



# SWITCHED - ON SENIORS

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

**President**

**Barry Keen**



**Dates to Remember**

**Thurs. 12/12—11:30 am**  
**Christmas Lunch @Club Lambton**



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**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – December 2024**

We have had another busy period since last month.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Brenton’s report on the Social Outing to Davistown on 1 November.

I participated in a webinar from the eSafety Commission on iPhone Basics on 7/11. On 11/11 there was no meeting at Club Lambton due to the RSL Remembrance Day activities. We held our Assistance session in the afternoon at Wallsend Library which went well. Luckily we were allowed to use the big room which gave us the space we needed.

Sandra and I attended the ASCCA AGM online on 12/11. Jenny Wilcox remains as President and we welcomed Paul Dovas in the new role of CEO (based in Sydney). Jody Chadban, Salvation Army Australia spoke about the new partnership agreement with ASCCA and Catherine Mattiske, (The Performance Company) spoke about AI. Ross Howard (Forest Cpals) and Deborah Martin (The Hills Cpals) joined the ASCCA Board as new board members. Work is progressing on Joseph Vijay’s project to develop a ‘playbook’ that we have been helping with to assist existing and establishing new clubs with ‘how to’ information.

On 20/11, I attended a webinar from Connecting Up on ‘From confused to confident: demystifying AI prompt writing’ and concluded I’ve got a lot of learning to go before I consider I’m confident working with AI prompts - it’s a work in progress for me.

*Don’t forget our [Christmas lunch](#)—details next page.*

**WISHING YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS VACATION**

Barry Keen  
President



**SNAKE ALERT**

Please be aware of snakes this season.  
Here is a recent news item:



“A Queensland family is mourning a "vibrant, compassionate, and loving" 16-year-old who died from a [snake bite](#) yesterday. Beau Horan, 16, was bitten on the foot by a brown snake on Monday afternoon at his family home in Wurdong Heights, just south of Gladstone. According to a family friend, the teenager was unaware he had been bitten until he came back inside and collapsed.”  
So be mindful of what feels like a scratch from a stick or branch. Make sure that is what it is. There will be puncture marks if it was a snake! **Get help immediately.**

## Contact Us



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer

regarding class rosters or payments use:

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

## Committee

Carolyn Keane



Wendy Smith  
Secretary

Mervyn Pope



Brenton Eley  
Social

Margie Olsen



## Member Information

### 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 M (for membership payment), #... (for Assistance class), or Xmas lunch as appropriate

**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 are temporarily suspended until next year.** A suggested new format is Monday afternoon, once a month. Any interest and suggestions are welcome. Please email [ComputerPals](#).

## Christmas lunch

**Date:** Thursday 12th December 2024 (please note the day)  
**Time:** 11.00am for 11.30am start (please be punctual)  
**Location:** Club Lambton, 51 Karoola Road, Lambton  
**Cost:** \$30.00 (2 course meal), drinks, and extras at own expense

Please [Click Here](#) to download the attendance form, complete the details and then submit it. Next, you need to pay ComputerPals. Our bank details are - **ComputerPals at Newcastle Permanent Building Society, BSB: 650000, Account number: 962205402** *with your name & Xmas Lunch* in the details space. You can use either online banking or through your own bank

We do need to know numbers for catering and table area purposes, along with additional staffing, so please be prompt in replying if you intend to go. ***All registration of attendance forms together with payment must be received by Wednesday 4th December,*** as we have to advise numbers and pay the Club no later than 1 week in advance.



## Contact Us



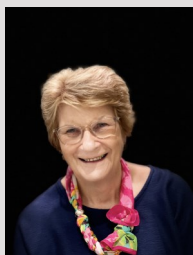
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## Committee

Sandra Keen



Judy Wallace

Jackie Lampe

Vice President



Lindsay Threadgate

Ray Hinton



## Christmas Cheer

### Geeks 12 Days of Christmas

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me:  
 Twelve cores debugging,  
 Eleven named-pipes piping,  
 Ten laptops loading,  
 Nine apps compiling,  
 Eight mice a-moving,  
 Seven smartphones syncing,  
 Six geeks a-coding,  
 Five I-D-E's,  
 Four calling cards,  
 Three iPads,  
 Two monitors,  
 And a cartridge for my H-P.



## 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 Politically Correct Christmas

~ Anon

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...  
 How to live in a world that's politically correct?  
 His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",  
 "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.  
 And labor conditions at the North Pole,  
 were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety,  
 released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.  
 And equal employment had made it quite clear,  
 that Santa had better not use just reindeer.  
 So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,  
 were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his beautiful sleigh,  
 because the ruts were deemed dangerous by the EPA,  
 And millions of people were calling the Cops,  
 when they heard sled noises upon their roof tops.  
 Second-hand smoke from his pipe, had his workers quite frightened,  
 and his fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened".

