

ComputerPals - Newcastle

Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

**Barry
Keen**

Dates to Remember

**We are now on Eastern
Daylight Savings Time**

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

**Special Groups -
Memorypals,
Writerpals & Digipals
will meet on their
usual days (see Page
3)**

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Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

President's Report—October 2023

It won't be long, the ASCCA AGM is happening online on Tuesday 10 October and as part of proceedings the Poetry, Writing, and Digital Photography competition results will be announced. See ASCCA's newsletter for details on how you can join the meeting and get the results first-hand. The meeting starts 1:10 pm via MS Teams. (to register—the link is in their newsletter) or type—<https://forms.office.com/r/y26q5H1JyZ>.

From reports to me we have had very good entry numbers from our members and response comments from the adjudicators have been very positive.

School Holidays are almost over and Term 4 classes start on Monday 9 October 10:00 am at Club Lambton.

16 October to 22 October is 'Get Online Week' We are hosting a **free fun event with morning tea at Club Lambton on Monday 16 October 10 am—12 noon**. Everyone is welcome and bring a friend, BUT for catering purposes you need to book in by reply to this email or phone **0478 219 220**

Check out the 'Timetable Button' under 'Get Started Now' on the club's website (computerpals.org.au)

for details of the Term classes schedule.

Remember: *please book in for the classes you want to attend.* That helps us to know how many tutors are needed. If we can get that right—you will benefit by more personal help. **Note:** BeConnected classes are free, but afternoon Assistance classes on Mondays are not (cost \$5 per 1½ hours) and are available only to Computerpals financial members. Don't just drop in—we are restricted to the booked in numbers we can help.

How do I book in: **Phone: 0478 219 220** (remember we are all volunteers and the call may go to voicemail—if it does—leave your name & phone number and the reason for your call—someone will get back to you.

Term 4 Zoom sessions are for Computerpals members (cost \$10 covers the whole of Term 4).

Computerpals membership: cost is \$25 for the financial year to 30/6/2024.

How do I pay: visit the club's website and click on the 'Membership' tab at the top of the page for all the information you need. Don't forget—put your name and what you are paying for on your payment (that helps the Treasurer).



James Hart (Treasurer)

Cheers, Barry Keen, President

I've been saying it nearly every month in the newsletter—**your own common sense is your best weapon. Trust it. Unfortunately it is not a flower found in everybody's garden.....**

With Christmas only a couple of months away and a lot of people doing their gift buying online, I thought I would give this information a second go-round.

Scammers work very hard to separate people from their money and unfortunately, they succeed all too often.

Football fans have already been scammed out of thousands by ticket sellers demanding high prices for publicly unavailable tickets, collecting the money from hopeful fans and delivering nothing in return. Do NOT be among those people who lose their money

Online classified scams

Scammers set up fake retail websites or create profiles on online classified and marketplace sites, including those used for selling second-hand goods, tickets to sporting events and other gatherings that are prolific at this time of year. They offer products and services at very competitive prices and make compelling offers.

How does it work?

For buyers, the criminals will advertise goods at discounted prices and either deliver a fake product, or in most cases nothing at all. They post fake ads and fake customer reviews and will steal logos and ABNs to appear legitimate.

Popular scam items include but are not limited to designer clothing, musical instruments, bicycles, motorcycles and cars, pets, shipping containers, farm machinery and tractors, and electronics like cameras and phones, grand final tickets – and more.

Spot the Scam

When buying

Consider the asking price and/or benefits being offered. **Do they seem too good to be true?** Don't rush or be pressured by 'limited offers' or end of sale 'countdowns' – scammers always try to create a sense of urgency.

Wherever possible, physically inspect the item prior to buying. Is the seller hesitant for you to see the item in person? Do they continually reschedule?

Be suspicious if the seller asked to be paid via money order, pre-loaded card or to be paid to several different PayIDs or accounts.

Be suspicious if the seller asked for shipping to be paid into a separate account. This is a technique to ensure that some money will be stolen if the main purchase is stopped for any reason.

Check online seller ratings before purchasing and independently verify seller's details wherever possible (check street addresses, ABNs, phone numbers, domain names). Check their other items listed for sale. Often, scammers will simply copy and paste items from other sellers' listings.

Look for legitimate terms and conditions and privacy notices on their website.

When selling

Beware of buyers who ask for your PayID to pay for an item that was not part of the original transaction. For example, requests for additional money to upgrade an account or to access PayID.

Beware of buyers that offer to buy without viewing an expensive product.

Has the buyer claimed to have overpaid you and is then asking for a refund of the difference? Scammers will often provide fake payment receipts to try to convince you that they have paid you. You may receive an email or text confirming that a payment has been made. Do not rely on this as confirmation. **Always sign into your own bank account to confirm funds have been received.**

Osko PayID is a quick, safe and simple payment method **but you will never:** Remember always, when shopping online, making investment decisions, speaking with unsolicited callers, or being directed to take action through an unsolicited text message, ask yourself: "IS THIS A SCAM?"

What to do if you think you have been scammed

If you think you have been scammed, please visit your local bank. The earlier that you inform them of any concerns, the greater chance they have to try and help you avoid scam losses.

