

**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

**Members morning tea  
June 17/6  
(see page 2)**

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**Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs Association ASCCA**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – June 2024

The club has been ticking along just fine with the strong support of all our wonderful volunteers.

Congratulations to them all – we just celebrated Volunteers Week and they deserve the acknowledgement.

Sandra and I have been and will be for the next six months less active due to Sandra's medical condition requiring hospital time.

On the 13th May we cancelled classes at Club Lambton due to the Lady Bowlers' Gala Bowls Day, other sessions have gone on as planned.

There were no classes on Monday 10th June – King's Birthday holiday

We are looking forward with anticipation for the next Members Morning Tea (free) on Monday morning 17/6. There will be two guest speakers...

1. Kathy Lewis from NovaCare
2. Jan Bynon from Stroke Foundation

They will both have some interesting information to pass on.

The afternoon Assistance session will commence at 12:30 pm as planned.

Monday 24th June will again be a Committee Meeting and there will be no class that afternoon.

Thank you, Jackie Lampe, for chairing the meetings in my absence.

Barry Keen

President

I'm sure it's a surprise,  
but as your nurse, I'd like  
to inform you that the  
big "H" you saw in front  
of this building does NOT  
mean "HILTON".

someecards  
user card



Hope you get well soon Sandra.

## What's On

Please join us at our next Morning Tea, Monday 17/6/2024. We ask that you reply by email to [islingtonpals@gmail.com](mailto:islingtonpals@gmail.com) or phone 0478 219 220 as soon as possible to book in.

This will help us with catering.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

**MORNING TEA**

**MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**10:00 am**

**CLUB LAMBTON**

**(Bowling Club in Lambton Park)**

***Come and join us and bring a friend for ...***

***Guest speakers –***

***Kathy Lewis (Novacare)***

***Jan Bynon (Stroke Foundation)***

**Morning Tea is provided so please  
book in -**

**RSVP by Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**for catering purposes**

**Please reply to this Email**

**OR Phone 0478 219 220 and leave a message**



## Contact Us



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Team or  
the  
Treasurer

regarding  
class rosters or  
payments use:

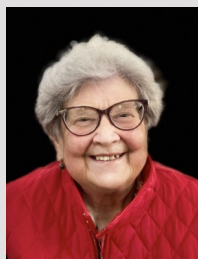
[islingtonpals@gmail.com](mailto:islingtonpals@gmail.com)

## Committee

Carolyn  
Keane



Wendy  
Smith



Mervyn  
Pope



Brenton  
Elsey



Margie  
Olsen



## Member Information

Check out the 'Timetable Button' under 'Get Started Now' on the club's website ([computerpals.org.au](http://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. See [club website](#) for more information

## My working history

By Judy Wallace

When I left school I did a 3 month course on Burroughs Comptometer machines. Employers wanted experienced operators so I looked elsewhere.

I started at Lysaghts at Mayfield on 2/10/1961 as a Punch Card Machine Operator in the Data Processing Department. An IBM026 was used to punch information onto the cards then across to the IBM029 which would then verify the information on the cards was correct. If an error was found a small notch was put at the top of the card indicating where the error was. This then had to be corrected. During this time I married and had a family.

One of the IBM technicians called one day and asked if I was interested in some part time work.

IBM contracted another girl and myself a few times a week to put Newcastle and Port Stephens rates onto punch cards.

They were the good old days when the IBM engineers would let you hit the underside of the punch machine with a shoe if the belt got stuck.

The PC & Mac did not have hard drives but had 2 disk slots. One for the system disk and the other for data disk.

At Newcastle Uni I was called in when extra help was needed for punching Fortran Programs for the students (thousands of them).

I eventually accepted a full time position at the Uni in September 1972.

My list of responsibilities was:

Operating punched card key punch machine

Operating verifying machine

Operating interpreting machine

Operating card sorting machine

Other duties as directed.



## Contact Us



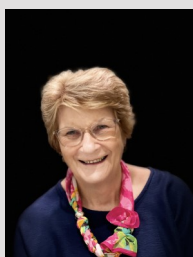
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m](mailto:islingtonpals@gmail.com)

## Committee

Sandra  
Keen



Judy  
Wallace

Jackie  
Lampe



Lindsay  
Threadgate

Ray  
Hinton



## My Working History (cont)

We punched cards for the Bursars and Secretariat division. This involved payroll, programs for the programmers and other stuff that I can't remember. The Fortran programs for the students continued.

I also spent some time as a relief Computer Operator.

Other types of computers were gradually introduced while I was at the Uni, such as IBM PC, Mac Plus, DEC VT100 dumb terminal.

### Understand the Terms Intelligent and Dumb Terminal.

- An intelligent terminal, for example a PC: -
  - Performs a lot of the processing locally
  - You could use a PC, linked to a mainframe
- A dumb terminal: -
  - Has very limited processing capabilities itself, but allows you to connect to a large powerful computer such as a mainframe.
  - When you process your data from the dumb terminal, it is the mainframe at the other end of the network that is performing all the calculations.



DEC VT100 Terminal

One of the computer operators and myself started up the Help Desk system for the students. We learnt as we helped.

In the 1990's the Help Desk was moved to the CT Building and was the first point of call for students using the computers in the building. It was around this time we moved from Punch Card machines to DOS based computers (I think I started with DOS3) then eventually the Windows computers. The Help Desk also created How To... pamphlets for staff & students.

