

**ComputerPals - Newcastle**

Where Seniors master technology

# SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : [contact@computerpals.org.au](mailto:contact@computerpals.org.au)

## President

**Barry  
Keen**

## Dates to Remember

*Look out for an email for the starting date of classes in 2024.*

*Everything is in recess meantime*

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Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2023

### 2023 is fast coming to an end...

Our classes finish on 13/12 and we take a well-earned break - for some of us this also heralds the child minding (Grand parenting season).

We are wrapping up another very successful year and I thank all of you (Learners and Tutors and Committee alike) for your participation and contribution to that success.

Our Roster Team will meet sometime in January to work on the 2024 Term 1 class program. When this is set, a copy will be sent to you by email and published on the Club's website for your information. The first Monday of Term will be an Enrolment Day when you can come in to Club Lambton and register for the classes you would like to do. You will be able to get in early by phoning 0478 219 220 and register for classes. If you are wanting to have an Assistance Session you will need be a financial club member and pay online, or at your bank. (Don't forget to put your name and what the payment is for in the deposit details). For our bank account details go to 'Membership and Payments' on our website.

This is my opportunity to wish you all the very best for the festive season.

Stay safe and well.

My warmest regards

Barry Keen

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



From the desk of Brenton, our Social Organizer Extraordinaire. Thank you Brenton, you do a magnificent job



### Christmas Lunch

Our member's Christmas lunch was held on Thursday 7th December, for the first time at Club Lambton (Lambton Bowling Club) with a roll-up of 47 participants.

A wish from a number of members to move from a buffet style of lunch to a 'sit-down' meal with table service saw a change of venue this year. Apart from Club Lambton being able to offer such a service, it gave our Club an opportunity to repay the generous offer of space and other facilities afforded it to continue with many of our classes, committee meetings etc. A bright and sunny day saw a continuous stream of members rolling in for this last social event for 2023. With plenty of space between tables to enable easy mingling, it wasn't long before animated conversations were springing up from all points of our allocated 'room', tempered only by the speedy delivery of the set menu meals. From all reports, the meals received 'a tick of approval' and I'm sure no one would have left this function hungry.

A special mention must be made to our Secretary, Wendy Smith, who was a tremendous help in liaising with and helping Club staff with the room set-up. She also arranged the table decorations and lolly bags, so thanks heaps Wendy.

President Barry Keen concluded proceedings by firstly thanking those Tutors and other members who, through the past year had made the classes 'work' despite operating from 3 different premises. He also thanked those attending and wished all and sundry Seasons Greetings for the rest of the holiday period and looked forward to starting again next year.

From the 'Social Department', both Beryl and I would like to especially thank those members who supported our various activities throughout the year and wish all members a Safe and Merry Christmas/New Year period and look forward to catching up in 2024.

Brenton Elsey

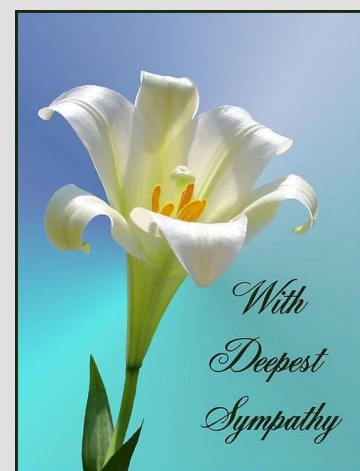
Social Secretary

### **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.*

## Special Interest Groups

**Are all in recess  
until the start of  
2024 Term 1**



### MemoryPals

This group meets on **first Tuesday** of each month at **1:00pm**.

Reminisce about your childhood memories and learn how to preserve them or work on your family history.

### WriterPals

Our Creative Writing group is for



enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the **second Thursday** of each month. Meetings begin at **1:00 pm**.



### DigiPals

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

*All meetings will be at Club Lambton.*

### MemoryPals

*The MemoryPals group meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 1 pm;*

### WriterPals

*WriterPals will meet on the second Thursday of the month at 1 pm;*  
Next meeting for Writerpals will be on **Thursday 8th February 2024 at 1 pm at Club Lambton**. Bring something you've written or some idea you'd like to write about - maybe your own eulogy. After all, who knows you better than you, and who knows better than you what you would like to be remembered for.