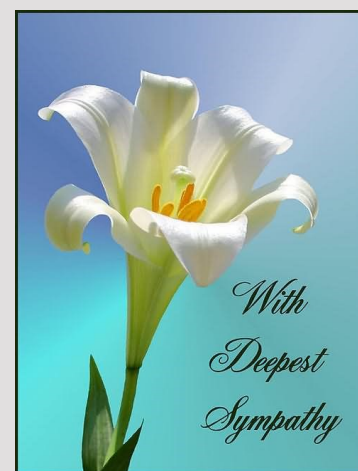
To learn more about scams, how to spot them and how to avoid them visit ACCC's Scam watch page at www.scamwatch.gov.au and ASIC's www.moneysmart.gov.au

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



MemoryPals

Our new group meets on **first Tuesday** of each month at **1:00pm.** (ex October)
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 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.

Meetings for the special activity groups have changed days. Individual Assistance on Mondays means that Tutors are not available to attend these groups so they have been moved as shown below.

All will be at Club Lambton.

MemoryPals

*The MemoryPals group normally meet on the **first Tuesday** of the month at 1 pm; But due to the ASCCA AGM on 10 Oct the next meeting for Memorypals will be on Tuesday afternoon 7th November at 1pm at Club Lambton, unless notified differently*

WriterPals

*WriterPals will meet on the **second Thursday** of the month at 1 pm; Next meeting for Writerpals will be on **Thursday 12th Oct at 1 pm at Club Lambton.***

DigiPals

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

Annual ASCCA Digital Photography - Lots of you entered photos in the competition - reputation to uphold and all that—well done.

Next meeting will be at **Club Lambton on October 19th at 1pm** when Writerpals will be joining you to talk about the results of the competition and the feedback from the judges. It should be an interesting meeting and discussion.

Thursday Zoomies

Thursday will be devoted to regular Zoom classes commencing at 10:00 am.

Your should be a paid up member for Term 4 (cost \$10)

An email will be sent out with “What’s On” and the log in codes.

I am hearing so many good things about this session and how extremely helpful it is. Please join in if you can.

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

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.

A Few Literary Gems from Writerpals Members - Sandra, Barbara, Suzanne, Harold, Annette, Diane and Carmel.

A mix of various poetic forms including Limericks, Haiku, Acrostics, Sonnet, Ode, All of these were entries in the recent ASCCA Poetry Writing Competition.

Limerick: ComputerPals

There once was a group of seniors
Helping others to solve tech dilemmas,
They meet each week,
Problems they seek
Over coffee and chat with friendly demeanours.

Acrostic: Barry

Born as the fair-headed one,
Avid collector of family stories.
Reliable, thoughtful and kind,
Relaxed and comfortable,
Your calm demeanor puts others at ease.

Free Verse: Don't Be Left Behind

Malware, Spyware, Trojans, goodness me and Spam,
Hackers, Dark Web, Phishing, whatever is this plan?
You would think at my age, getting on I know,
Antivirus software, viruses do flow!

What about the Dark Web, Scareware is in sight!
Getting past the Cyber Thief, QR codes my plight!
Me and my computer, internet and more,
Has me round in circles, knocking at my door!

Seeking out some solace, getting some advise,
Pals at my Computer Class, always put me right!
Then, when learning lots of things, weighing on my mind,
The most important thing I've learnt,
Don't be left behind !!

Acrostic Gypsy Girl

Going lots of places,
You can make your way,
Plan to go and wander,
Such a sunny day!
Yes, it's motorhoming,
Get out in the sun!
In the end it's freedom,
Ready for some fun!
Looking at the stars above, Gypsygirl's in love!

Limerick: The Pesky Frog

There was a young girl with a dog,
Who wanted to follow a frog,
The frog jumped around.
She finally found,
The frog was inside of her dog!!

ODE TO SLEEP

Oh, Dear Sleep, how necessary you are
Bringing restoration to body and mind
Giving energy to seek near and far
Ideas and plans that no longer bind
To the repetition of ones that are stale.
Even weird dreams have their place
In awakening one with fruitful energy.
No sweeter state for female or male
Glowingly, it shows on the face
Heralding a day of rich possibility.

But, Dear Sleep, when you desert me
I feel anxious, restless and broken.
Fearing the worst, lost forever, thee?
Calamitous, a devil must have spoken.
So many suggestions I have tried.
Awareness to the breath, keep steady.
A cup of tea, a snack, a book
To woo you back to confide
My scrambled mind for you to be ready
To rearrange, everything in its nook.

So, Dear Sleep, together is the way
To reach our true goal, what's right.
To face the challenges of the day
And quieten the fears of the night.
So, speak to me gently, kindly
Embrace me with genuine glee.
Free me from a languid haze.
I will not treat you blindly
For in a flash you may flee.
So, Dear Sleep, I thee praise.

Acrostics: Panda

Panda, my lovable dog
Always happy to see me
Not so pleased when left alone
Dunks his head in his bowl
And flicks water all over the floor.

