



SWITCHED - ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Barry Keen



Dates to Remember

Mon. 11/11 Remembrance Day—no class in the morning. Assistance Class # 96 will be held 12:30pm at Wallsend Library
 Mon. 25/11 no class—Ladies Gala Bowls day

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

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT – October/November 2024

We have had a hectic period since the last committee meeting with... A morning tea on 16/9 with guest speaker Scott Holding talking on driving licence requirements for older people - 106 people attended.



On 20/9 Sandra & I attended a Prez X Prez meeting at Dee Why RSL Club to discuss collaboration between Computer Pals clubs and revitalising ASCCA.



For Get Online Week we held a morning tea on 14/10 with guest speaker Tracey McMahon from NPBS talking on safe online banking and scams - 96 people attended.



Both days generated new members and renewed members.



Our dedicated team of volunteers served cakes/biscuits on 16/9; and a delicious light lunch for Get Online Week on 14/10; along with tea/coffee both days (not all of the team are pictured).

My thanks to all who worked to make the days a success.

- 18/10 Sandra did a Zoom presentation to the Prez X Prez clubs / ASCCA on how we leverage Be Connected to support our club
- On 25/10, Sandra, Carolyn, Judy, and I attended Sharon Claydon’s Seniors Forum at Wallsend, where we presented Computerpals as a public face and handed out information.



Barry Keen
 President

Contact Us



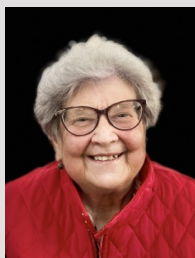
To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer

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

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 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](#).

Get Online Week Event

On Monday 14th October we celebrated our seventh year of joining in with Get Online Week. A huge crowd of almost 100 eager seniors learned about safety when banking online thanks to Tracey McMahon from Newcastle Permanent Building Society.

Tracey explained the vital steps to take when confronted with unsolicited emails, texts and phone calls appearing to be coming from a financial institution or government website. The message is “verify, verify, verify”. It reminded me of the old rule for woodworkers and dressmakers: Measure twice or three times before cutting. In other words, be sure of your actions and do NOT click on any links.

After all the learning everyone had worked up an appetite and appreciated the morning tea served by our wonderful volunteers.



Sandra also did a Zoom session for ASCCA in Get Online Week on the Friday, explaining how our club embraced the Be Connected program and how it helped us with grants and being able to advertise, thus gaining new members.

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Committee

Sandra Keen



Judy Wallace

Jackie Lampe

Vice President



Lindsay Threadgate

Ray Hinton



Member Story

Lifelong Learning by Sandra Keen

One of my childhood games back in the 50s was to set up desks and seats from wooden crates and play school with local friends. Later, when I completed High School, this game turned into my lifelong occupation as a Primary School teacher.

My first appointment in 1964 was to Port Macquarie Public. Imagine doing playground duty set up high above the break wall and surveying the whole area below. In fair weather I could see the beach, the bar that boats had to negotiate as they made their way back to the wharf and the beautiful blue ocean. Not so comfortable on windy days, yet the teachers' playground duties were calmer back then.

Port Macquarie was followed by Taree Public and Telegraph Point Public. Some time later I met my husband Barry and we settled in Belmont with me teaching at Belmont North Public. When our first two boys were born I took a break from teaching in the classroom and concentrated on them. They taught me more than I could ever have imagined. The eldest was a great escape artist and I had to learn how to thwart his attempts to join the construction workers several houses away while managing the newborn.

A move to Bathurst and later to Wentworth in western NSW involved us in community events such as forming a babysitting club, organising Centenary Celebrations and starting a Community Newspaper. The skills needed were different but when in a country town you were expected to pitch in and collaborate with the locals, so learning took place very quickly. With help of other volunteers we managed tasks such as using a new IBM electric typewriter; understanding an offset printer and actually producing a weekly newspaper on what we commonly called 'The Beast'!

Throughout all this volunteer work I was also teaching at the local Public Schools and learning about country life as it existed for the kids, many of whom travelled long distances each day from outlying properties. There were others who lived with their families in makeshift dwellings in the sandhills. One school had a washing machine and dryer so the kids could have clean clothes.

Later, when we moved back to Lake Macquarie, Barry and our boys became interested in the latest technology – home computers. They had a VZ200, which was a very simple machine that used a cassette tape for the memory, and wrote simple programs to make games like Pacman and Battleship. Our family then progressed to an Apple IIC which used 3¼ inch floppy disks.