### DigiPals

*DigiPals will meet on the third Thursday of the month at 1 pm.*

Next meeting will be at **Club Lambton on February 15th 2024 at 1pm**

### Thursday Zoomies

*Thursday is devoted to regular Zoom classes commencing on Thursday 1st February at 10:00 am.*

Your should be a paid up member for Term 1 (cost \$10)

An email will be sent out with "What's On" and the log in codes.

These Zoom sessions are ideal for anyone who cannot get to any of the face-to-face classes. We have a topic to start the session then move into Q & A on anything you want to know.

To find out what is on check your email or send an email to us at **contact@computerpals.org.au** to find out how to join our Zoom sessions. They are wonderfully informative and proving very popular

### 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



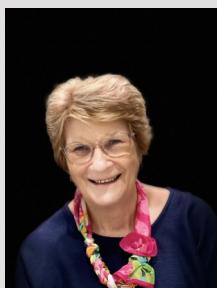
To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding class rosters

or payments use:

[islingtonpals@gmail.com](mailto:islingtonpals@gmail.com)

**Roster Team**

**Sandra Keen**



**Mitzi Gordon**



**Judy Wallace**

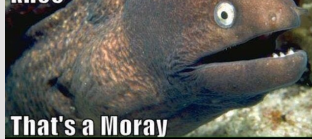
**Jackie Lampe**



These people are all volunteers and most also teach classes at Computerpals. We ask that you take this into consideration when your phone call is not answered immediately. Leave your name, number and reason for your call. We will get back to you a.s.a.p.

## Funnybone:

When you're down by the sea and an eel bites your knee



That's a Moray

**LISTEN & SILENT** are spelled with the same letters

Think About It ♪



Lambs to the left of me. Mutton to the right. Here I am. Stuck in the middle with ewe. 🐑🐑🐑



Life is too short to start your day with broken pieces of yesterday, it will definitely destroy your wonderful today and ruin your great tomorrow!

Have A Great Day!

Yawning is your body's way of saying 20% of battery remaining.



So You Mean To Tell Me a Stress Ball Isn't For Throwing At People Who Stress You Out?



HUSBANDS ARE THE BEST PEOPLE TO SHARE SECRETS WITH. THEY'LL NEVER TELL ANYONE, BECAUSE THEY AREN'T EVEN LISTENING.

I'm not short, i'm just more down to earth than other people.



Some alligators can grow up to 15 feet.

But most only have 4.



Oh Lord, Please keep all the stupid people from breeding. We're getting badly outnumbered down here.



I KNOW IT'S TRAGIC THE WIFI ISN'T WORKING, BUT LET ME TELL YOU A STORY OF CATASTROPHIC PROPORTIONS FROM MY CHILDHOOD...



If I am ever on life support, unplug me... Then plug me back in.. See if that works..



THANK YOU FOR THE POKER INVITE BUT MY SCHEDULE IS QUITE BUSY

WELL, WHAT'S SATURDAY, AROUND NOON LOOK LIKE?

BOTH HANDS ON THE CLOCK ALMOST TOUCHING THE TWELVE. WHY DO YOU ASK?

When you are the last cat built for the day



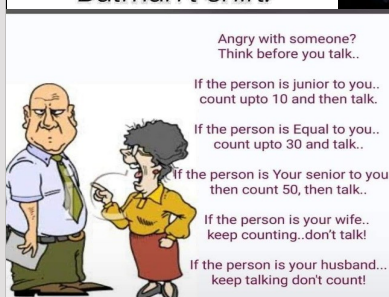
And there are no matching parts



Whatever you're doing today, do it with all the confidence of a four-year-old in a Batman t-shirt.

Never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear or an idiot from any direction.

It doesn't matter how old I get, I'm still going to mentally sing the ABC's to see which letter comes next.



Angry with someone? Think before you talk...

