



SWITCHED - ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Barry Keen



Dates to Remember

Next social day out
Friday 16th August

AGM
Friday 23rd August

Special Interest
Groups
Thursday 13th
September

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – August 2024

Term 3 has commenced. The class schedule is available on the club's website, and there is a copy at the end of this newsletter.

Our next Social Day outing will be to Fort Scratchley (including a Tunnel Tour) on **Friday 16th August** - Meet 10.00/10.15am (*Tour starts at 10.30am sharp*). Entry - to Fort Scratchley is free, **but there is a cost for the Tour - \$9.50 concession (pay at the info/gift shop on the day)**. A separate email has been sent regarding this.

Annual General Meeting - Friday 23 August at **Cardiff RSL Club** starting 11:00 am (all welcome, but only Financial Members can vote), with lunch following (own expense \$19 per head smorgasbord dining). **CLICK HERE** for the registration form for the AGM/lunch (please complete and 'submit' it and pay us by **10 August** - we must advise the Cardiff RSL Club of numbers and **pay them by 16 August**).

The above AGM information and a Nomination Form for committee executive and committee members has been sent to you by email by the Secretary. If appropriate, please complete and submit a nomination form back to the Secretary **before 16 August**.

Computerpals membership is now due - cost **\$25** covers through to 30/6/2025.

Some people have already paid. If you are unsure, please send a text message to the Treasurer - Grahame on 0410 688 214 to clarify.

For those who would like to join - go to 'Membership' on the club's website for a membership form.

Monday afternoon Assistance classes (on the topic of your interest is available to **Computerpals Financial Members**). Classes are usually 1½ hrs starting at 12:30 pm. The cost of each session is **\$5**.

Phone **0478 219 220** to register (no 'drop-ins' permitted – numbers are limited by number of available tutors/mentors).

Financial Members can also access the **Thursday ZOOM** sessions (start at 10:00 am). Cost **\$10** - covers the whole term.

Our bank account details are:

Computerpals with NPBS BSB **650 000** Account **962205402**

Please quote your name and what the payment is for in the details info of the deposit.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

Cheers

Barry Keen
President

Contact Us



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer

regarding class rosters or payments use:

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Committee

Carolyn Keane



Wendy Smith
Secretary

Mervyn Pope



Brenton Eley
Social

Margie Olsen



Member Information

Membership is now due

Payment Details:

Our bank account details are

Account Name **Computerpals**

BSB **650 000** (Newcastle Permanent Building Society)

Account **962205402**

in the reference section put your SURNAME and INITIAL, plus Membership (for membership payment)

Remember: *please book in for the classes you want to attend..*

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** leave your name & phone number and the reason for your call— someone will get back to you.

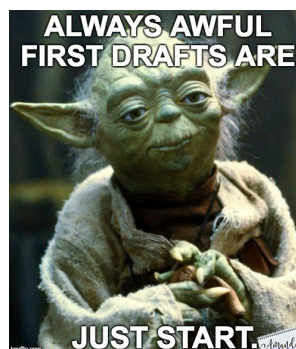
See [club website](#) for more information

Memorypals, Writerpals and Digipals have now combined meetings on the 2nd Thursday each month at 1pm at Club Lambton.

Carmel sends her apologies for Thursday 8th for not attending the session to those of you that came. She was caught up in family dramas.

Next meeting will be September 13th at 1pm at Club Lambton.

Carmel is looking forward to the next meeting on 13th September when we could look at “Something I always wanted to try but never really had the nerve to do....and why”.



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

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Committee

Sandra Keen



Judy Wallace

Jackie Lampe

Vice President



Lindsay Threadgate

Ray Hinton



Member Story Denise Hayes

I do not have a member story this month. Instead, I have been exploring a little of AI. Some AI chatbots are ChatGPT, CoPilot, Gemini, Claude among others.

I will explore a little of ChatGPT as it is currently open to use for free.

ChatGPT is an AI chatbot with natural language processing (NLP) that allows you to have human-like conversations to complete various tasks.

The **generative AI** tool can answer questions and assist you with composing emails, essays, code, and much more.