To show you the strangeness of today's ebbs and flows,  
 Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.  
 He went to Geraldo, in front of the Nation,  
 demanding millions in over-due workers compensation.

So...half of the reindeer were gone, and his wife  
 who suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,  
 joined a self help group, packed and left in a whiz,  
 demanding from now on that her title was Ms.

And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion  
 that making a choice could cause such commotion.  
 Nothing of leather, nothing of fur...  
 Which meant nothing for him or nothing for her.  
 Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot,  
 Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise.  
 Nothing for just girls and nothing for just boys.  
 Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,  
 Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.

No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.  
 Nothing that seemed to embellish upon the truth.  
 And fairy tales...while not yet forbidden,  
 were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden,  
 for they raised the hackles of those psychological,  
 who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football...someone might get hurt,  
 besides - playing sports exposed kids to dirt.  
 Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passe.  
 and Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, dishevelled and perplexed,  
 he just couldn't figure out what to do next?  
 He tried to be merry he tried to be gay,  
 but you must have to admit he was having a very bad day.  
 His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground,  
 nothing fully acceptable was anywhere to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might,  
 give to us all, without angering the left or the right.  
 A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision,  
 each group of people in every religion.  
 Every race, every hue,  
 everyone, everywhere...even you!  
 So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...

**"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on Earth."**

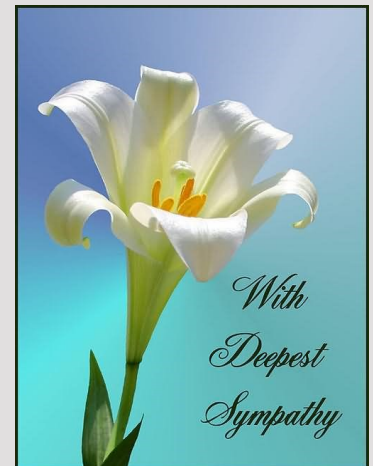
## Best Wishes

*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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## 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/>



Here are 2 interesting articles I have seen in the news recently

### AI grandma fights back against scammers

News article in CBS News



[AI Scambaiters: O2 creates AI Granny to waste scammers' time](#) by [O2](#) on [YouTube](#)

Meet Daisy – an AI-generated grandma created by British phone company Virgin Media O2 as the ultimate scam buster. Daisy's sole purpose is to talk to scammers all day so real people don't have to.

Daisy [made her debut](#) on Nov. 14 and has already had more than 1,000 conversations with scammers so far, the longest lasting around 40 minutes, frustrating them with her tech-illiteracy and wasting their time by telling irrelevant stories about her grandchildren.

The newest member of our fraud-prevention team, Daisy, is turning the tables on scammers – outsmarting and outmanoeuvring them at their own cruel game simply by keeping them on the line," Murray Mackenzie, director of fraud at Virgin Media O2, said in a statement.

While Daisy may sound like a human, she is essentially an AI large language model with the character application of a grandma. She functions by listening to the scammers and translating their voice to text. The AI then searches its large database to find an appropriate response, based on the specific scam training it's received, and translates that text response to speech for Daisy to reply. All this happens in seconds with no additional input needed.

The company told CBS they worked with known scam artists to train Daisy and used a tactic called number seeding to get Daisy's phone number added to a list of online "mugs lists" — lists used by scammers targeting U.K. consumers. When they call, Daisy "has all the time in the world" to keep the scammers occupied.

### Filipina dating scam

Here is an article written by a cop who has found this scam particularly insidious. It preys on lonely, vulnerable men who are looking for love and companionship, and the scammers behind it are often shockingly ruthless.

He had heard stories of men who had lost their life savings to scammers, of women who had posed as nurses or teachers to gain the trust of their victims, and of elaborate schemes involving fake visas and travel documents.

Go to the link below to read this article, read how it is done and how to keep yourself safe from this type of scam.

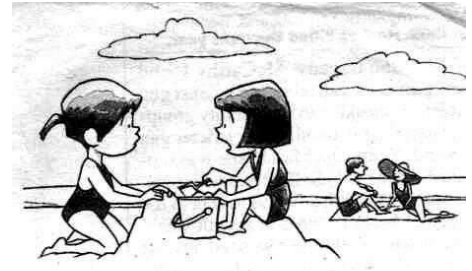
<https://docmckee.com/travel/stay-safe-from-dating-scams/>

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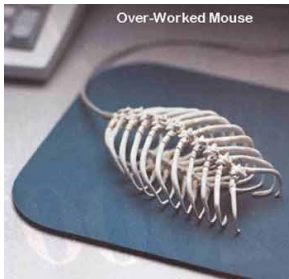
# Here are some funny computer memes that our tutor Merv Pope shared:



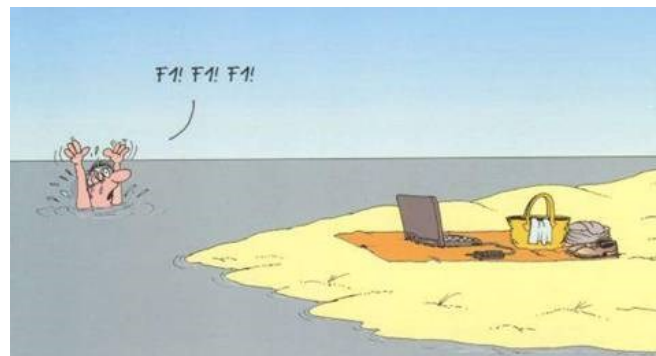
© 1999 Randy Glasbergen. www.glasbergen.com  
"It's the latest innovation in office safety. When your computer crashes, an air bag is activated so you won't bang your head in frustration."



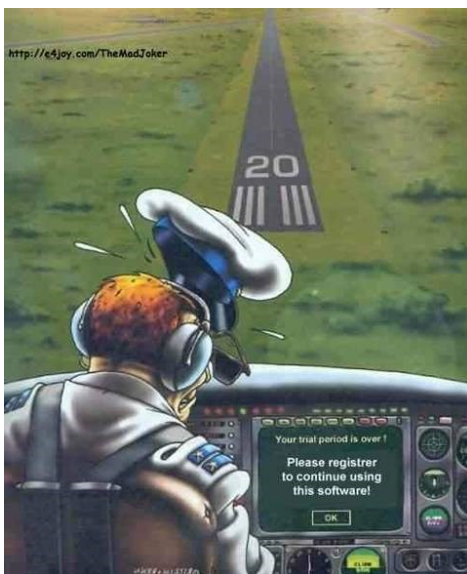
"I'm never having kids. I hear they take nine months to download."



www.zeebarf.com  
"Okay your father managed to get a mouse. Now how do we use it?"



For those who don't know 'F1' is the help key on your computer keyboard



"Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the 'Are you totally lost?' icon."

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**2024 Term 4 - 14th Oct to 12th Dec** Ph: 0478 219 220 (updated 29/10/24)

BeConnected classes are free. #76. Zoom Classes - register \$10 (covers all ZOOM Term 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	14/10 10:00 to 11:30 am Get Online Week <b>MEMBERS MORNING TEA</b> Guest Speaker NP05 Wallsend <b>Enrolment Day</b>	14/10 12:30 to 2:00 pm Get Online Week # 93 Assistance session Cost \$5	15/10 10:00 to 11:30 am Get Online Week BeConnected (free) Banking Discussion	16/10 1:00 to 2:30 pm Get Online Week BeConnected (free) Banking Discussion	17/10 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class Get Online Week <b>#76 Zoom fee \$10 in next class (covers all sessions for Term 4)</b>
2	21/10 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Mobile Banking Practice	21/10 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 94 Assistance session Cost \$5	22/10 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Mobile Banking Practice	23/10 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) Mobile Banking Practice	24/10 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
3	28/10 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Cloud Backup & Photo Sharing	28/10 12:30 to 2:00 pm <b>No class</b> <b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	29/10 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Cloud Backup & Photo Sharing	30/10 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) Cloud Backup & Photo Sharing	31/10 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
4	4/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Using the Phone Camera	4/11 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 95 Assistance session Cost \$5	5/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Using the Phone Camera	6/11 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) Using the Phone Camera	7/11 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
5	11/11 <b>No Class</b> <b>Remembrance Day</b>	11/11 12:30 to 2:00 pm <b>WALLSEND LIBRARY</b> # 96 Assistance session Cost \$5	12/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Taking Better Photos	13/11 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) Taking Better Photos	14/11 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	18/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Online Shopping Tap & Go	18/11 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 97 Assistance session Cost \$5	19/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Online Shopping Tap & Go	20/11 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) Online Shopping Tap & Go	21/11 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
7	25/11 <b>No Class</b> <b>Ladies Gala Bowls Day</b>	25/11 12:30 to 2:00 pm <b>No class</b> <b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	26/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Shopping Scams	27/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Shopping Scams	28/11 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
8	2/12 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) What to do if you are scammed	2/12 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 98 Assistance session Cost \$5	3/12 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) What to do if you are scammed	4/12 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) What to do if you are scammed	5/12 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
9	9/12 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Photography Tips on your phone	9/12 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 99 Assistance session Cost \$5	10/12 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected (free) Photography Tips on your phone	11/12 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected (free) Photography Tips on your phone	12/12 11:30 am <b>Christmas Lunch @ Club Lambton</b>

