





SWITCHED ON SENIORS

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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 sincere condolences.

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President's Report



A joyous Christmas and may you have a New Year full of opportunities.

This is the last letter for 2014. What a year we have had with changes in computing and the needs of our members.

Thank you to all members for continuing to support ComputerPals at Newcastle. You all are a very important part of our club. Thank you to the Committee. You make my job very pleasant, and your support and help make me even look good! Thank you to John Hendricks, our Web Master, who is designing a new Web site for ComputerPals. Hopefully it will be unveiled in the New Year. Thank you to the Tutors, the Tech Team, the Roster Team, the Education Team, the Social Officer and his helper, the Morning Tea Group and willing helpers, and our Special Interest Co-ordinators. Your help, enthusiasm and willingness in giving your time are really appreciated.

I apologise for making a mistake in the last President's Newsletter. You are now asked to pay in advance to attend the Christmas Party at East Maitland Bowling Club. It is much less hassle on the day.

Please keep putting your suggestions in the box in the foyer. We need your help so that we are teaching the courses that interest you. We need to know what you want.

Next year we will be involved in Seniors' Week again. We are intending to have a Guest Speaker and of course, introduce seniors to our wonderful club. More information will be given closer to the date. Early March we have been asked to speak at Charlestown Probus Club. Lindsay Threadgate and I will be representing our club.

I hope to say hello to you at the Christmas Party or the last Enrolment Day for the year on Friday 5th December 9 am – 11.30 am. The Roster Team will be working over the summer holidays.

Have a restful time over the Summer break and hopefully you will be excited to come and join us in Session 1, 2015.

Agapé, Elaine Butler (President)

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.

Our Tutors



Special thanks must go to all our Tutors who volunteer their time freely each week. Your valuable contributions ensure classes are taught and learners are supported.



Social Report

On Saturday 8th November, 17 members joined up to train and bus their way to Bondi to view and photograph the annual Sculpture By The Sea Exhibition.



An early start was required and it was soon evident who the “early starter” people were and who were the “night owl” ones. However, a pick-me-up caffeine break at Bondi Junction had everyone on track and looking forward to inspecting some weird and wonderful creations. We were not disappointed, as the variation in the sculptures on display was amazing and rather thought provoking in many instances. That said, the spread of these artefacts from Bondi Beach around the headlands to Tamarama Beach, the throng of interested spectators and the fabulous weather provided a memorable day for all who went. With weary legs and aching “shutter fingers”, sustenance for the return journey was had and we made our way home a little quieter than was the case earlier in the day.



More photos of sculptures can be seen on the Digipals web album. Contact Barry Keen for access details.

As this was our last excursion for 2014, Beryl and I would like to sincerely thank those members who supported these outings through the year, and look forward to more of the same in 2015.

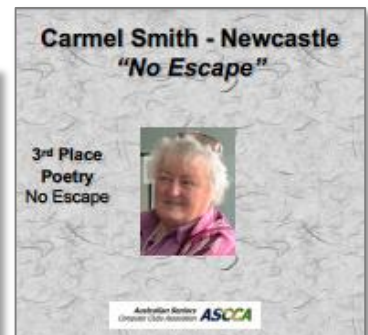
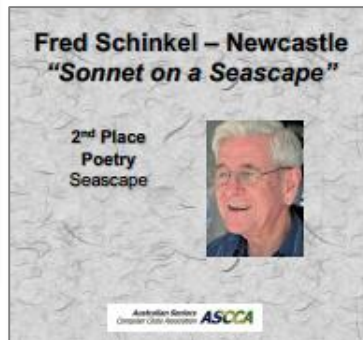


PS: Don't forget the ComputerPals Christmas Lunch to be held at the East Maitland Bowling Club on Thursday 4th December, commencing at 11.30am sharp.

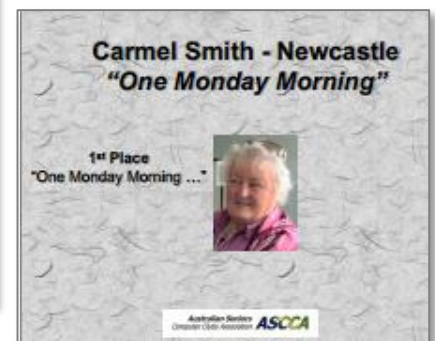
Congratulations

At the recent Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association Annual Conference results of the **2014 ASCCA Competitions** were announced. Our small but very talented group of **creative writers** did extremely well, taking out award after award:-

Firstly Poetry...



Then Prose...



Finally, Carmel Smith
was awarded overall
Best Story
and
Champion Writer.

Newcastle was
announced the
2014 Champion Club



[Click](#) to read the winning entries

Our Special Interest Groups

will commence
meeting again in the
New Year, so put these
dates in your
2015 Diary...

GeneaPals

The next meeting of our Family History interest group GeneaPals, will be held on **Monday, 2nd February from 1pm** – the **first Monday** of the month at ComputerPals clubroom.

WriterPals

Our creative writing group will meet on **Monday, 9th February** – the **second Monday** of the month at the Islington clubroom. Meetings go **from 1pm** until we go home.

DigiPals

Will next meet on **16th February at 1 p.m.** - the **third Monday** of the month to learn and explore digital photography.