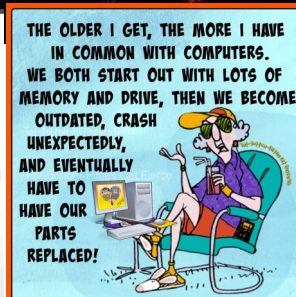
If the person is junior to you... count upto 10 and then talk.

If the person is Equal to you... count upto 30 and talk..

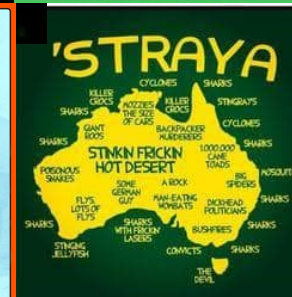
If the person is Your senior to you then count 50, then talk..

If the person is your wife.. keep counting..don't talk!

If the person is your husband... keep talking don't count!



THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE I HAVE IN COMMON WITH COMPUTERS. WE BOTH START OUT WITH LOTS OF MEMORY AND DRIVE, THEN WE BECOME OUTDATED, CRASH UNEXPECTEDLY, AND EVENTUALLY HAVE TO HAVE OUR PARTS REPLACED!



**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, inaccuracy or other shortcomings of this newsletter.



*A Christmas offering from Writerpals, written some years ago when Writerpals was young.*

*May you all have a wonderful Christmas (or whatever you celebrate) and a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.*

### Santa's Worst Christmas

'Twas the week before Christmas and all round the Pole  
The elves had stopped working and gone on the dole.  
Santa had toothache, two reindeer were lame  
Some sleigh parts were broken - new bits never came.  
So he composed an email to go far and wide  
"Christmas is cancelled - my brain's just too tired  
To deal with the problems it brings me each year,  
So Rudolph and I will kick back with a beer.  
He took his big boots off to set his feet free  
The smell put three reindeer to sleep for a week!  
The elves ran for cover, Mary Christmas as well  
For truly, they never had smelled such a smell.  
Rudolph turned green, his nose did as well.  
Mrs Claus sprayed some freshener to deaden the smell.  
The trees at the pole all turned withered and brown  
And the snow melted quickly for five miles around.  
But the letters kept coming by snail mail and fax  
As the kids all asked Santa for stuff that they lacked.  
They sent in their emails from laptop and iPad  
In high hopes that Santa had room in his bag.  
Mrs Claus and Rudolph and two kindly elves  
Decided to do the whole thing by themselves.  
They glued and they tacked and wrapped things up well,  
Some other elves helped - to get away from the smell.  
Just three days to Christmas and all was a mess.  
Whether Santa would travel was anyone's guess.  
The panic was on but the elves didn't care  
They'd found Santa's beer hidden under his chair.  
They drank all his beer and began on the wine.  
They couldn't walk straight, much less form a line  
To pack up the sleigh. O what could he do?  
Old Santa came up with a thought that was new!  
Saint Nick called on Lindsay in Newcastle town  
To see if a coal-loading belt could be found.  
An old one was found and sent right on through  
But without the instructions what could Santa do?  
He wired it up backwards, 'on purpose' some said.  
He claimed "It's not working" and went back to bed.  
Mary Christmas called Lindsay to ask what to do  
and he said "hang in there. I'll come and show you."  
So he grabbed our Judy and took Ray as well  
And asked them to help with the coal-loading belt.  
It didn't take long to find what was wrong  
With engineer brain and technicians along.

