



SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Barry Keen



Dates to Remember

Friday 8th March, Computerpals Outing

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—February 2024

Welcome back everyone and we're off for the start of Term 1, 2024. We had a great day on Monday 29/1 in the morning with 34 learners and 9 tutors. 12 learners joined up as new Computerpals members and kept our Treasurer - Grahame King (yes!!! he's back) busy. Interestingly, a lot of our regulars were not present (presumably still on grandparenting duties). They will probably swell our numbers next Monday... Wallsend has also started well with 13 learners and 7 tutors.

As I've previously advised via email - Hamilton Library on Wednesdays has been closed due to air conditioner problems. An alternative venue has been offered and accepted for our use on future Wednesdays from 7/2 at Adamstown Library at 1 pm.

A few of our tutors are on the sick list but they report they're on the mend and will be back with us soon.

The Term 1 class schedule was sent out by email and is available on the club's website for your information. Please phone 0478 219 220 to book in for upcoming classes. If you need to pay money to the club, our bank account details are on the website tab 'Membership and Payments'.

A broader club calendar for 2024 is also on the club's website.

Our first Term 1 Zoom session started Thursday 1/2 at 10 am as did the first special interest group meeting for Memorypals at 1 pm at Club Lambton.

Tuesday, February 6th was Safer Internet Day. This year's theme is Connect, Reflect, Protect! To coordinate with this, the Be Connected topic 'Using the Internet Safely' was our focus for the whole week. We use the internet in almost every aspect of our lives, so it's important for everyone to know about online safety.



I look forward with enthusiasm to seeing you at these sessions.
Cheers
Barry Keen
President

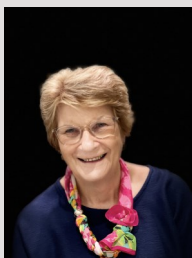
Contact Us



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding class rosters or payments use:

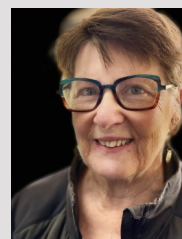
islingtonpals@gmail.com
Committee/Roster

Sandra Keen



Judy Wallace

Jackie Lampe



Denise Hayes

Graham King

Treasurer



These people are all volunteers and most also teach classes at Computerpals. We ask that you take this into consideration

Member Information

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.*

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.

Term 1 Zoom sessions are for Computerpals members (cost \$10 covers the whole of Term 1).

Computerpals membership: cost is \$25 for the financial year to 30/6/2024. New members this January/February only need to pay \$15 to 30/6/2024.

How do I pay: visit the club’s website and click on the ‘Membership’ tab

ComputerPals Member Story

There was an article in The Newcastle Herald on Friday January 12th by titled “The networks logging on to bridge the digital divide” by Lucinda Garbutt-Young. A ComputerPals member, Suzanne Clarke, is featured in this article in a photo with her elderly father putting their tech skills to use.



The story speaks of the increased invisibility of the elderly, the need for the elderly to know about the services that have become digitised and need to be able to use technology to pay bills online. It mentions ComputerPals, run by Sandra and Barry Keen, (and all of our volunteer tutors) as one of the Hunter’s sources for learning technology in a friendly and helpful learning environment where the member is taught patiently in a step by step approach.

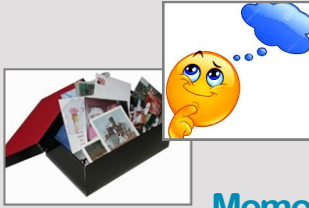
Committee Member Changes

There have been 2 major role changes in the committee for 2024. There is a new **Treasurer** and **Newsletter Editor**.

Graham King stepped down as Treasurer early in 2023. James Hart took over the role in the second half of 2023. James was unable to continue in the role in 2024 so Grahame King kindly came back on board to fill the role. The committee extended its thanks to James for his work in 2023.

Carmel Smith has been the editor of the Newsletter since 2016. That is a mammoth effort from Carmel. We have been looking forward to Carmel’s newsletter with much enjoyment for many years. She has had to step down for personal reasons. The committee has extended their thanks to Carmel for her years of devoted work on the monthly newsletters. Denise Hayes has agreed to take over the role from Carmel.

Special Interest Groups



MemoryPals

Our new group meets on **first Thursday** 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 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 pm** 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 Thursday** of the month at **1 pm**.* There is no need to book in for MemoryPals and it is free. We all have treasured memories, items, and photos from our younger days, even some from earlier generations. If those items don't have a story and are identified as being important to your family there is a real risk they will be 'binned' and lost forever after you have gone. Future generations will be the poorer for their loss. Our group is very social and discusses these 'things' over a cuppa and we help each other in looking at ways to preserve them. We can also talk about family history 'stuff'.

WriterPals

*WriterPals will meet on the **second Thursday** of the month at **1 pm**;* Our first meeting in 2024 for Writerpals will be on **Thursday 8th February at 1 pm at Club Lambton.**

DigiPals

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

Our first meeting at **Club Lambton** will be on **Thursday February 15th at 1pm** when Writerpals will be joining you to talk about an in house competition as the ASCCA competition is not running this year. It should be an interesting meeting and discussion.

Thursday Zoomies

Thursday will be devoted to regular Zoom classes commencing at 10:00 am. A fee for the whole of Term 1 (cost \$10) applies and should be sent to our bank account (include your name and #65).

An email will be sent out with "What's On" and the link to join us.

Please join in if you can, it's great for anyone who can't physically meet with for whatever reason or just want to 'be with' friends.

For more information send an email to us at contact@computerpals.org.au

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.

Social News

Our member's 2023 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.



Our first 2024 social activity will be held on March 8th, so keep the date free. Here is a message from our Social Organiser:

Hi Members,

Just a sneak preview of our next social outing.

