PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have already started our Session 3 for the year, what is happening to the year? I hope everyone enjoyed the break over the school holidays, not too much Grandchildren duties I trust. I hope everyone paused for a moment on ANZAC Day reflecting on our wonderful country and the contribution of our armed services and all those who supported them in their efforts. I was fortunate to be able to listen to Dr. Peter Hendry talk of his experience in Malaya, Singapore POW camps and to Paddy Young talk on "The War Poets" and recite some of their poetry.

The club committee meets every month to review activities and plan for the future. Reports are given on financial, technical, education, enrolment, tutoring, social activities and our group activities. Twelve club members volunteer their time to perform this management function and the meeting takes from 1.5 to 2 hours and of course much more time goes in behind the scenes. This meeting makes the key decisions of managing the club and if you feel that you can contribute then now is the time to start thinking about being nominated to this committee.

I believe the club is in very good shape, better than that I believe our club is up there with the best of the best. Financially we are strong and our mandate is to use this money to provide benefit to the members. To this end our clubroom equipment is most important and we have decided to finish our computer update program with the purchase of five more new computers replacing computers that are now over 5 years old. We have also decided, that as most people now have wide screen monitors, to purchase 10 of these to replace the existing monitors which are also over five years old.

We have debated purchase of laptop / notebook computers and tablet computers. Our conclusion is that skills are transferable from desktop and as the security of such is more difficult than desktops then we will stick with desktops.

Many matters are discussed in committee that do not result in actions and so are not communicated however we always welcome suggestion especially on matters that potentially will provide benefit to the membership as a whole. Please submit any suggestions by way of the Suggestion Box or better still put it in an Email to: mailto: cpalsnewcastle@computerpals.org.au

How many of you have heard our Education Officer, Bruce, say "If you want to learn then teach". I would like to add to this adage "If you want a good club then participate". I am sure that there are many among our members who have the skills to help run our club. There is no pay but you may find the rewards very personally satisfying. THINK ABOUT IT!

Your President

Lindsay Threadgate

President Computerpals Newcastle Inc.

Committee Members

President: Lindsay Threadgate

Secretary : Maura Rainbow

Treasurer : Maree Field

Vice President : Rob Golledge

Ass. Treasurer : Michael Pitt

Education Officer: Bruce Deitz

Technical : Neville Clifton

Rosters : Denise Brandon

DigiPals : Carolyn Keane

Newsletter / Webmaster: Bruce Carter

Tutor Roster :Mitzi Gordon

Social Organiser : Barry Keen

Committee : Elaine Butler

Teams

- Technical
- Rostering/Enrolment
- Education
- Web Page

IMPORTANT AGM MEETING NOTICE

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday the 17th of August at the East Maitland Bowling Club.

ComputerPals is seeking committed members to nominate for the Committee.

Positions on the committee are:-

The Executive Committee Comprises: - President, Vice President, Financial Coordinator and Secretary.

Committee Members are:- Assistant Treasurer, Technical Officer, Education Officer, Enrolment Officer, Social Coordinator, Tutor Roster Officer, Newsletter Reporter and one Committee member.

In order for ComputerPals to grow and progress, we must take steps now to ensure its future growth and development and continue the development of the club.

Selecting committee members is probably the most important responsibility of the club in implementing the Initiative for the Future of ComputerPals-Newcastle

You can make a contribution to your community even though you may or may not think of yourself as an influential leader - others probably do.

Do you have a desire to grow the organisation? If so, apply now, and let us follow you! Volunteers are a vital element within the leadership structure of Computerpals and play a crucial role in extending the reach of our strategic goals.

This is an opportunity for you to make a difference. For our club to grow and progress, it requires involvement from leaders like you.

You have an obligation to your community to make it the very best learning experience possible for our senior students

ComputerPals Mission:

Our mission is to assist clubs 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

I urge you to participate in this important annual event. Thank you for your consideration. Nomination forms will be available in the Club room prior to the AGM and are also available by contacting the Secretary.

Nomination forms must be submitted at least one week prior to the AGM.

These excellent photos were taken at our recent visit to the Newcastle Regional Museum.

Many thanks to Ben for taking them.

SOCIAL REPORT

Barry Keen (Social Secretary)

Our next day out is 5th May by train to Woy Woy.

Merv Pope and I did a reconnaissance trip down a couple of weeks back to check out all the sights – did a pub & club crawl to find the best place for you to rest up after the foreshore walk (easy level walking) and have a cuppa and lunch. Tough life but someone has to do these things for you.

Merv will lead the party on this occasion – I've put in a request for good weather for you – you should enjoy the day. Don't forget to take your cameras along and take many photos just for the hell of it!

Cost should be kept to a minimum with seniors/pensioners fare $2.50 on the train. Meal specials menu at the chosen venue is about $10-$11 pp. plus drinks.

