

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Barry Keen



Dates to Remember

**Christmas Lunch—
Friday 16 Dec**

You can still **BE A ZOOMIE** and join us online. Thursday mornings @ 9.45 am—session starts at 10:00 am

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

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Be Connected Network Partner
Every Australian online.

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

President’s Report—DECEMBER 2022

Wow this year has gone fast. We are nearing the end of our year for classes, the last being on 5 December at Club Lambton, 6 December at Wallsend Library and 7 December at Hamilton Library and Zoom on 8 December.



Our final activity will be our Christmas Lunch on Friday 16 December (see page 3 for details)

We have used all our grant money from BeConnected and Sandra will be applying for a new grant to help finance us to run the free BeConnected program into 2023 (assuming we are successful) .

Computerpals club membership remains our mainstay, funding the operation of the club along with session fees for specific classes and individual assistance. Reminder - you need to be a club member to enjoy the benefits of attending the specific classes and get individual help.

You are urged to renew your membership or join the club.

Reflecting on 2022 we have had a busy and successful year despite the impacts of COVID. I am particularly proud of the way our teams of volunteer committee people, tutors, technical team and you the members and BeConnected learners have embraced the opportunities that have presented with enthusiasm and positive attitudes.

We have a great social environment in-person and online via Zoom and that has helped everyone combat social isolation and connected us with family and friends no matter where in the world they are.

ASCCA and The Good Things Foundation (BeConnected) have been there to assist us and we are very thankful to Club Lambton and Newcastle Libraries for providing (free) venues for our face-to-face operation.

I look forward to an even brighter future and send you all the very best of seasons greetings. Stay safe and well.



Cheers
Barry Keen
President

 **SCAMWATCH**

Last month we learned the possible dangers in charging our phones outside the safety of our own homes.

All these problems can be avoided with the purchase of a power bank which can charge your phone on the go, It's actually the safest way of charging your device when you can't plug in at home.

Designated car chargers come with their own transformers that are geared to the device they are paired with. Those transformers break down the amount of charge to the range safe for the device. Charging with just a usb cable directly through the cigarette lighter tends to use a higher range of charge which will eventually damage the battery beyond repair. According to the information I have been able to find, there is eventually the risk of the battery exploding, but that would be the extreme

Power banks are available at any mobile phone outlet and range from the small economical unit to the ridiculously expensive monstrosity that comes with all bells and whistles. For more info contact Computerpals.



The Contest

They knelt upon the clubroom floor
 Their postures quite dramatic.
 For John and Bruce the fight was on
 Victory automatic.
 Down on their knees they moaned and prayed
 Salaamed in all directions.
 Their groans and mutters told the tale
 Old knees had no protection.
 They pulled and tweaked and pried and pinched
 And bit by bit succeeded.
 With patience and skill they persevered
 And got the victory needed.
 They pulled off bits and tiny scraps
 And finally had a win!
 They got that tape up off the floor
 And threw it in the bin.

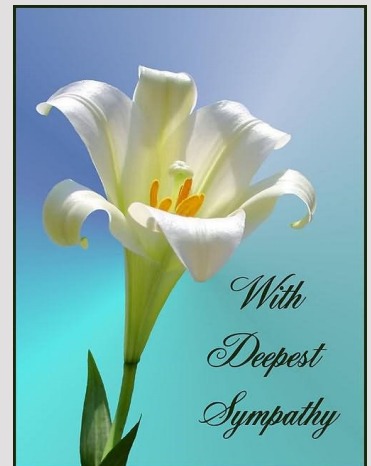
A small touch of history - Bruce Dietz and John Saunders having a dinkum battle on the floor of our old clubroom on the school grounds - not with each other but with some very stubborn tape that had to be removed from the carpet. It took a while, with many moans and groans about bony knees and hard floors. It was a poem just begging to be written

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.



You know it's a rough neighbourhood when you see a bird with an ankle monitor carrying a knife...



SOCIAL OUTING

On Friday 4th November, a second attempt to visit the Tilligerry Habitat proved successful, with 16 participants enjoying a day out in Nature.

A morning tea/meeting stop at McDonalds, Williamtown enabled the group to gain a caffeine fix before assembling in a convoy for the drive to Tanilba Bay where the Tilligerry Habitat is located. Without losing anyone enroute, all those attending gathered for a group photo before checking out the headquarters, talking with the volunteers and gathering a map, ready for their 'nature exploration'.

Heading off along the nicely graded hard surface tracks with timbered walkways over low-lying areas, the group made their way around the circuit, spending time checking out the local vegetation including the different grasses, flowers and trees with cameras and phones clicking away madly. At one particular spot, 3 owls could be seen dozing high up in a tree fork, while numerous bird species could more likely be heard rather than seen. Reaching the waters edge revealed a low tide and ample evidence of a number of good sized trees that had fallen into the water but were still rooted into the sand. A regular visitor dog could be seen frolicking in the low water level, obviously enjoying a time off the lead while 'master' was patrolling the shoreline.

