

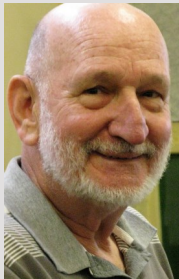
ComputerPals - Newcastle

Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Barry Keen

Dates to Remember

Social Outing - March 4**MARCH**

Friday 4th Social Outing followed by lunch at Belmont 16s Stay safe, dry and healthy.

You can still **BE A ZOOMIE** and join us online. Thursday mornings @ 9.45 am

Special Groups - Memorypals, Writerpals & Digipals meet at Club Lambton on their usual Mondays

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Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

President's Report

We have finally had our start at the Wallsend Library and classes will be conducted there each Tuesday 10:00—11:30 am (except during school holidays). Our start at Hamilton Library has been delayed due to Library staffing issues. However, we understand we can commence there on 6th April.

We are meeting at Club Lambton on Mondays; Wallsend Library on Tuesdays and as stated above, Hamilton Library on Wednesdays (from 6/4).

Regardless of venue, please book in for the session you intend to attend. Phone: 0478 219 220.

If you have booked and find you can't attend, please send us a message as a courtesy to our volunteer tutors.

Our application for Gift Recipient Status and Charity Status has been submitted to the Australian Charities Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) and we await their decision.

Keep your eye on the [Courses/Timetables](#) link on our webpage for updates to the Classes and new topics being offered.

Last month I attended (via Zoom) the ASCCA (Australian Seniors Computers Clubs Association) monthly meeting and learned they were planning to convene the annual competitions for Digital Photography, Writing and for the first time Multimedia Journal.

Multimedia Journal is an exciting new development that opens up opportunities for all of us to learn new skills and be creative.

I envisage combining the club's Special Interest Groups to give us successive afternoons on the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Mondays when those Groups meet at Club Lambton from 1:00 pm to facilitate the learning forum where we can all learn and help each other.

Everyone is urged to join us to learn new skills and have fun in the process.

I look forward to seeing you in class.

Cheers

Barry Keen (President)

STUFF IT'S HANDY TO KNOW TO KEEP YOU SAFE ONLINE

Things to be aware of: I have been receiving an increasing number of text messages telling me that my parcel couldn't be delivered, my Netflix account has been frozen, or my bank account has been hacked. Their common characteristic is that they want me to click on a link in the text.

It's most likely these days that I am expecting a parcel, or I do have a Netflix account, and I may well bank with the bank the message is supposedly from. When we are busy, it's easy to click on the link without thinking through what we might actually be doing.

Another common message is that you have missed a voicemail. Again, if we think it through, we know this message looks different from the normal one we get when we have an unopened message. But if we are distracted we might not notice.

These are all scams! If you click on the link in any of these texts, it will download malware onto your phone. This may be able to initiate a phone call without your permission, send and receive texts, and read your contact data and personal information.

To protect yourself, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) recommends the following

- Look closely at any message containing a link
- Do not click on the link
- Delete the text message
- Do not call back the number that sent the message.
- If you have installed the malware, contact your bank to ensure your accounts are secure and contact an IT professional to fix your phone.

There are also an increasing number of scam calls direct to our mobile phones. In some cases (as one I received the other day) the location of the call is Kinshasa, in which case you can simply not answer. But some scammers are now using technology which makes it look as if the call is coming from an Australian number.

Many of these calls come from a recognisably artificial voice, with slightly irregular syntax, and you can hang up immediately (I've received a lot of these lately from the 'Nation-al Broad-band Net-work'). But others will clearly be a real person purporting to be from a trustworthy institution such as a bank or government department, and these may take a few minutes to identify.

These types of callers may try to frighten you or make the situation sound urgent, for example they may tell you something bad will happen if you don't click a link or call a number to check your details. If you are pressured or anxious, it makes you less likely to think clearly and question what you're being asked to do.

The golden rule is NEVER give personal information or bank details over the phone, no matter how convincing the call sounds. Don't give money, and don't give anyone access to your computer.

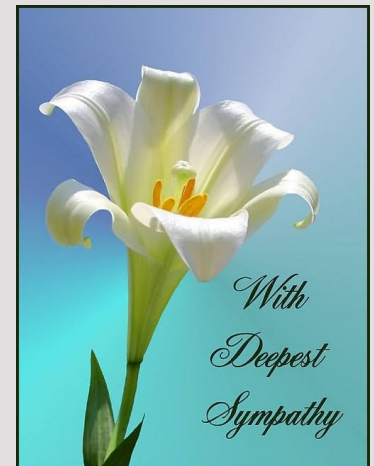
If you have been a victim of cybercrime, you can report this to [ReportCyber](#). Report scams to Scamwatch [here](#), and contact [IDCARE](#) or call 1800 595 160 if you have lost personal information to a scammer.