For more information about Woy Woy CLICK HERE

Departure times:

And returning pm

Newcastle & Central Coast Line: Newca

◄ Previous day   Services departing

Stations	am
Newcastle	9.23
Civic	9.25
Wickham	9.27
Hamilton	9.30
Broadmeadow	9.33
Adamstown	9.36
Kotara	9.38
Cardiff	9.43
Cockle Creek	9.48
Teralba	9.50
Booragul	9.52
Fassifern	9.57
Awaba	10.02
Dora Creek	10.10
Morisset	10.15
Wyee	10.21
Warnervale	10.28
Wyong	10.33
Tuggerah	10.36
Ourimbah	---
Lisarow	---
Niagara Park	---
Narara	---
Gosford arr	10.48
Gosford dep	10.49
Point Clare	---
Tascott	---
Koolewong	---
Woy Woy	10.57

Station		
Woy Woy	2.26	3.26
Koolewong	---	---
Tascott	---	---
Point Clare	---	---
Gosford arr	2.35	3.35
Gosford dep	2.36	3.36
Narara	---	---
Niagara Park	---	---
Lisarow	---	---
Ourimbah	---	---
Tuggerah	2.49	3.49
Wyong	2.53	3.53
Warnervale	---	3.57
Wyee	3.02	4.04
Morisset	3.09	4.10
Dora Creek	---	4.14
Awaba	---	4.23
Fassifern	3.24	4.28
Booragul	---	4.32
Teralba	---	4.34
Cockle Creek	---	4.37
Cardiff	3.35	4.42
Kotara	---	4.47
Adamstown	---	4.49
Broadmeadow	3.44	4.54
Hamilton	3.47	4.57
Wickham	3.49	4.59
Civic	3.51	5.01
Newcastle	3.53	5.03

WRITERPALS REPORT

Carmel (Organiser)

P.S. Remember our extended website where you can find stories and our challenges.

Greetings

Our April meeting was at the home of one of our members, and although it was wet and windy, we had a lovely afternoon. Because there were three topics to choose from, the stories were varied and we had time for some discussion about the directions we could take our group in future meetings.

The original thought behind forming the group was to get our family stories and anecdotes recorded before we all fall off the perch. Reminiscences among people of our venerable years bring some hilarious stories to light and those stories need to be passed on. Our children and grandchildren would be absolutely horrified at having to cope with some of the things we once considered luxuries.

Because creativity in anything is intensely personal and as diverse as the creators themselves, it is very difficult to actually structure group activities beyond giving general guidelines eg. how poetry is written, the forms, styles etc etc etc. All these guidelines, forms, ideas and examples can be found quite easily on Google – a wonderful tool for the inquiring mind.

Our next topics for our May meeting are on our website, along with our April offerings. The topics are

1. Plumbing down the generations – remember when you were a kid? How has plumbing changed? From the kitchen to the bathroom, the laundry to the backyard, there have been huge changes over the years – tell us about your experiences.

2. Today, to communicate with absent friends, we fire up the computer or pick up the phone – easy as pie – but it hasn't always been that way. How has communication changed for you in your lifetime?

Our next meeting will be in the clubroom at 1pm on May 14th.

Come visit – you will be made very welcome.

Cheers & blessings

Carmel

GeneaPals Report

Lindsay (Organiser)

Meeting : 2 April 2012   Attendance: 20

A brief discussions on our visit to the Newcastle Family History Society resulted in agreement that it was very worthwhile. Annette Carroll is organising a "Needs Analysis" for our group. She has distributed a questionnaire of which she will collate the results.

We had some time on Ancestry.com courtesy of Mary Pitt and conducted several searches and demonstrated how copies of documents could be saved to your own computer or emailed.

Next meeting Monday 7 May

Cheers

Lindsay

BITS & PIECES

ASCCA is the Australian Seniors Computer Club Association

ASCCA exists to support and encourage seniors to take advantage of modern information technology to meet their individual needs and to provide further challenges. To become computer literate at their own pace, in a friendly non-threatening environment and to have fun whilst doing so.

ASCCA's Newsletter and its informative items can be accessed on the web site:

http://www.ascca.org.au

- Our club's constitution, as amended at the 2008 AGM, is available to be downloaded and read via the link on the Member's page on the website.
- Don't forget to print the calendar that is available on the Club website

So Far

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

To check availability of courses please phone 4961 6576 during office hours.

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.

Demand for the courses is high so it is imperative to enrol early and confirm your position by forwarding your payment.

Please check that a vacancy exists in the course before sending payment.

Most Courses are repeated in later sessions.

Best Wishes

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

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.

Condolences

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

This contribution is from one of our members.

Wife by text to husband at work ....

"Windows at home frozen - what should I do?"
Husband - "spray some de-icer or pour hot water on them"
Wife a few minutes later - "Done that - now computer won't work at all"!

Image Viewer Software

If you would like a photo database / organiser for FREE then look at FastStone Image Viewer.

Some key features are;

1. It can quickly thumbnail your image collection - allow you to view full screen or in slideshow format.

2. You can perform a bulk resize of images whilst leaving the originals in tact.

3. You can view RAW files from digital SLR cameras.

4. You can launch any external graphics editor from the program to do serious editing. See a photo that needs major adjusting - then launch Photoshop, Photo Impact or whatever program you use.

The website review says;

"FastStone Image Viewer is a fast, stable, user-friendly image browser, converter and editor. It has a nice array of features that include image viewing, management, comparison, red-eye removal, emailing, resizing, cropping, retouching and color adjustments. Its innovative but intuitive full-screen mode provides quick access to EXIF information, thumbnail browser and major functionalities via hidden toolbars that pop up when your mouse touches the four edges of the screen. Other features include a high quality magnifier and a musical slideshow with 150+ transitional effects, as well as lossless JPEG transitions, drop shadow effects, image annotation, scanner support, histogram and much more. It supports all major graphic formats (BMP, JPEG, JPEG 2000, animated GIF, PNG, PCX, PSD, EPS, TIFF, WMF, ICO and TGA) and popular digital camera RAW formats (CRW, CR2, NEF, PEF, RAF, MRW, ORF, SRF, ARW, SR2, RW2 and DNG)."

Source : http://www.faststone.org/FSViewerDetail.htm

Go to http://www.faststone.org to download the latest version.