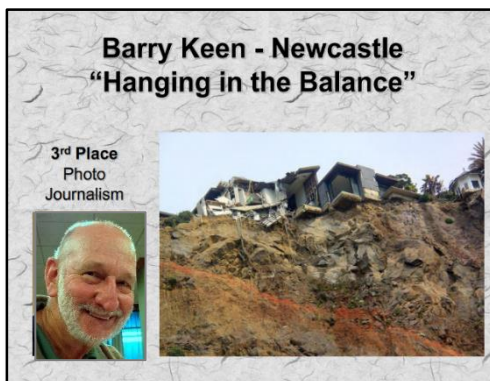
TabPals

Our special interest group for those with portable smart devices – tablets, pads, phones will continue meeting will be on **27th February at 1 p.m.** – the **fourth Friday** of the month.

Congratulations also....

2014 ASCCA Competitions included Digital Photography which our **DigiPals** members entered.

Two of our members were successful in being awarded placings:-



[Click](#) to see all winning entries in the ASCCA Digital Photography Competition

WriterPals Report (from one very proud Leader)

Our November meeting was our last for the year and produced interesting results. Our topics were all about excuses, dancing to our own tune and strangely different things that happened at the pub.

Nobody went for the pub happenings. One presented a very creative story with all the excuses about why he couldn't think of anything to write about. It was wickedly thought out and delivered with a complete poker face while reducing others of us to hysterical laughter.

Another danced to a completely different tune and totally ignored the topics altogether giving us a very interesting story about a totally unrelated topic.

The rest told stories and poems about their experiences of dancing to their own tunes, while the last had to come up with excuses for why her 'different tunes' topic had been left on the printer so she had nothing to present to the group apart from the first three lines of the poem which was all she could remember. Forgettories work well at our age.

Now for the ASCCA competition! I am so deliriously proud of my little group of writers! This competition is Australia wide and is well contested, so congratulations and well done to Fred, Barbara and Carmel. For anybody who is counting, we brought home 11 of the total awards presented for Creative Writing. Between us we got five 3rds, one 2nd, two 1^{sts}, Best Story of the Competition and Champion Writer of the Competition. Our joint efforts ensured that ComputerPals Newcastle took out the "Champion Club of the Competition" in the Creative Writing section.

If you would like to read our stories, you will find them on the ComputerPals website or you can follow the links that Sandra has put in this newsletter. On the ComputerPals website, the 'club activities' tab will take you to the special interests groups and then follow the links to WriterPals and our stories.

Thank you to those who turn up each month for our meetings and I wish all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Cheers & blessings, Carmel

Contact Us



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding rosters or payments use:
islingtonpals@gmail.com

Roster Team



Judy Wallace



Carmel Smith



Wendy Cripps-Clark



Elaine Butler



Security Warning

One of our members sent us details of a very real threat to *our computer software*....

"My daughter received an email on her iPad on Sunday. The email was from the "department of inland revenue" claiming that their car was caught on camera speeding. There was an attachment proving the speeding infringement. However, when they tried to open the attachment on the iPad, it wouldn't open. They then sent the email to their works PC. When my son-in-law opened the attachment, the files on the computer were lost. Thankfully he managed to retrieve most of the files through back ups but if it happened to me my computer files would be completely lost unless I was willing to pay a ransom."



This type of security breach is usually sent via email attachment and the perpetrators are becoming increasingly devious in the way they are tricking users into downloading the virus onto their computers. Another states you are required to appear in court and asks for an attached form to be completed!

Here are some tips to help avoid breaches:

- Do not open attachments in emails from contacts you do not know. The easiest way to identify whether a file is dangerous is by its file extension, which tells you the type of file it is. For example, a file with the **.exe** file extension is a Windows program and should not be opened.
- The best advice is to STOP and THINK before clicking a link, especially:
 - Links that tell you won a big prize or a lot of money
 - Links from someone you don't know
 - Links saying we won a contest
 - Links from letters that were passed along to many people (chain letters)
 - Links from messages that just look "weird"
 - Links that contain silly words or easy words that are misspelled
 - Links that use bad grammar like a small child may say
 - Links from a friend saying he/she is in trouble and asking that you send money.
 - Links to a page asking you for any personal information like your password
- In general, you should only open files with attachments that you know are safe. For example, .jpg and .png are image files and should be safe. .pdf, .docx, .xlsx, and .pptx are document files and should also be safe — although it's important to have the latest security patches.

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Funnybone



Geeks 12 Days of Christmas

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me:

- Twelve cores debugging,
- Eleven named-pipes piping,
- Ten laptops loading,
- Nine apps compiling,
- Eight mice a-moving,
- Seven smartphones syncing,
- Six geeks a-coding,
- Five I-D-E's,
- Four calling cards,
- Three iPads,
- Two monitors,
- And a cartridge for my H-P.

- Software update notifications seem to remind us constantly to update our computers. We should not ignore them, new versions often fix security vulnerabilities in older versions of software. For example, if you're running an older version of Internet Explorer and haven't installed the latest updates for it from Windows Update, your version of Internet Explorer may be insecure.
- The Stay Safe Online website has valuable information at: <http://www.staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/keep-a-clean-machine/malware-and-botnets>
- ComputerPals Newcastle conducts courses to help you recognise these threats. In **Session1, 2015** the first class for the year is **Computer Care**: how to keep your computer free from nasties! In week two we have **Computer Back-up**: keep those files safe!

Now ... a word of warning for those who take Photos on phones, tablets and cameras with GPS...

Before you share photos online (Facebook etc.), watch this video – on YouTube.

This will be an eye opener for many people but posting pictures can really put you at "risk". Most young people are "tech" savvy to a point but they might have forgotten or not be aware of this feature.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/xvZF-yP_ceU?feature=player_detailpage

This is very timely with the bevy of devices being received as Christmas gifts!! ---oOo---



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