Switched On Seniors

President's Report

Happy New Year to all our club members.

Well, we have hit the road running. The Tech team have been making sure that all of our computers weathered the Christmas – New Year break. Everything looks fine, so we will be ready to start classes on Tuesday 5th February.

Your Committee met on Jan 30th to make certain that we are on the right track for the coming year. We now have our very own copy machine and stapler, as it was becoming difficult to work around teachers in the school. We want to continue with the excellent working arrangement we have at the school. We now have a dedicated laptop for Windows 8 as we are unable to put it on our desktops without losing Windows 7. Bruce Deitz has written five Windows 8 courses with accompanying CD while busy packing up their house for the move to their new house. Thank you Robyn!

You will probably notice the ComputerPals Web Site has been refreshed. Bruce Carter has made is Tablet and Smart Phone friendly. The Roster Team has been busy over the break and most classes are filling nicely. The Windows 8 Introductory Short Course is full, so it looks like there is an interest in Windows 8. To do this course you will need to bring your own laptop or tablet to class. But don't despair if you have Windows 8 on your desktop, as Bruce has put a large number of PowerPoint presentations on the CD that you can access at home. We are having our 1st Enrolment Day on Friday Feb. 1st – 9.30am – 11.30am. Remember the Suggestion Box in the foyer. This is your club and we want to put on courses in which you are interested.

Seniors Week is being held in March 17th to 24th. We are having a Morning Tea on Monday 18th March in Islington School Hall to inform those who don't know anything about us what our club does in the way of courses, special interest groups and social events. So it is an opportunity to bring your friends along to meet us. Also on Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st the public will be able to see our classes in action. We are looking forward to the coming year and the wonderful learning experience we can all have at ComputerPals.

Agapé, Elaine Butler

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bruce Deitz
Education Officer

Committee Members

President
Elaine Butler

Secretary
Carmel Smith

Treasurer
Maree Field

Vice President
Barry Keen

Ass. Treasurer
Michael Pitt

Education Officer
Bruce Deitz

Technical Officer
Neville Clifton

Rosters
Judy Wallace

Newsletter / Webmaster
Bruce Carter

Tutor Roster
Mitzi Gordon

Social Organiser
Barry Keen

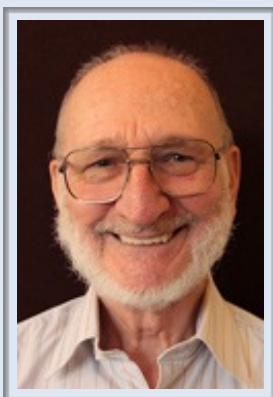**Committee**
Janet Cater

Immediate Past President
Lindsay Threadgate

Christmas Party 2012

Social Report

Barry Keen
(Social Secretary)

SOCIAL DAY OUT

SATURDAY 16th February '13

Hi everyone My planned outing to Garden Island, Sydney on 2/2/13 cannot happen as tours are only conducted on Thursdays. I'm looking into rescheduling for the end of the year ... more later.

In replacement for February, I'm jumping on the bandwagon for an event being organised by a friend in the Freemasons. This will be to "Lake Macquarie Light Rail", Onslow Rd Toronto.

When is it Happening ? On Saturday the 16th FEBRUARY 2013 from 10.00 am till 4.00 pm.

Bring the family and friends. Just $10.00 Adult $6.00 a Child (pay when you get there) this includes riding the Train all day. A BBQ food and drinks will be available for sale. Take your own picnic if you prefer or have dietary concerns. All proceeds will be for "BATTEN DISEASE" Assisted by the "Masonic Motorcycle Association of Australia."

To assist the organisers with catering please complete the form on the web and 'submit' it.

Cheers
Barry Keen Computerpals Vice President/Social Secretary
Phone: (02) 4032 7116 Mobile: 0417 470 358

Planned Social Days / Photoshoots 2013

16/2   Lake Macquarie Light Rail, Onslow Rd Toronto
02/3   Nobbys
06/4   Broken Bay cruise
04/5   Glenrock
01/6   Stroud
20/7   Free bus around Newcastle
03/8   The Rocks, Sydney
07/9   Newcastle Harbour
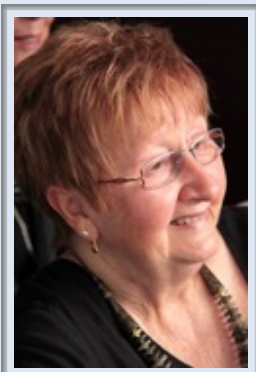12/10 Dungog
02/11 Lambton Park (picnic)

Please note these dates are being developed. Changes will be updated on the website. It is also possible the Garden Island trip will be rescheduled for November. Stay tuned.

DigiPals visit to the Newcastle Botanic Gardens.

Important People

Judy Wallace
Roster Officer

Mitzi Gordon
Tutor Roster

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.

Tutors

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.

Condolences

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

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 at www.ascca.org.au

Hints & Tips

What is Windows 8?

Windows 8 is Microsoft's latest OS designed for touchscreen devices as well as regular desktop environments. It includes a new user interface (UI) and a range of applications. The operating system features a new Start screen that gives people quick access to the apps and content they use the most. It also features an entirely new Internet Explorer 10 designed for touch and built-in cloud capabilities with SkyDrive.

In collaboration with hardware partners, Microsoft made more than 1,000 certified PCs and tablets, including Microsoft Surface, available for the launch of Windows 8.

What are we doing to introduce it to you?

Our club has purchased a laptop with Windows 8 installed.

Bruce Deitz is developing lessons on Windows 8 and will introduce the new operating system to members this year.

Windows 8 Pricing

Those who want to upgrade to Windows 8 for the cheaper price will need to do so before February 1st. The prices listed below are a guide to the likely Australian cost.

- Windows 8 Pro upgrade edition will be available online and at retail for $199.99 MSRP (U.S.).
- Windows 8 upgrade edition will be available online and at retail for $119.99 MSRP (U.S.).
- Windows 8 Pro Pack will cost $99.99 MSRP (U.S.).
- Windows 8 Media Center Pack will cost $9.99 MSRP (U.S.).

Currently upgrade prices range from about $15 - $69.

Those looking for a cheaper option to upgrade post January 31 will have the option of a different upgrade edition and not the Pro version. This version of Windows 8 will be cheaper at $120, but will have lesser features as compared to the Pro version. While this is still not as cheap as the current promotional price, it's still better than shelling out $200.

Windows Media Center pack, which is available for free for a limited time will soon cost you $10.