This will be a visit to **Club Lambton on Friday 8th March** next where you can 'kick the shoes off' (or leave your soft sole/sneakers on) for a game of lawn bowls.

We will be commencing as soon as the Club opens (10.00am) to beat the heat, and those who would like to stay on for lunch would be most welcome.

Bowls will be provided, while you should bring a wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen.

More details later.

Brenton

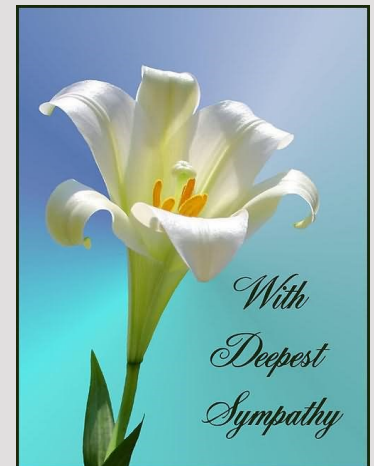
Best Wishes

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.

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

Are we safe when using the internet?

At ComputerPals we always spend sessions on the topic of using the internet safely. We break the topic down into easy to understand sessions so as not to overwhelm you with information.

Unfortunately, **the Internet is home to certain risks, such as malware, spam, and phishing.** If you want to stay safe online, you'll need to understand these risks and learn how to avoid them.

7 Tips for Protecting Yourself Online

1. Keep your computers and mobile devices up to date. ...
2. Set strong passwords. ...
3. Watch out for phishing scams. ...
4. Keep personal information personal. ...
5. Secure your internet connection. ...
6. Shop safely. ...



Week 2, starting Monday 5th February, is featuring the topic “Using the Internet safely”. If you miss the topic this time, we can repeat it in another Term through the year.

Watch out for these top internet scams

Disaster Relief Scams

When disaster strikes so do fraudsters, whether it's a pandemic or weather-related. Hiding behind the guise of an actual aid organization, scammers typically use a tragedy or natural disaster to con you out of your money. By thinking you're donating to an emergency relief fund, you unwittingly provide credit card or other e-payment information.

How to Avoid Them: Only give to established, legitimate organizations. Visit GuideStar or Charity Navigator to verify the validity of any [charitable organization](#) you are considering supporting before you donate.

Grandparent Scams

With grandparent scams, a fraudster poses as a panicked grandchild who needs cash right away for some emergency—to get out of jail, to leave a foreign country, or to pay a hospital bill. The COVID-19 pandemic made it even easier to sell compelling lies: "I'm in the hospital with COVID. Please send money right away."

How to Avoid Them: Resist the urge to act immediately. Scammers pull at your heartstrings and rely on you to respond quickly—before you've had a chance to think things through. Verify the caller's identity and ask questions that a stranger wouldn't be able to answer. Confirm the story with other family members or friends, even if (or especially if) the caller says to keep it a secret. And never send cash, gift cards, or money transfers.

Other scams to be aware of (see next newsletter):

- Fake Antivirus Software
- Fake shopping websites
- Travel Scams

TIPS and TRICKS

Time-saving iPhone tips to Make You a more efficient user

Go to [15 Time-Saving iPhone Tips to Make You a More Efficient User - MacRumors](#)

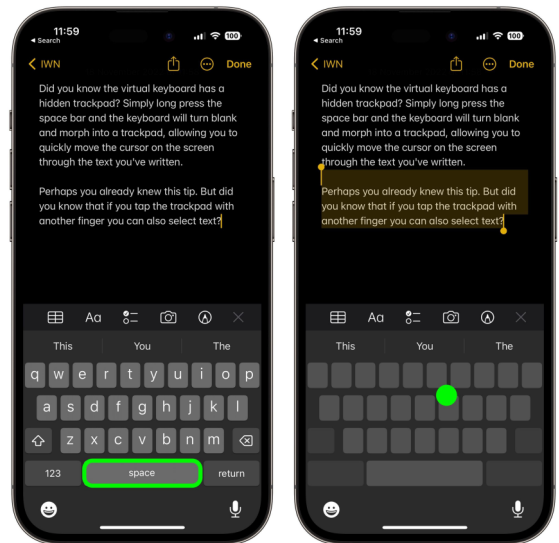
1. Quick-Switch From Numbers to Letters. ...
2. Remove Last Number in Calculations. ...
3. Assign a Back Tap Function. ...
4. Drag the Volume. ...
5. Use the Hidden Trackpad. ...
6. Turn Off In-App Ratings & Review Prompts. ...
7. Long Press Back Buttons. ...
8. QuickTake Video.
9. And more...

Here are 2 of these tips:

Quick-Switch From Numbers to Letters

Switching onscreen keyboards when you need to type a number or symbol is an all-too-often occurrence on iPhone, so here's a tip for making the transition super-swift.

Rather than tap the "123" key to switch to the number/symbol keyboard, hold down on it and slide your finger over to the key you want, then let go. This single action types the number/symbol and automatically switches you back to the alphabetical layout, avoiding the need to perform three separate taps to achieve the same result.



QuickTake Video

On iPhone 11 and later models, you can record videos without even switching out of the default photo mode. To capture a quick video in the Camera app, just press and hold the shutter button, then release it to stop recording.

To keep recording video without having to hold the button, slide the shutter button to the far right. The shutter will stretch elastically under your finger as you do so, and a target padlock icon will appear.

When placed on the padlock, the shutter button will remain located there for as long as you shoot video. You can also tap the shutter to take a still photo during the recording. When you're ready to stop shooting video, simply tap the record button below the viewfinder.



We will look at tips for the Android phone in the next newsletter.