ChatGPT offers many functions in addition to answering simple questions. ChatGPT can **compose essays**, have philosophical conversations (maybe don't ask 'What is the meaning of life'), do math, and even **code for you**.

The tasks ChatGPT can help with also don't have to be so ambitious. For example, a use of ChatGPT is for help creating basic lists for chores, such as packing and grocery shopping, and to-do lists that makes daily life more productive. The possibilities are endless.

ZDNET has published many ChatGPT how-to guides. Below are some of the most popular ones.

Some uses of ChatGPT:

- Write an essay**
- Create an app**
- Build your resume**
- Summarize content**
- Write a cover letter**
- Browse the web**

I opened the free ChatGPT and asked it write this newsletter... just joking!

I was sent the following to experiment with: AI Prompt Perfect – story telling competition!

Be guided by the AI generated image here

Criteria

1. Use your personal AI chatbot, showering us with an intriguing **fictional story INTRODUCTION**, relating to the AI generated image
2. No more than 350 words



Scenario from picture: Write a short story in Shakespeare prose about a middle age lady and gentleman in London on the river Thames, about the future of using an iPad to gain knowledge about the galaxy and rockets and drones

Two responses were very different and written as a story. My response was in the form of a poem. I then closed and opened ChatGPT again and this time I had a short story.

So I continued having fun and input a different description of the scene. It is fascinating reading the stories. They are very heavily embellished with adjectives. I understand a different AI chatbot may be less descriptive. You can also ask for the response to be written in a formal style or in a simple conversational style.

Social News

Our next Social Day outing will be to Fort Scratchley (including a Tunnel Tour) on Friday 16th August next.

The headland at the entrance to Newcastle Harbour has long been associated with the history of Newcastle. Two natural features were the height of the headland which offered a prominent lookout, and the ready access of coal seams around its base. The discovery of coal in the early 1800's led to the site becoming the first European coal mine in Australia, and later, further coal mining developments around Newcastle and the Hunter Valley.

Meanwhile, the strategic importance of a hilltop overlooking the harbour was not lost on the British Government. A defense station was set up, with heavy guns placed to ward off any possible attacks, along with the Commandant's cottage and barracks for the troops. The guns and their enclosures were changed several times during the 20th century as military technology developed. During WW2, the guns were fired at a Japanese mini submarine that entered the harbour and began shelling the city. This was the only time a coastal fortification fired on an enemy Naval vessel.

On our visit, we will assemble at the Artillery Store (now their information/gift shop) to purchase tickets for a tour of the tunnels, after which you are free to wander around and explore other buildings and exhibits. Parking is available on site or on the street (see below). **Please note that the tunnel tours are unsuitable for wheelchairs or walkers due to the narrow stairs and hallways. Sturdy/non-slip footwear is strongly recommended.** Details are as follows;

Where: Fort Scratchley, Newcastle

When: Friday 16th August 2024

Time: Meet 10.00/10.15am for Tour (Tour starts at 10.30am sharp)

Cost: Entry - free, Tour - \$9.50 concession (pay at the info/gift shop on the day)

Please [click here](#) to download the attendance form, complete the details and submit. ***It would be appreciated if you could reply by Sunday 11th August, as The Fort needs to know numbers so they can arrange for sufficient volunteer guides to run these tours. If you have notified us that you are coming, and then for some reason you are unable to attend, please advise me a.s.a.p.*** I would also ask that if attending, you are ***on time (gates open at 10.00am)*** as the need to start/finish on time to allow schedules to be kept throughout the day.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Brenton Elsey
Social Secretary
0438 997 310

<http://www.computerpals.org.au>
computerpals2010@gmail.com



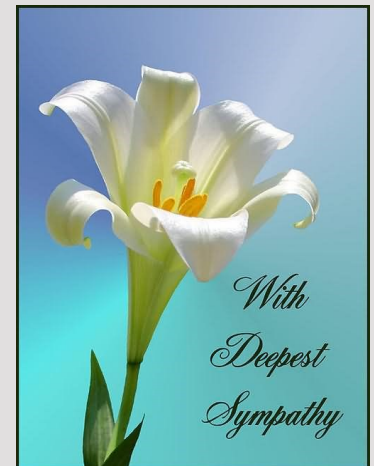
Best Wishes

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.