While Lindsay and Santa sat down with a beer  
Our clever technicians soon had the fault clear.  
They fixed it all up then the elves had a go  
At riding the belt and dropping into the snow.  
They lined the belt up between workshop and sleigh  
It just might be ready before Christmas Day.  
With Ray and our Judy to manage the line  
The belt finally seemed to be working just fine.  
Then the elves staged a protest to get better pay  
So Santa said "That's it. It's near Christmas Day!  
You've pinched all my beer, and drank all my wine  
So get yourselves out to the loading up line.  
I'll pay you no more - you might all get the sack  
If Christmas Eve comes and that sleigh isn't packed."  
So the elves got real busy and loaded the belt  
But hid all the labels up high on a shelf.  
'Twas the night before Christmas and all round the pole  
The elves worked real hard since they'd gone off the dole.  
The sleigh was all loaded so Santa climbed on.  
The elves looked quite sheepish, just wanted him gone.  
He kicked off the footbrake, the reindeer rose high  
And the sleigh soared off up in the clear Christmas sky.  
When he got to the first house and found what they'd done  
He vowed when he got back he'd fire every one.  
But he dipped in his sack and filled each stocking up  
And what any kid got was a case of pot luck.  
Nobody got what they'd asked him to bring  
'Cause Santa just couldn't remember a thing.  
There were trucks for some girls and dolls for some boys  
And others got handfuls of small baby toys.  
While babies got iPads and iPhones and such.  
The parents were puzzled but couldn't say much.  
But back at the pole, they all started to wonder  
As Santa flew home - his mood black as thunder.  
The elves ran and hid, their feet hastened by fear  
Hoping Santa would forget all their sins by next year.  
With Santa so cranky and his threats growing dire,  
The elves thought his whiskers would surely catch fire.  
Computerpals folk soon had him calmed down  
Then they flew back home to Newcastle town.  
It was all back to normal back home at the pole  
He fired all the elves who went back on the dole.  
Rudolph retired and said "life's now all right,  
Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight!

An inspirational happy story from Suzanne Clarke, one of our newer members. Enjoy!

### What's It All About Alfie?

What's it all about Alfie, is it just for the moment we live? This song swirls around in my head at times, as I approach the final chapter of my life. I am 75 years young! Pretty hard to believe, when it only seems like yesterday, I held my precious baby girl in my arms, and wondered what she would be like when she grows up.

Getting older is supposed to make you wiser, maybe, or maybe not. However it does give me an opportunity to reflect on my life and the influence or impact I have had on others. If I was to write a story about my life, how would I go about making sense of so many life experiences?

Perhaps thinking of each stage in life, could be expressed as "Chapters," in an amazing tapestry of circumstances, woven around my heart and soul. Maybe there could be some special chapters, when events occur that were life changing, such as becoming a parent or the death of a loved one. Sometimes incidents in my life can even seem like they never happened at all, and yet those often tragic circumstances did happen. After many years of therapy and counselling, means I can file them into a place in my mind, whilst I get on with enjoying the here and now, in this last chapter of mine.

Reliving some of those parts of my life, can bring a sense of regret and a wishing I had hindsight at the time and maybe I could have done something differently. Remembering wonderful times can bring warm feelings of closeness and happiness, coupled with my never ending snapshots, bring the joy of those moments I treasure of family and friends.

However living in the past only holds me back from getting on with adventures, friendships and events that I can enjoy today. No time to waste, as time marches on so quickly, especially as you grow into your twilight years.

Being young at heart is often an expression applied to older folk, and thinking positively about my life is of great benefit, even if the odd ache and pain comes along to rob me of some happy thoughts. Accepting there are activities I can't do now helps me to focus on what I can do, and must do, to keep evolving as a human being. So maybe the rock and roll dancing and loud music has to go by the wayside, and be replaced by more quieter things, such as creative writing, playing cards, doing puzzles and sitting around the campfire under the magical stars. My wonderful friends bring such joy into my life, just knowing each one brings something unique to light up my soul with love and gratitude! Yes, sounds good to me!

Maybe "Alfie" knows the truth, that it is for the moments we live. If I really think about it, my life is made up of moments, and then some. Each moment in time, captured in a photo is the way I treasure a snapshot of memories to remember and relive now and always. And so that hug, kind word or loving gesture really does count in the scheme of things.

As I go further into this song, Alfie asks, "are we meant to be kind" and "without true love we just exist." Maybe that's what it's all about? To remember I need a generous spirit to foster feelings of love and gratitude, maybe not perfectly, but I can consciously work on that! As you say, "let your heart lead the way." I finally got it "Alfie."

Written by Suzanne Clarke. 1st November 2023