



# Switched on Seniors

Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors – Newcastle  
A Member of ASCCA

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MAY 2011



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the vacation, a new 38" TV sprouted in the corner of the clubroom. Wonders will never cease! Those tutors who want to show videos, can now do so without the problems we've been having with animations in LanSchool.

On Monday of this week, we took delivery of five new computers and these will be on-line before long, but it means a lot of work for our Technical Team as all the software has to be installed and configured.

As there has been a decreased demand to Vista courses, the Education Team has decided to drop the Vista courses as most of the features of Vista and Windows 7 are common to both operating systems. In fact, the way the courses have been constructed, they are fairly generic whether the operating system is XP, Vista or Windows 7. There will be short courses for those features specific to Vista and the additional features of Windows 7.

The Brooklyn excursion has received great support with over 50 people having signed up for the train trip and ferry cruise. Thanks to Barry Keen for having organised this. Make sure that you visit our website to see the additional excursions that have been scheduled throughout the year.

We are drawing towards the end of the financial year, which means that it is time to renew memberships for 2011-2012. It would be greatly appreciated by our treasurer if payments could be made soon as there is always a considerable amount of additional work to be done before the end of June and then we have the school vacation at the beginning of July.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Friday 12th August and will be held at Kotara Bowling Club. There will be additional information about the times and costs next month so that everyone is aware of the details.

With the AGM, it means that thought needs to be given to nominations for the various positions on the committee. This year, as nominations are received, they will be displayed on the club notice board. Anyone can be nominated for any of the positions although the only ones required by the constitution are the president, secretary, treasurer and vice president. However, we also have the additional positions of technical officer, education officer, social activities organiser, webmaster and newsletter editor, tutor roster officer and rosters officers. Many of the current committee members have indicated their willingness to continue on the committee and some of them have more than one responsibility. In my particular case, having been on the committee for 10 years, I firmly believe that it is time to step aside and give someone else the opportunity to serve on the committee.

To all those people who wished me well during the beginning of the year, please accept my sincere thanks. Your wishes have been more than granted and I'm now fully recovered and fighting fit once again.

Remember that we have a morning tea on 20th June, and judging by the acceptance of the earlier starting time, it will again commence at 9:30 with the morning tea followed by a very short committee report and then our visiting speaker. I'm HOPING to have a speaker from Microsoft, but so far have not received confirmation of his attendance.

**Bruce Deitz President Computerpals Newcastle Inc.**



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### DigiPals Contact Person :

Carolyn Keane



### Next Outdoor Photo Shoots / Social Days Out:

**7/5/11**

Hawkesbury - Brooklyn  
(rail trip)

**4/6/11**

Tomago House &  
Glassblower

See next page for Lorn  
photographs.

## Digipals Report

Rain, rain, go away, come another day but not on a Digipals outdoor shoot. April has been our wettest April in 8 years. However our outdoor shoot at Lorn was a great success and we were blessed with a lovely afternoon. We had a good turnout with 26 keen happy snappers. Nev Clifton brought along his granddaughter and a friend so he is recruiting members for the future. Well done Nev, you can never start them too young, let them learn good habits and get them away from those dreadful camera phones. The venue was excellent and the Stillwater on Belmore provided first class service and our members set a record for the number of cream scones devoured. Some members, who shall remain nameless, actually had seconds!!!

To be keen is wonderful. One of our members was so keen she actually turned up the week before and found the correct venue but was puzzled to find no other members, but she fronted up the next week and was delighted to find she was not alone. Now that is keenness.

We had no class room meeting during the month as school holidays meant we had no access to the school. Our courses are well attended and the latest are available for booking.

We have had indications from over 50 people keen to enjoy our day trip to the Hawkesbury on the 7th May. It promises to be a great day, so don't miss it.

Your committee is working to rename some of our courses, hoping they will be more self explanatory. We also plan to hold a number of one off short courses, similar to Know your Camera. So if you have a particular topic that is fazing you let us know and if we can find enough support, we will put these on. Our next Clubhouse meeting will deal with Macro and we will cover both the Point and Shoot and the DSLR camera techniques.