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islingtonpals@gmail.com

Committee



Fred Neal

Graham King

Treasurer



Denise Hayes

Mitzi Gordon



Carmel Smith

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.

Scam Watch

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>



Scam Alert: NASC Impersonation Scammer

Criminals are calling people and pretending to be from the National Anti-Scam Centre.

They tell you that your phone number is being used in a scam in China and offer to help you ‘clear your record’.

These scammers work hard to get your trust, then try to steal your money and personal information.

Hang up on unexpected callers who say they’re investigating a scam.

It’s probably a scam: the National Anti-Scam Centre will never ask for money or personal or financial information.

How to spot the scam

This scam can be hard to spot because scammers can make a call look like it’s from a legitimate number.

However, the National Anti-Scam Centre will never ask you for money, financial or personal information, or threaten you.

Anyone calling and behaving like this is probably a criminal.

Hang up immediately and report the scam.

/—————/

Scam Alert : Fake Rental Listings:

A recent scam occurred in Port Stephens where a family from Sydney paid for an Airbnb and arrived to find that it was not for rent.

In the real estate market, scammers are posting fake rental listings for properties that don’t exist or aren’t actually available. They might ask for deposits or personal information upfront. Verify the listing with the actual property owner or manager before paying any money.

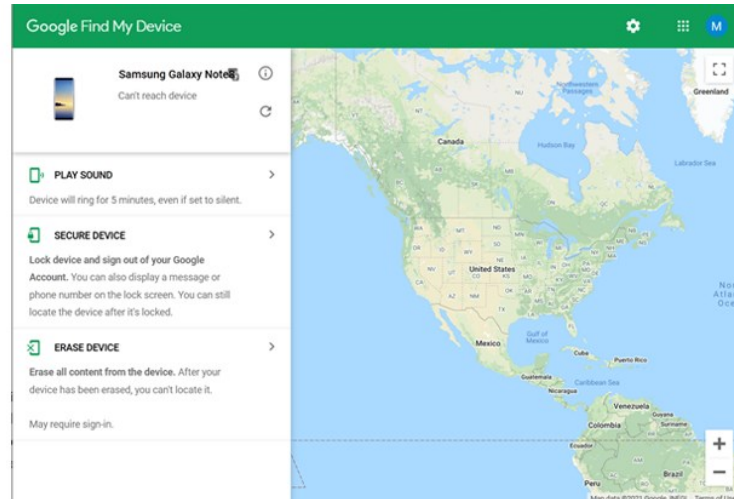
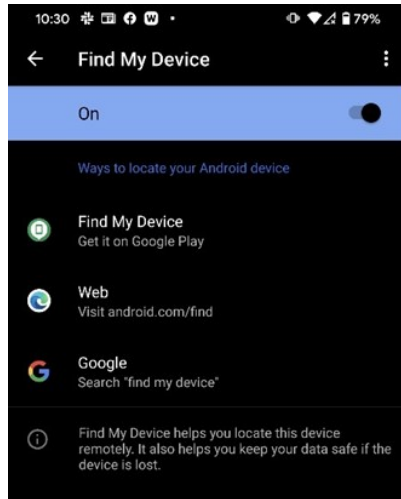
You can look up reviews of a property to determine if it is good for you or not. See if there a review on TripAdvisor as well.

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Tips & Tricks (Android this month)

Go to <https://au.pcmag.com/android/85653/20-android-tips-and-tricks-for-getting-the-most-from-your-phone>

Turn on Find My Device



If you misplace your phone or it gets stolen, both Apple and Google have features that help you locate it on a map. Not only that, but these also Find My services let you disable the phone, wipe it, and play a sound on it. Apple's mobile operating system goes a little further by letting you display your number or another message on the screen of the lost device, something we don't see why Google hasn't added.