Haiku: Kookaburras

High in the gum trees
Laughing out loud in their glee.
Bushman's alarm clock

Haiku: Daddy Long Legs

Gentle thin legs brush
Against her skin. Fear, scream, flick.
Legs crinkle, float down

Contact Us



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding class rosters

or payments use:

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Roster Team

Sandra Keen

Mitzi Gordon

Judy Wallace

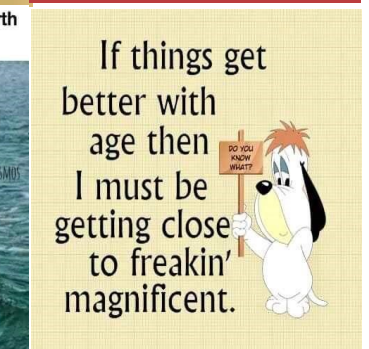
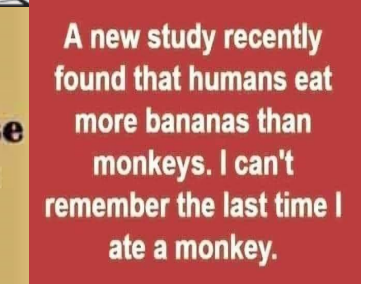
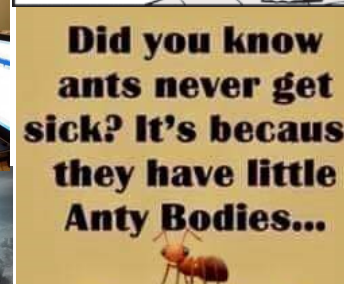
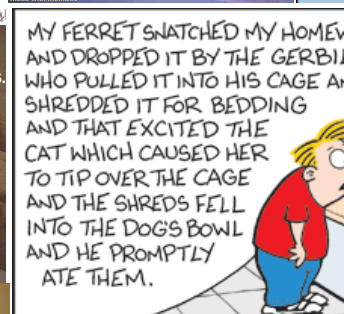
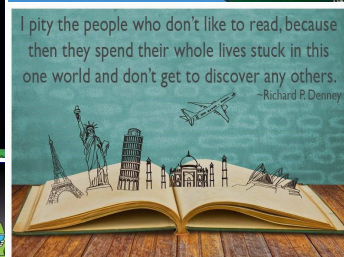
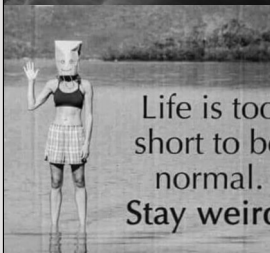
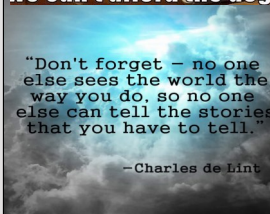
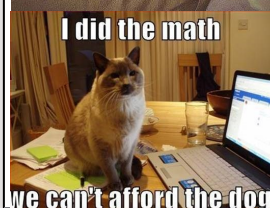
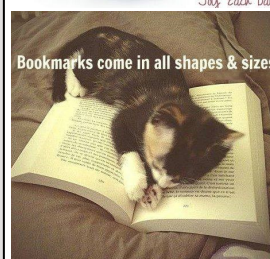
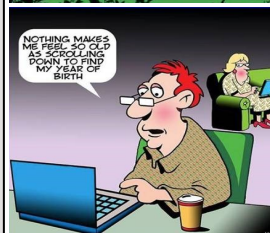
Jackie Lampe

**James Hart
Treasurer**

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.

Funnybone

Tip of the day: Before starting a project, check if you have the resources available



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 VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PRESERVE THE REMAINING HAIR OF OUR TREASURER.

When you make a payment to Computerpals, either online or over the counter at the bank, it can sometimes become a very daunting task trying to track down who sent it. For that reason, and to enable Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot to remain in retirement, PLEASE put your name in the reference line plus what the payment is for eg Jackie Chan AGM. That will show up with the payment amount and is very easy then for our hard-working treasurer to mark off his list. Thank you.

Some Computer Glitches and Giggles - Calls to help-lines

Caller: 'I deleted a file from my PC last week and I have just realised that I need it. If I turn my system clock back two weeks will I have my file back again?'

Tech Support: 'I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop'.

Customer: 'OK'.

Tech Support: 'Did you get a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No'.

Tech Support: 'OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No'.

Tech Support: 'OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?'

Customer: 'Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.

Samsung Electronics

Caller: 'Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about'.

Caller: 'On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?'

Operator: 'The Jack is the telephone point on the wall'

Travel After Hours Call Centre Conversation

Customer: 'I've been ringing 0800 2100 for two days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help?'

Operator: 'Where did you get that number from, sir?'

Customer: 'It was on the door to the Travel Centre'.

Operator: 'Sir, they are our opening hours'.

Caller (enquiring about legal requirements while travelling in France):

'If I register my car in France , do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?'

Then there was the English caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: 'Woven? Are you sure?'

Caller: 'Yes. That's what it says on the label; Woven in Scotland '.

Church newsletter bloopers

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

"Ladies, don't forget the monthly church rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

The peace-making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Remember in prayer the many that are sick of our community.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.