We then evolved to having a support area in different buildings to help staff. I applied for the position as Support Officer and worked in the Chancellery for a few years.

As other staff became Support Officers they started in the Chancellery as it was well established by this time.

I then moved to Medicine Support for a while and eventually moved to Auchmuty Library Support area.

I applied for Voluntary Retirement when it was offered in 2005.

I went along to a DigiPals meeting in 2008. Mitzi told me all about ComputerPals and said I should come along. I told her I didn't need to have lessons so she told me I could be a Tutor.

And I am still here today!

### 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 Day Out

Under mixed skies, an excellent rollup of 28 members travelled to The Rail Motor Society depot, Paterson for an opportunity to re-live rail travel of a bygone era.

On arrival, and with 'original style' tickets purchased, members were split into 3 groups and taken on a tour of the depot to showcase the various activities carried out by The Society's volunteers. These activities included repairs and maintenance to the train fleet and infrastructure, along with inspections of the static display carriages and the old Station Master's cottage, currently housing numerous items of railway memorabilia.

It was then time for the 'main event' – a ride to Dungog and return on a 100-year-old Rail Motor set, lovingly restored and maintained to enable operation on main lines while slotting in with regular passenger and freight services that take precedence over Historical Tour trains. With a typical roar from the GM Detroit 6/71 Diesel engines, we were off on an experience most of us would have considered somewhat 'normal' back in the day. While restricted to 80kph these days (due to age and wooden construction), it still felt like a rapid ride. Arrival at Dungog enabled passengers to stretch their legs, inspect the station precinct, take a comfort stop and observe the passing of an interstate freight train along with the XPT from Grafton which had a scheduled stop. All the while, members (and other TRMS travelling public) were seen busily chatting in groups or working their phone cameras. Time to board the train again for the return to Paterson and the depot, again passing a rather 'green' countryside while reflecting on the experience of riding in 'big boy's (and lady's) toys'.

Our group was made feel most welcome by the friendly and well organised TRMS volunteers assigned for the day, with many commenting that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

For those interested in further excursions or tours, information can be obtained via the

Society's website – [www.railmotorsociety.org.au](http://www.railmotorsociety.org.au) or their Facebook page.

Brenton Elsey



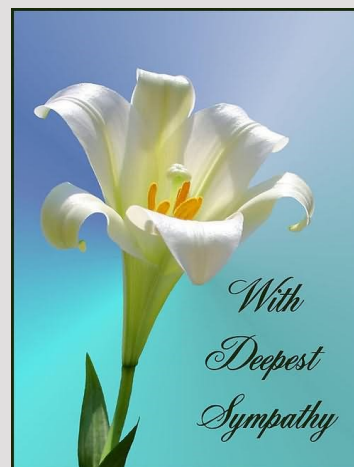
## Best Wishes

*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.*



## Scam Alert : Hang up on remote access scammers

Criminals who contact you unexpectedly offering to help 'fix problems' with your account, phone or computer are causing increasing financial loss through remote access scams. Professional-sounding scammers ask you to download well-known screen-sharing (or remote desktop application) software. They then use this software to steal from you.

Australians reported losing \$15.5 million to these scams in 2023, with criminals stealing averages in the tens of thousands of dollars. This increased by 52% in the first 3 months of 2024, compared to the previous quarter.

Australians over 65 years old are losing the most money in these scams.

### How to spot the scam

- You get an unexpected phone call from someone telling you there's a problem with your account, phone, or computer.
- They may pretend they're calling from a well-known bank, internet, phone, software or web security business and they can help you 'fix the problem'.

They tell you to download screen sharing software like Zoho, AnyDesk or TeamViewer or an app which will let them remotely control your computer or mobile phone.

### How the scam works

- When you download the software or app they say they need to 'fix the problem', the scammer can now fully control your device.
- They don't fix any problem, because there's no problem to fix.
- They ask you to tell them your banking passwords or one-time security codes.
- Sharing these lets the scammer access your bank accounts, personal information and steal your money.

You might not realise they have stolen your money and emptied your bank accounts until the next time you log in.

Go to <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au> for more information on the following scams:

- Text or SMS
- Phone
- Email
- Social Media
- Website
- In-Person

**In our Be Connected course this month we looked at 2 Factor Authentication. As a follow up, here is some information and where to find out more.**

**Go to <https://www.cyber.gov.au/>**

## **Multi Factor Authentication**

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is one of the most effective ways to protect your valuable information and accounts against unauthorised access.

### **What is it?**

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is a security measure that requires two or more proofs of identity to grant you access.

### **How does it work?**

Multi-factor authentication typically requires a combination of something the user knows (PIN, secret question), something you have (card, token) or something you are (fingerprint or other biometric).

Businesses as well as individuals should implement MFA wherever possible. Some MFA options include, but are not limited to:

- Physical token
- Biometrics, such as fingerprints
- Authenticator app
- Email
- SMS

### **Why?**

MFA offers significantly more powerful security and protection against criminals.

They might manage to steal one proof of identity such as your PIN, but they still need to obtain and use the other proofs of identity to access your account.

## **Practical MFA guide**

The [Protect Yourself: Multi-Factor Authentication](#) guide is designed to help everyday Australians understand the benefits of using MFA. Within the MFA guide, you will find easy access to other useful resources that show you how to turn on MFA for most major services.