Double-Tap the Power Button to Open the Camera

This is a snappy and straightforward trick. Most Android phones let you double-tap the power button to turn on the camera. Quick camera access is essential for capturing those fleeting moments. You can also use volume keys to focus and take the shot. Long-press on either to start a video recording.

Beef Up Storage

A major advantage of Android over iPhones is that some phone models let you increase storage with a microSD card. Not only does this let you store more media and apps on your phone, but it also offers a way to transfer large amounts of file data between your phone and other devices. Another advantage is that you can plug some Android phones into an external USB storage drive and browse its files. If your phone has a USB-C port, you can simply plug in a USB flash memory drive with a Type-C connection.

Add Widgets and Customize Home

Apple iOS was a little slow to the draw when it came to adding widgets to the home screen, but Android users have been able to do this for ages. Here's how you do it: long-press on the home screen, choose Widgets, and then pick from the selection made available by any apps installed on their phones. Long-pressing on the Home screen also gives you other customization options, such as removing the Google feed page to the left of the Home screen or to disabling screen rotation for the Home screen—which we would never do, because it's cool to see your home screen in landscape.

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2024 Term 3 - 22nd July to 26th September Ph: 0478 219 220 (updated 26/06/24)

Term 3 topics are - Back to Basics BeConnected classes are free. #75. Zoom Classes - register \$10 (covers all ZOOM Term 3 sessions on Thur).

Computerpals Club Assistance classes are cost at \$5 per 1½ hours

Wk	Monday Morning Club Lambton	Monday Afternoon for ComputerPals Members Club Lambton	Tuesday Wallsend Library	Wednesday Afternoon Adamstown Library	Thursday Zoom session (see your email for the link)
1	22/7 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Using Our Website Enrolment Day	22/7 12:30 to 2:00 pm No class COMMITTEE MEETING	23/7 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Using Our Website	24/7 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) Using Our Website	25/7 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class #75 Zoom fee \$10 is now due (covers all sessions for Term 3)
2	29/7 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) On Screen Keyboard & Quick Settings-Android	29/7 12:30 to 2:00 pm #85 Assistance session Cost \$5	30/7 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) On Screen Keyboard & Quick Settings-Android	31/7 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) On Screen Keyboard & Quick Settings-Android	1/8 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
3	5/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) On Screen Keyboard & Quick Settings-Apple	5/8 12:30 to 2:00 pm #86 Assistance session Cost \$5	6/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) On Screen Keyboard & Quick Settings-Apple	7/8 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) On Screen Keyboard & Quick Settings-Apple	8/8 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class 1:00 to 2:30 pm Combined Writerpals, Memorypals & Digipals At Club Lambton
4	12/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) What is an App	12/8 12:30 to 2:00 pm #87 Assistance session Cost \$5	13/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) What is an App	14/8 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) What is an App	15/8 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
5	19/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Privacy & Security	19/8 12:30 to 2:00 pm #88 Assistance session Cost \$5	20/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Privacy & Security	21/8 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) Privacy & Security	22/8 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class

Wk	Monday Morning Club Lambton	Monday Afternoon for ComputerPals Members Club Lambton	Tuesday Wallsend Library	Wednesday Afternoon Adamstown Library	Thursday Zoom session (see your email for the link)
6	26/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	26/8 12:30 to 2:00 pm #89 Assistance session Cost \$5	27/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	28/8 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free)	29/8 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
7	2/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	2/9 12:30 to 2:00 pm #90 Assistance session Cost \$5	3/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	4/9 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free)	5/9 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
	9/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	9/9 12:30 to 2:00 pm #91 Assistance session Cost \$5	10/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	11/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	12/9 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class 1:00 to 2:30 pm Combined Writerpals, Memorypals & Digipals At Club Lambton
8	16/9 10:00 to 11:30 am MEMBERS MORNING TEA	16/9 12:30 to 2:00 pm #92 Assistance session Cost \$5	17/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	18/9 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free)	19/9 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
9	23/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	23/9 12:30 to 2:00 pm No class COMMITTEE MEETING	24/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free)	25/9 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free)	26/9 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class