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

(This is a really good chance to catch up with all those Computerpals friends you haven't met up with for a month or 24, and to enjoy a friendly meal at a beautiful club - The Belmont 16 Footers...Ed)

For our first Social Day in 2022, we will meet at **Green Point, Belmont** on **Friday 4th March** (note - Friday, less people around/more parking available etc.)

At this time of year, an indoor (Air Conditioned) destination has been 'the norm'. However, in these COVID times an outdoor event seemed more appropriate. We will start off with a picnic morning tea down by Lake Macquarie, which will enable everyone present to catch up on all the Christmas/New Year 'Goss' and hopefully, not too much COVID talk. **This will be a BYO everything (eats, drinks, chairs etc.)** as there are **no shops close by**, although toilets are located at the carpark. After packing away our picnic gear, we will head off toward Cardiff Point along the lakeside walking trail that affords numerous photographic opportunities along the way. For those a little more adventurous, a relatively short climb to Sea Eagle Lookout presents some excellent vistas of this area, and again, further opportunities to capture a photo or two documenting your experiences of the day. For those that wish to 'linger longer', a visit to Belmont 16's for lunch might be the go.

Details are as follows;

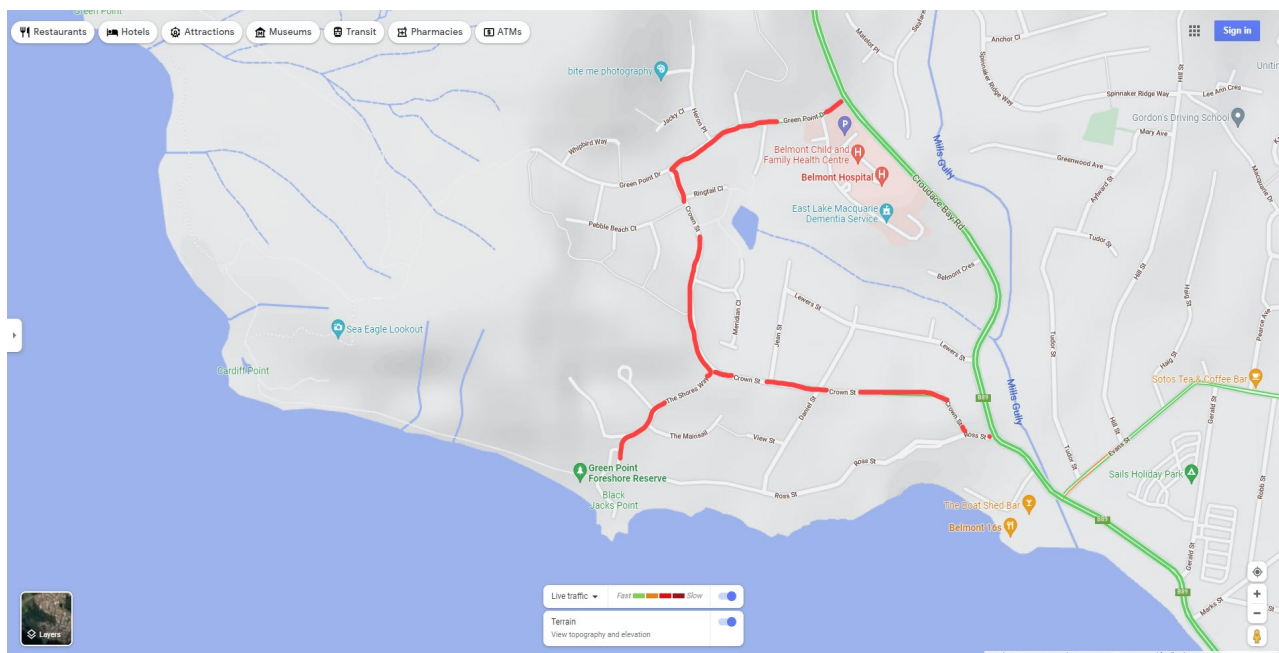
Date: Friday 4th March 2022

Time: 10.00am

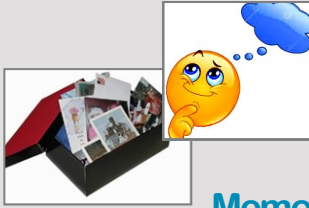
Meet: Carpark (Green Point Foreshore Reserve) off The Shores Way, Belmont (see attached map)

It will still be warm/hot weather no doubt (hence a morning outing), so **please bring a hat, sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes, and don't forget your camera** - you may have to dust it off and charge the battery, as phone cameras seem to have taken over. It could be dampish, so bring a brolly just in case.