Back at the headquarters again, a visit to the attached native nursery was a must for the ladies in the group, with many purchasing at least a memento of their visit (poor hubbies – more gardening coming up!). By this time the 'worms were staring to bite' so a number of the group decided lunch at one of the local clubs would be in order, while others made their way home to no doubt download their photos of what turned out to be an enjoyable outing.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

First on the agenda, we will give you a brief overview of Club happenings to be followed by our Christmas Lunch (buffet). For the benefit of new members, parking is available in the Club's carpark which can be accessed from Macquarie Road (front entrance) or from Lachlan Road (off Munibung Road) rear entrance. Don't forget to dust off your **Christmas wardrobe items (blouse/shirt, flashing earrings, a hat or tie etc.)** so you can play your part in this happy occasion along with fellow members/friends. Details are as follows;

Date: Friday 16th December 2022

Time: 11.00 am for 11.30 am start (please be punctual)

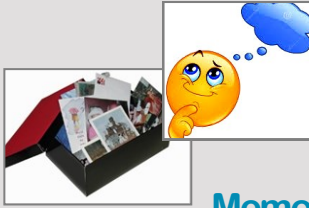
Location: Cardiff RSL Club, 45 Macquarie Road, Cardiff (main meeting room)

Cost: \$19.00

Please [click here](#) to download the attendance form, complete the details and then **submit. Next**, you need to pay ComputerPals. Our bank account details are **ComputerPals at Newcastle Permanent Building Society, BSB: 650000, Account number: 962205402** with your **Name & Xmas Lunch** in the details space - either using online banking or through your bank.

We do need to know numbers for catering and table area purposes, so please be prompt in replying if you intend to go. **All registration of attendance forms and payment must be received by Thursday 8th December**, as we have to advise numbers and pay the Club no later than one week in advance.

Special Interest Groups



MemoryPals

*Our new group meets on **first Monday** of each month at **1:00pm**.*

Reminisce about your childhood memories and learn how to preserve them.

Share experience with family history research.



WriterPals

*Our Creative Writing group is for enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the **second Monday** of each month. Meetings begin at **1:00 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

WriterPals

DigiPals

Our small groups did very well in the ASCCA competitions, taking out top club again in both Creative Writing (we dead-heated with Turramurra) and Photography with Annette Walker taking out champion photographer.

In Creative Writing we took out 4 first places, 2 second places, 1 Third place giving us enough points to take out Champion Writer (tied result) and Champion Club

In Photography we took out 2 first places, 5 second places, 2 third places, and 6 highly commended which gave us enough points to romp home 40 points ahead of AUSOM to take Champion Club in photography and Annette Walker scoring the Champion Photographer.

Very well done to all who entered their work, some for the first time.

Heartiest congratulations to the winners of each category.

The results and entries will all be put up on the ASCCA website over the next few weeks to be read and enjoyed.

It's time now to start jotting down little random thoughts that can be turned into stories for next year when there will be an extra section for poetry.

Thursday Zoomies

Thursday Zoom classes commence at 10:00 am.

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. They are wonderfully informative and proving very popular and also very social.

ComputerPals Mission

Our mission is to educate seniors in the use of computers and mobile devices 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



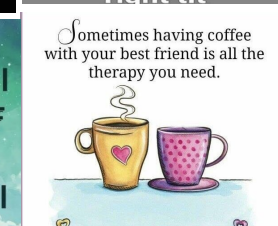
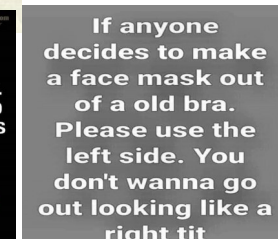
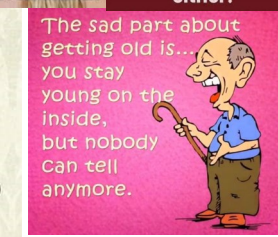
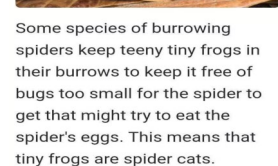
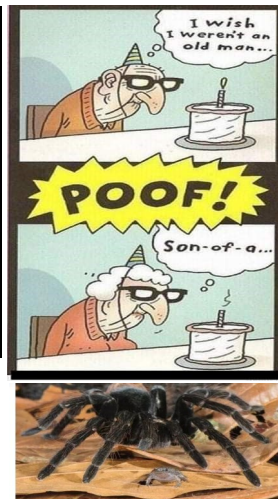
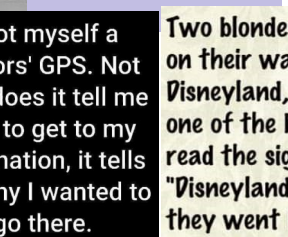
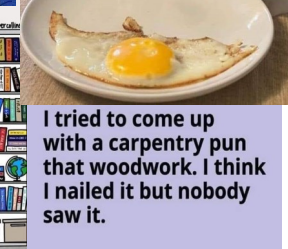
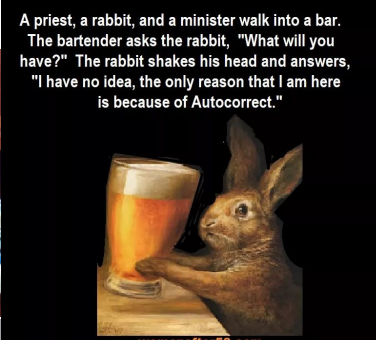
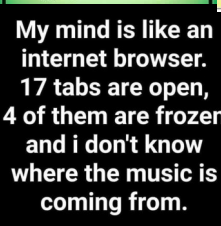
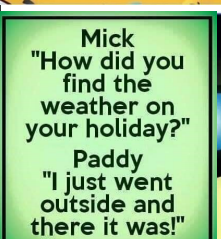
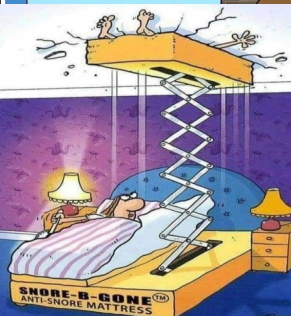
Judy Wallace