Once I returned to fulltime teaching my learning had to keep pace with the latest trends and computers were added to the mix, from Microbee to Apple at first, then Microsoft machines. Most of the learning was done on one's own time and I felt fortunate that I had some experience of the simple computers at home. Many mistakes were made, but as long as we learn from the mistakes we can make progress.



Member Story cont.

The Education Department engaged tech companies to develop programs for school attendance, reporting, referrals for additional help and many more. It was not unusual for these programs to have a time out feature so they would close down if you didn't hit the keyboard in a certain amount of time (for privacy). As teachers are very often interrupted they may forget to save their work when the interruption occurred. It was common to witness the cry of anguish and then see the aggrieved person pacing the corridor. There was no retrieval of information; just start again!

From those simple machines to the amazing devices of today, the need to keep up with developments in technology is increasing at a rapid rate.

Throughout the years I have volunteered when needed, tried to learn from my experiences and enjoyed helping others. This is what I call Lifelong Learning.

Social News Brenton Elsey

On Monday 16th September, a Members Morning Tea was held at Club Lambton, with an excellent roll-up of 88 participants.

The 'headline act' for this function was a presentation by Scott Holding, a local Driving School Owner/Operator. Scott provided in insight into some of the current road rules and regulations, along with some tips and advice aimed at us Senior drivers. A laid-back approach and simple language in his presentation was appreciated by the audience, who in turn put many questions to Scott, curious to seek clarification on a number of 'grey' areas of the road rules. As it happens, a number of rules and regulations have been updated or modified over time, so it was a timely reminder to keep updated on these matters.

Following on from Scott, President Barry Keen then gave a brief update on ComputerPals happenings, raffle prizes were then awarded and a lovely morning tea was served, allowing members to mingle and catch up on the latest 'goss'".

The most recent Social Outing was to the Davistown RSL Club for lunch.

See next page for the report by Brenton

Don't forget the ComputerPals Christmas Lunch.

This year, we will again be holding this event at the Lambton Bowling Club on Thursday 12th December (please note– this is a Thursday), with details to follow.



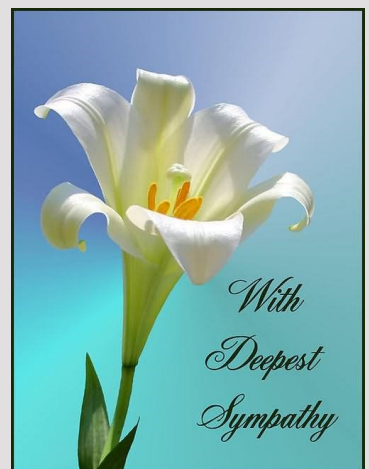
Best Wishes

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.



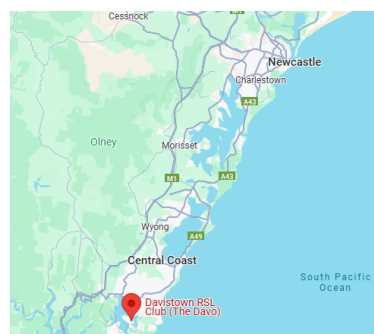
'Lunch At The Davo', Davistown

On Friday 1st November and under grey skies and the threat of showers, 28 members set off from various locations for 'Lunch at The Davo', a trip to Davistown RSL Club (Central Coast) for a lunch date.

While most caught the train from various local stations, a few travelled up from Sydney (where they were visiting), all meeting at Woy Woy station. The group then moved a short distance to the ferry wharf, most grabbing a 'caffeine fix' on the way. With blue skies peeping through along with a little sun, we boarded a ferry for the trip across one of the many tributaries of the Brisbane Waters to the Davistown wharf. Here, we were met by a minibus from the Club to take us to our destination, while some chose to walk the short distance.

Once all were signed in, we were shown to our tables for lunch. At this point, we were joined by the last two members (Sig and Toni Stolc) who drove directly to the Club. With much chatter mixed with 'munching,' this time was enjoyed by all, and there was little, if anything left on the plates, a positive indication of what was thought of the menu and food no doubt.

While some lingered at the tables, others took time to wander around this expansive establishment, with many admiring the excellent display of military memorabilia on display, along with an amazing Christmas extravaganza. It was then time to make our way back to the ferry wharf for the return trip to Woy Woy and on by train back home, with the threat of showers long gone.



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.