If you choose not to do the walking bit, a few of us are meeting at the club to wait for the arrival of the



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.

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 using cameras or phones.

MemoryPals

The next meeting of MemoryPals will be **March 7th**, at Club Lambton

All are welcome to attend our 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.

WriterPals

Everybody has a story to tell...Our next Writerpals meeting will be **March 14th** starting at 1pm at Club Lambton.

For that meeting, how about going back to school-day and sharing some stories of your after-school activities, homework, snacks, play etc or were you a “latch key kid” who had your own house-key and looked after yourself till a parent arrived home from work.

A Thought: Creation of a “Coffee Table Book” of our writings. Opinions please, plus suggestions from our work and new contributions.

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

I know I'm looking forward to hearing of your experiences

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.

Thursday Zoomies

Thursday will be devoted to regular Zoom classes. Please note the change of day.

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 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

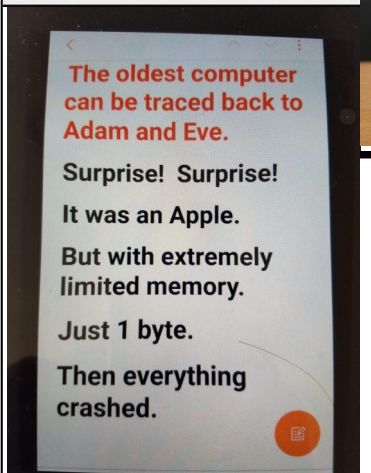


Jackie Lampe



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 —



George and Dragon (by Harold Franks)

He stood outside the St George and dragon
Just arrived in his horse drawn wagon
Lips are drawn from his want of beer
Saw the dragon and cringed in fear

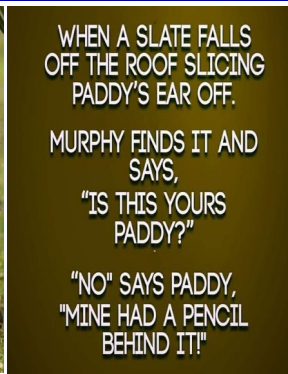
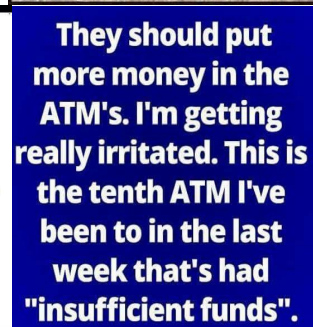
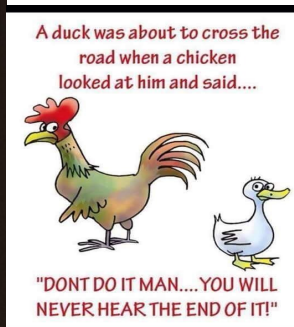
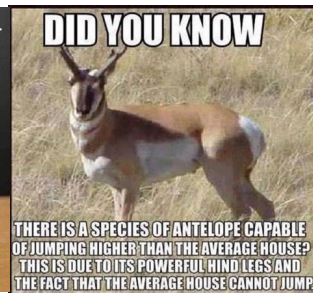
You'll not get a drink in here, she said
Not if you're alive, or even dead
So be off with you, you worthless cur
Or I'll pull your whiskers, hair by hair

The poor man said, with courage fading
I want to see George, not the dragon
Lowered his head and barged right in
Looking for safety with George, within

The dragon followed, not to be outdone
Watched by others, who saw the fun
She grabbed him by his collar, white
Started off with a ding dong fight

George to the rescue, with his gun
Broke up the watcher's morning fun
A blast of the gun to clear the air
But frightened off his customer's mare

Out the door, the customer ran
Chasing after his wayward van
That was the last they saw of him
He found himself a friendly Inn.



PRIVACY STATEMENT: Information the ComputerPals

contained in this Newsletter is only for the members of Newcastle Inc.