Lindsay and Carolyn are putting together a Digipals website, which you can view at <https://sites.google.com/site/computerpalsdigipals/home>

This morning, after the rain, is perfect for photographing flowers and insects in the garden. Molly and I have taken about 20 flower shots and some of them showing the raindrops on roses are really rewarding. So don't let the weather hold you back.

Camera prices are now as competitive as I have known them, thanks to the strong A\$ so now is the time to buy if you are thinking about it. Why not a nice new camera for Mother's Day?

Happy Snapping. Graham



# SOCIAL REPORT



Barry Keen (Social  
Secretary)

Hi Everyone

April has been fairly quiet for Computerpals (what with school holidays and all) but not without highlights.

Our social day 'out' at Lorn was definitely a highlight. 23 members/partners/grand-kids joined in the fun of the day wandering around the quaint historic village of Lorn and taking in the 'old' buildings and gardens. Enjoying a chat with the friendly locals, who were only too happy to share the history of their homes or talk about their hobbies (like this railway carriage building platform below).



Of course the day wouldn't be complete without our usual end of activity coffee/tea break with a muffin or something equally tempting to round things off. The 'Stillwater on Belmore' was just the right place for that.



Next activity will be another day 'out'. This time a rail trip to Hawkesbury River Station, a short ferry ride and a wander around the village of Brooklyn.

On Saturday 7th May, we catch the 8:32am train from Newcastle (or one of the stops thereafter) change at Wyong and arrive at Hawkesbury River Station 10:37am. After the day's activities we'll catch the 3:45pm train home (ar. Newcastle 5:53pm).

I'll be sending a survey form/email out prior to the day to ascertain who and numbers attending.

Cheers Barry Keen (Social Secretary)

# BITS & PIECES

## Committee Members

- President:** Bruce Deitz  
**Secretary :** Maura Rainbow  
**Treasurer :** Maree Field  
**Vice President :** Rob Golledge  
**Assistant Treasurer :** Michael Pitt  
**Technical /Education:** Neville Clifton  
**Rosters :** Denise Brandon  
**Social Secretary :** Barry Keen  
**DigiPals :** Carolyn Keane  
**Newsletter / Webmaster:** Bruce Carter  
**Tutor Roster :** Mitzi Gordon  
**Committee :** Elaine Butler

## Teams

- Technical
- Rostering/Enrolment
- Education
- Web Page

## Contact Us

Committee members listed above may be contacted by following the instructions on the CONTACT US page on the club website.

## So Far

Courses are well under way and continue to be very well patronised.

## And the Next Course?

An outline of the courses is available on the website and on notices in the Clubroom. If you need further explanation, the Tutors will be more than happy to advise which course is the most suitable for you to take.



The Tutors and their assistants are also Seniors and conduct the courses in a relaxed atmosphere. Your questions are welcome during the classes and there is no need to feel embarrassed if you need to ask for something to be repeated.

The classroom is fitted with a hearing loop for those people who wear hearing aids.

## Best Wishes

- For our members who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries - congratulations!
- To those who are ill our best wishes for a speedy recovery.



- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Pauline Crockett | Lois Brock       |
| Paul Wilson      | Seryl Dolamore   |
| Merilyn Weik     | Helen Campbell   |
| Ann Thomas       | Graeme Bruce     |
| William Stanton  | Fay Braithwaite  |
| Marjorie Stanton | Nola Barrack     |
| Janet Reid       | Marie Butcher    |
| Donald Quested   | Maureen Pandel   |
| Ian Osborn       | Fran Chapman     |
| Nellie Oldham    | Lyn Flanagan     |
| Neville O'Brien  | Neil Livingstone |
| Janice O'Connor  | John Taylor      |
| Philip Nisbet    | Wilga Ramsay     |
| Florence         | Don MacKenzie    |
| Monaghan         | Paul Zaverucha   |
| Clifton Monaghan | John Truscott    |
| James McCarter   | Chris Elkin      |
| Margaret Mason   | Janet Mundie     |
| Richard Lever    | Charles Mundie   |
| Gary Jones       | Ross Thorpe      |
| Philip Jeffery   | Bob Cox          |
| Thomas           | Karen Lavis      |
| Hutchison        | Judith           |
| Judith Hutchison | Armstrong        |
| Elizabeth Givens | Heather Antney   |
| Rick Geissler    | Margaret         |
| Judy Fulop       | Williams         |
| Mollie Feary     | Stella Agllias   |
| Janise Deaves    | Danuta Baryla    |
| Kenneth          | Pam Morrison     |
| Campbell         |                  |