Contact Us

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

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: Scammers impersonating banks in text messages, phone calls and emails

Background

There's a rise in criminals calling, emailing or messaging people and pretending to be from the bank so that they can steal your money.

The scammers ask you for personal or financial information or to transfer funds or to give them a one-time security code over the phone. They often claim to be from the bank's fraud department and might say that there has been a compromised account or suspicious transaction.

They may use technology to make it look like the call is coming from the bank's phone number. They may send a message that looks like it comes from the same conversation thread as genuine bank messages.

How to spot the scam

You may get a call, message or email from a scammer claiming to be from the bank and asking for personal and bank details.

The scammer may tell you there is a problem with your account and ask you to transfer money to 'keep it safe'. They may say it's an urgent problem to get you to respond.

Anyone calling and behaving like this is probably a criminal.

What you can do:

1. Do not use any phone numbers in a message.
2. Ask for a reference number and contact your bank directly through a phone number that you find and confirm yourself.
3. Hang up if you receive a call from someone claiming to be from your bank requesting you to transfer money.
4. Don't click on any links in an email or message on your phone, even if it looks like it comes from your bank.

How the scam works

Someone calls, emails or messages you saying they're from the bank.

The phone call, email or message looks like it comes from the bank. The message may be in the same message thread as a previous legitimate banking message.

They say they're investigating a problem with your account, like a hacked account, suspicious transaction, or online banking outage.

These criminals ask you for personal or financial information like account details or security codes.

They will then use your account details to steal your money.

What you should know

Your bank will never ask you to transfer your money to keep it safe.

Your bank will never ask you over the phone for online banking passwords, one-time security codes, PINs or tokens.



PRIVACY STATEMENT: Information contained in this Newsletter is only for the members of the ComputerPals Newcastle Inc.

The Cloud

The recent ComputerPals topic in week 3 covered cloud backup and photo sharing. Of course this gave rise to the question “What is the Cloud”. Here is an article that I found on the internet that was published in 2015 and is absolutely relevant today.

How you're already using the cloud and don't even know it

The cloud. For all the buzz that surrounds it, there's still a lot of confusion around what it actually is. As a result, a lot of people are being told they need to move to the cloud, without knowing what that means or where to begin. If you're in that camp, fear not. We'll let you in on a secret — there's a very good chance you're already using the cloud, and you don't even know it. In fact, we're willing to bet that you use the cloud every single day. But first let's take a step back and **define the cloud**. In essence, it's just a network of servers — which are large, super-powerful computers. Anything that's referred to as "cloud-based" or "in the cloud" means it primarily lives online, instead of on something physical in your possession like a CD or your computer's hard drive. A good rule of thumb for determining whether something is "cloud-based" is asking yourself the following question: Can I easily log into this service from another device, like my phone or a different computer? If the answer is yes, then the service is probably based in the cloud. Reflecting back on the various services, websites, and apps you use throughout the day — and using that rule of thumb as your lens — you'll likely see that many of them are classified as "cloud technology."



For example:

- If you can check your email on your computer and also with an app on your phone, you're using a cloud-based email service.
- If you can log into one of your social media accounts (like Facebook or LinkedIn) on your friend's computer as well as on your own laptop, it's cloud-based as well.
- If you can start drafting a blog post in a content management system like WordPress, save it from your work computer, and then continue editing it from your iPad on the train... you guessed it, you're using the cloud.

How does that translate to **file storage** and sharing? In the case of Dropbox, because we're cloud-based, you'll always be able to access and work with the files in your account, from any of your devices. So if you create a PowerPoint presentation on your work computer, you can review it on your tablet before the big client meeting because you'll automatically have the latest version.

By Jenna Weiner Published on February 25, 2015

If you missed the class in week 3, go to :

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/using-the-cloud/apple-iphone-cloud-backup-and-photo-sharing>

Or

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/using-the-cloud/android-tablet-cloud-backup-and-photo-sharing>



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 MEMBERS MORNING TEA Guest Speaker NP85 Wallsend Enrolment Day	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 #76_Zoom fee \$10 is over \$10 (covers all sessions for Term 4)
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 No class COMMITTEE MEETING	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 No Class Remembrance Day	11/11 12:30 to 2:00 pm WALLSEND LIBRARY # 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 No Class Ladies Gala Bowls Day	25/11 12:30 to 2:00 pm No class COMMITTEE MEETING	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 Christmas Lunch @ Club Lambton

