

"I've finally reached The Wonder Years"

Wonder where I parked the car?

Wonder where I left my phone?

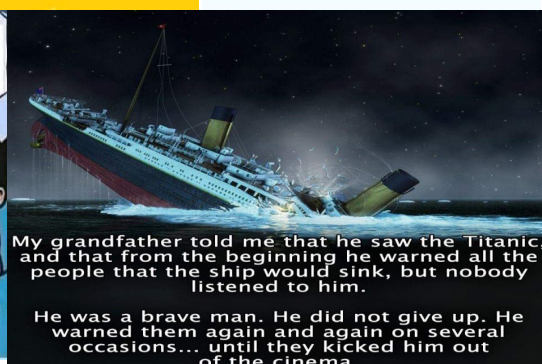
Wonder where my glasses are?

Wonder what day it is?



BREAKING

Do not let them take your temperature when going into the store! It's a scam! They're erasing your memory! I went in for bread and milk and came out with six bottles of wine.



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