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 —



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.

Some Writerpals gems for your enjoyment and encouragement.**Whoops, Lost Again**

Was walking along the beach one day
 Had to stop and asked the way
 Confused and muddled, I'd become
 Wanted to go back home to mum
 I took the direction I was shown
 Lost my hat, for it was blown
 Chased my hat, now which way home
 Should have thought to ring my Joan
 Called a taxi to take me back
 Forgot the address of my flat
 To the cop shop, we ended up
 They offered tea, I had a cup
 Around the town, they drove me
 At last a house that I could see
 In I went all brash and bold
 Your grounded now, I was told.

A golden sunset Harold Franks

As the sun sinks slowly in the west
 And birds have found their place of rest
 The ocean waves roll gently by
 As a breeze blows by, it gives a sigh

The painted clouds soon turn to red
 Creatures have found their way to bed
 Old sun has dropped his head from sight
 The waves of sea give up their fight

Peace on earth, life settles down
 A calm has settled over our town
 The stars on high, twinkle bright
 Things are seen through a moonlit night

Frogs are heard from a distant pool
 Owls at flight in the evening cool
 One settles down for a peaceful night
 To wake, once more, to a morning bright.

A Monkey-Pox Jab Harold Franks

Just been to the doctors, for a monkey pox jab
 Then came back home in a nice yellow cab
 I'm feeling fine but my chin needs a shave
 But my friend tells me, that I must behave

My diets strange, I'm fed bananas and nuts
 I'm told to eat it, no ifs, ands or buts
 My voice has gone funny, I mumble my words
 I feel I'm in a tree, amongst many birds

My jacket still fits me, though I feel I've got fleas
 I hope it's not catching, this is my pleas
 Instead of the Doctor, it should have been vets
 I won't get the pox, but I'm hedging my bets

I've just looked in the mirror, oh what a sight
 The thing looking back gave me quite a fright
 I'll go back to the doctor, ask for a de-jab
 To return to the beauty that I once had.

Where's The Driver Harold Franks

On side of a road, I saw such a sight
 Mingled, of course, with a touch of fright
 A tree growing inside of this car
 The car though, won't be going too far

Is there a skeleton, I'd like to know
 It's hard to know, for there's nothing on show
 Except some gum trees calling it home
 I fear the car, no more will it roam

There's trees through the windscreen
 More through the roof, from what I've seen
 It's life as a car is limited, for sure
 Can't even open either side door

The only thing left for this motor car
 Having a tree growing, as if in a jar
 If you should happen along this way
 Stand in the shade and just have a pray.

**A Leek** Harold Franks

Went to the bathroom and what do I see
 A leek neath the basin, as plain as can be
 Is it a plumber, or green grocer I need
 It's sitting there, just like a green weed

Amongst the detergent and soaps it stands
 The only thing there without any brands
 What is it doing, what's it there for
 If I look around, will I find more

A prankster, no doubt, has put the thing there
 The area around it would look very bare
 A rat or a mouse would not eat a leek
 I'll just sit around and have a wee peak

In comes a joker, with beady eyes bright
 I speak to him, he trembles in fright
 He's been caught in the act, shock on his face
 Smartly he turns and runs out of the place

NO ESCAPE Carmel Smith

The gentle pitter-patter of his tiny little feet
 Could be heard, but very faintly, as he sought out something
 sweet.

His target lay in waiting, primed and ready for attack
 And once his search was started, there was no more going back

The sweetness lead him onwards as his fly feet pattered near,
 Approaching close to danger that he didn't know to fear.
 He almost reached his target and he crept in past the lip
 Then he paused for just a second as he went in for a sip.

He tried to turn and go back out but tripped a switch inside,
 And turning round he saw more flies all black and dead and
 dried.

The two jaws of his prison wrapped around him like a cape
 And he found, from Venus Flytraps, there was truly no escape.