

Switched On Seniors

Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors – Newcastle Inc.

Volume 13 - July, 2013

President's Report

The middle of winter, but you will find warmth and friendliness at ComputerPals.



To those who have renewed their membership, thank you. If you haven't, you will not be able to do any more courses with us until you do, but we wish you well if you have decided to have a break and are busy with other commitments.

We are enjoying the school holidays, but the Roster Team will be working, as usual, to put you into your choice of course. Some courses have filled very quickly, while there is still room in others. There will be a survey circulated and we would appreciate it if you took the time to fill it out, so that we can get some idea what direction the club should take in the future.

We are going to purchase the larger TV. So you will benefit from enhanced graphic and pictures in Session 5.

I have been busy with builders inspecting our premises, so that they can give us a quote on the toilet, washbasin and sink. Brace yourselves for the cost!

There will be a motion put at the AGM to raise the course fees from \$5 to \$6 per 1½ hour. This means that a 5 week course will cost \$30.

At this time membership will still be \$20.

The election of officers for the club will be held at the AGM, on the 16th August at 11.30am, at Cardiff RSL. There will be a luncheon afterwards at a cost of \$20 per person, to be paid to ComputerPals – Newcastle a week before the luncheon. Nomination forms for positions will be available in the club room during Session 5.

We are still desperately looking for a Treasurer. So please let one of the committee know if you would be willing to fill this position.

Bruce Deitz is stepping down as Education Officer and also from the committee. We thank him very much for the sterling work he has done over the life of the club. But we are very pleased that he will still be teaching Tuesday afternoon classes.

Remember Tutors, Tutor Training is held Monday afternoon after the Monday morning Committee Meeting. There have been no reminders sent out for the past two months, to see if you remembered this important meeting. Only a few dedicated people attended!

Enjoy the break and we will see you in Session 5.

Agapé, Elaine Butler

REMINDER: Club Fees Now Due

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

DigiPals Report



Our Stroud trip on 1st June was excellent. 37 participants - all enjoyed the day. Photo opportunities abounded and we all took advantage of them. Have a look at some of the photos on the DigiPals Web Album.

Next outing will be on the Free Newcastle Hop-on Hop-off bus on Saturday 20th July.

Meet at the Lee Wharf Car Park at 12 noon. Make sure your batteries are fully charged and you have a 'clean' memory card for photos of the day. Among the other places and events we'll take in will be a visit to the Wildlife Photographic exhibition at the Lovett Gallery.

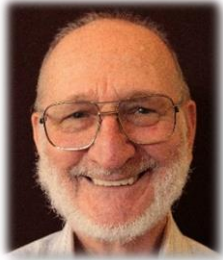
At our last clubroom meeting on Monday 17th June we ran bases to practice still-life photography and use of light.



A reminder to interested members – please upload your photos to the Photo Project 2013. Same user name and password as before for last year and shown in your handouts.

Next, there is also the ASCCA Competition – copy of the rules will be uploaded to our club website and are also available from the ASCCA website. Entries close end of August and must be received by ASCCA by 2nd September 2013 (no late entries accepted)

Social Report



Our Stroud Social Outing on 1st June was an outstanding success with 37 members, friends and family attending. Our local guide Keith Franks made us very welcome to his town and was a font of knowledge and the key to our

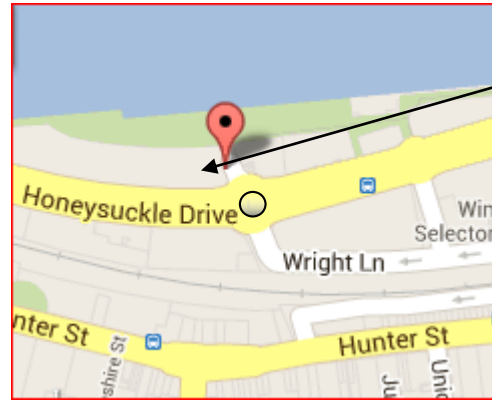
access to many interesting places around town worth seeing and learning about. The only pub in town (Central Hotel) provided excellent meals for lunch. And in general we all had a great time and enjoyed the day. Thank you to Harold Franks for his sharing his brother and Stroud with us.

Monday 17th June saw us gathered again for our **Members Morning Tea** and whilst numbers were down we still had the pleasure of an excellent guest speaker – Terry St George (one of the Trustees from Sandgate Cemetery). Terry gave us a very interesting, informative and entertaining talk on the cemeteries of Newcastle and in particular Sandgate and his role in digitising their records and creating their website. Families and genealogists from around the world can now discover their ancestors and burial records along with precise location of grave sites in the cemetery and photos of the graves.

Dorothy and Audrey did us proud once again with an excellent morning tea. Thank you to all who assisted on the day.

Our next Social outing will be **The Free Hop-on Hop-off bus around Newcastle** and an expedition into searching out interesting local sites and events.

Please note: owing to school holidays this outing will not fall on the usual 1st Saturday of the month but **will be on Saturday 20th July**. Meeting at the Lee Wharf Car Park (free parking on Saturdays) (not far from Honeysuckle Hotel) **at 12 noon**.



Park & meet here

August outing will be a train trip and day out at **The Rocks, Sydney**.

Planning is well in hand for outings later in the year. It has been considered appropriate to change the schedule for our outing to **Dungog to the September (7th) timeslot** as there is quite a lot happening that will be of interest to the members.

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Transport will be self drive and car-pool – cost is borne by driver and maybe shared if pooled. On top of transport, extra costs will be morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

In October now, instead of another jaunt into Newcastle I've substituted a **trip to Rathmines** (the seaplane museum and surrounds).