## Condolences

To all of our members who have lost loved ones recently, please accept our condolences.

# HINTS & TIPS



“Defragmenting your hard drive on a regular basis is a sound housekeeping habit.”

“It can greatly increase system performance and relieve stress on your hard drive.”

## Best Maintenance Freeware Programs

Does your computer seem to slow down, do you frequently add new programs, delete others, save and edit files and photos often?

Then your computer might be slowing because many files become DEFAGMENTED or broken up all over the place on your hard drive. When you try to use them the computer needs to round up all the pieces - that slows your computer.

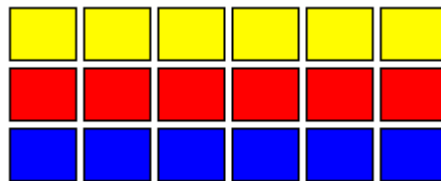
## Auslogics Disk Defrag Review Extract

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-disk-de-fragmenter.htm>

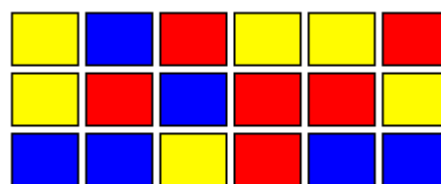
“The latest release is way ahead of the competition. I found the defragmentation time to be incredibly fast, and for the first time in a while, the long process of defragmenting my hard drive was shrunk to minutes.

A disk defragmenter is a key toolkit element for keeping your PC running optimally. Disk fragmentation occurs through normal everyday use of your PC; over time your system becomes unable to store related data on your disk in a sequential (contiguous) manner, and must "fragment" files across different physical locations on your hard drive. This increases the number of times your hard drive must spin (or "seek"), which slows down the process of reading and writing files. Defragmentation software compresses files and free space back into contiguous blocks.

Here is an example of a contiguous file system:



Here is an example of a fragmented file system:



By defragmenting your system, one can greatly increase system performance. Your computer will be able to read files much quicker. It will also relieve stress on your hard drive.

Auslogics latest release (3.1.1.80) is way ahead of the competition. I found the defragmentation time to be incredibly fast. Analysing my disks took seconds, and for the first time in a while, the long process of defragmenting my hard drive was shrunk to minutes. I now officially recommend.”

## Where to download?

**Visit :** <http://www.auslogics.com/en/software/disk-defrag/download/>

# MORE HINTS & TIPS



## Best Free File Cleaner:



I use the CCleaner regularly and best of all it's FREE with no catches.

Below is a review of the program, it's well worth looking at as a regular tool to clean up your system in Windows.

## CCleaner

Source : <http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-file-cleaner.htm>

"Quickly and effectively remove unused or temporary files, unwanted cookies, and other unneeded files that accumulate from applications.

Additionally, it can scan the Windows registry for issues, securely erase, manage the startup, uninstall software, clean system restore points, and run automatically at startup or as a task.

My first choice here is CCleaner, a product that started off as pretty basic but has continued to improve to the point where it is now very close to the best in its class regardless of price. It's very effective in freeing up disk space by removing unused and temporary files, cookies, Recycle bin entries, Windows hot-fix files, history and cache files in many applications such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera, Safari and hundreds of others. Note you can configure preferences for browser cookies that you want to keep during a clean (in case you don't want to delete them all), which is a convenient feature for many users."

Thanks to Carmel for submitting the message below.