Barry Keen (Social Secretary)



DigiPals' Shots Of Our Stroud Outing



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2013

This competition seeks to identify the best Digital Photographs taken by a member of an ASCCA Seniors Computer Club and to acknowledge the Club with the most proficient digital photographers.

Clubs will gain the following points for photographs entered by a club member as part of the Club Entry. This awarding of points will also be used to decide the Champion Photographer 2013:

While individual entries are welcome, please note you can only enter once ie. As an individual who is a member of an ASCCA Club - or - as a individual member who is part of an entry submitted by an ASCCA Club.

There are 7 categories – each entrant may only present one photograph for each category.

1. Photo Journalism
2. Photo Travel
3. People/Portrait
4. Landscape/Seascape
5. Landscape, Structural/Manmade
6. Animal (s)
7. Creative Photography/Extreme Manipulation

Go to the website at :

<http://www.ascca.org.au/index.php/conferences-and-events/2013-competitions2>

Speak to Barry Keen about entering and winning points for our club.

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. ASCCA's Newsletter and its informative items can be accessed on the web site at www.ascca.org.au

Important Committee Members of Your Club

Immediate Past President:
Lindsay Threadgate.



Tutor Roster: Mitzi Gordon



Technical Officer: Neville Clifton



Education Officer: Bruce Deitz



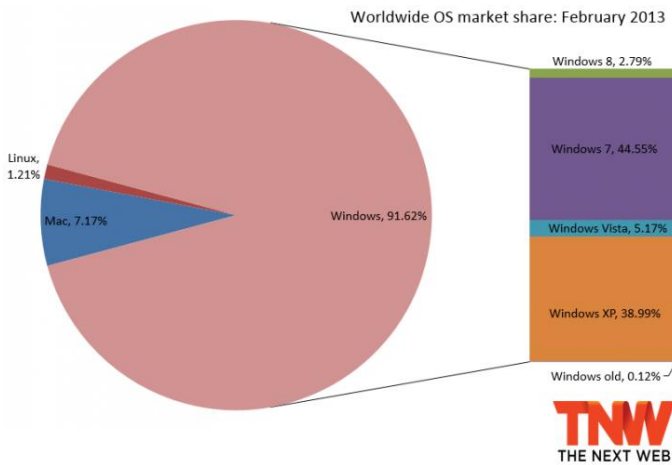
Rosters: Judy Wallace



Technology Information

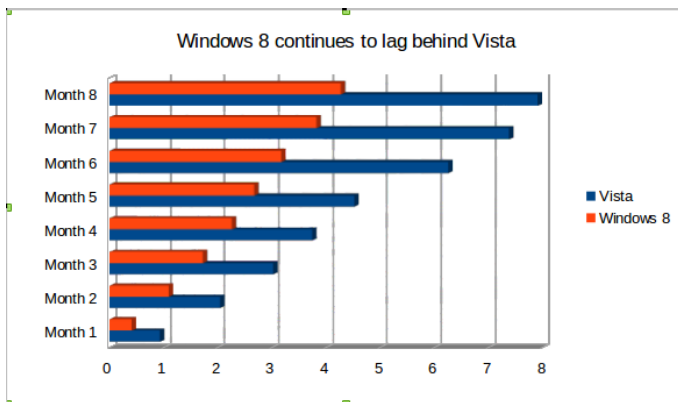


Which Windows Operating System Should I Choose?

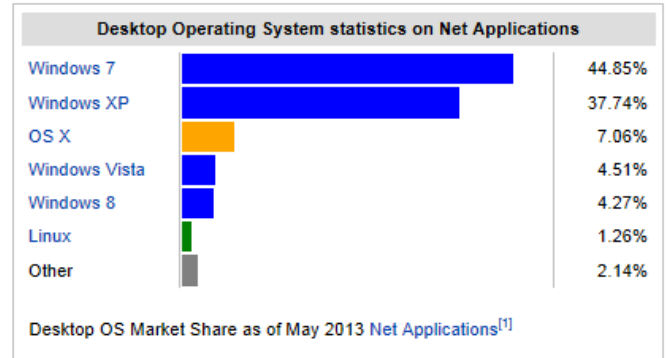


As you can see Microsoft control a large percentage of computer operating systems. Since this graph was produced in February Microsoft's share has slipped for the first time ever, just below 90%.

Many are blaming Windows 8 for not enthusing many desktop and notebook users. Microsoft admit people are "confused" by the system especially the "Metro" interface represented by tiles instead of a start button menu.



The statistics are not favourable when comparing Windows 8 and Vista – once described as their “worst operating system ever”. Many people as you can see below still have XP and Windows 7.



Given XP support has been pulled and it is an “old” system many users are now looking to their next operating system. Other software companies like Adobe are also pulling software support for XP from the next versions of their software.

Which OS to use – Windows 7 or Windows 8?

Many large businesses have already chosen Windows 7 – it still has full support until January 14, 2020.

Some hardware manufacturers are reporting they sell a system with Windows 8 then have it taken off to replace it with Windows 7.

Microsoft have responded to these less than satisfactory statistics by promising a Windows 8 update – **Windows 8.1**. This will be released toward the end of the year as a **FREE UPDATE**. Included in the improvements – booting straight to the desktop as you could with previous operating systems. This means no tiled screens when you start the system, if you prefer.

Also Microsoft are “bringing back the start button”. **Be cautious** with this one as it is only the start button. At no stage have Microsoft promised the old start menu, rather suggesting limited menu choices.