ComputerPals Newcastle
Where Seniors master technology

SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : cpalsnewcastle@computerpals.gmail.com

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.

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.

President's Report

Welcome to the ComputerPals' New Year.

I hope one of your New Year Resolutions was to learn and increase your computing skills. We are trying to put on classes that will stimulate and help you in this regard.

As some of you would realise the Roster Team and the Education Team plus others on the committee have been working hard throughout this summer holiday period.

To enrol in courses please contact the Roster Team during business hours (9am – 5pm, Mon – Fri). Being volunteers we all have other lives and family commitments just as you do. It might take a bit longer to answer your inquiries, but we do 'get around to it'

As you may have noticed our Webpage is under construction. The Committee met with John Hendricks, our web master, on 27th January and we sorted out quite a few things. We will be learning more about our new web system so that ASAP we will have our new and improved webpage up and running. What I've seen so far looks really good. Also we have decided that in class we will spend about five minutes having a very quick look at our webpage, so that you, the members, will become more confident in using the various features.

Please mark in your diaries the 16th March for our first Morning Tea of the year. This is held during Seniors Week and is an opportunity to invite some of your friends and acquaintances to come and look at our club and learn that we don't just teach computing but have very vibrant social activities and also special interest sub-clubs. We are inviting a guest speaker along this year who will be talking about what happens to our digital assets (email accounts, Facebook, Skype, iTunes, Paypal, etc.) when we die. Also we have a rather good morning tea with the help of Dorothy and Audrey!

I am looking forward to seeing you all this coming year.

Agapé, Elaine Butler

Who Are Our 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.

Who is ASCCA?

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 news items can be accessed on the website at www.ascca.org.au

Social Report

Christmas Lunch

Our member's Christmas lunch was held on Thursday 4th December at the East Maitland Bowling Club with a roll-up of sixty-one participants.

With a lot of fun mixed with a small 'dollop' of stress, Christmas decorations were again sourced and collected ready for the big occasion. With the help of Treasurer Barry, Newsletter Editor Sandra and a few additional members, Beryl and I completed the set-up in time for the festivities to begin.

A brief information update on the Club's activities and current situation by President Elaine was followed by our Christmas Lunch, where members could select their favourite dishes and enjoy each other's company prior to the Christmas/New Year break. A great time was had by all, creating a happy conclusion to the Computerpals 2014 year.

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

February Social Day Out

Our first Social Day Out will be held on **Saturday 7th February** when we will visit the **Lake Macquarie Art Gallery and Sculptures at First Street, Booragul meeting in the carpark at 9am.**

We will commence proceedings by photographing some of the sculptures in a creative manner, followed by a look at what is on display in the Art Gallery. Once done, we will head next door to Awaba House café for a spot of morning tea.

Social Calendar 2015
We suggest you put the following dates in your diary

Day	Date	Proposed Venue
Saturday	*7th February*	*Lake Macquarie Art Gallery + Sculptures in the parklands Morning tea or lunch at Awaba House*
Saturday	*7th March*	*Barramundi Farm, Bobs Farm*
Saturday	*11th April (school holidays)*	*Maitland Gaol*
Saturday	*2nd May*	*Cockatoo Island, Sydney (train/ferry)*
Saturday	*13th June*	*Tocal Homestead (car pooling)*
Saturday	*4th July (school Holidays)*	*Highland Games, Aberdeen (car pooling)*
Saturday	*1st August*	*Australia Army Infantry Museum, Singleton (car pooling)*
Saturday	*5th September*	*Dudley bush walk*
Saturday	*10th October*	*Watson's Bay, Sydney (train/ferry)*
Saturday	*7th November*	*Swansea Bridge/RSL Club*

Seniors Week – ComputerPals Morning Tea

Put **Monday 16th March** on your calendar so you don't miss this event.

Morning Tea is sure to be scrumptious. There are Lucky Prize draws for attendees as well as a Guest Speaker who will explain the details of our "Digital Heritage".

Come along and help the club celebrate Seniors Week.

Special Interest Groups

GeneaPals

This is our Family History group. We have allocated the first Monday afternoon of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the clubrooms at Islington Public School (except school holidays).

WriterPals

Our Creative Writing group is for enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the second Monday of each month at the Islington clubroom. Meetings are from 1:00 p.m. until we go home!

DigiPals

DigiPals is an active group of ComputerPals members who meet on the third Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Islington clubroom to learn and explore digital photography.
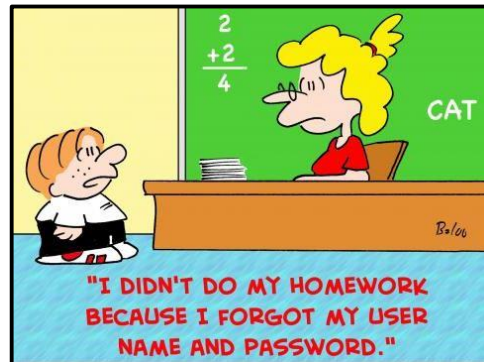
TabPals

If you have a portable device; iPad, Android tablet we have a special interest group called TabPals. The fourth Friday of the month is our regular meeting day, at 1 p..m in the clubroom.

What Was That Password??????

Like many people, you probably have a password for logging on to your computer, another one for logging into your email, and then there's your tablet, the ID for your smartphone; Facebook; Skype. And more?
Not forgetting the Usernames for all these sites as well !!!

"I DIDN'T DO MY HOMEWORK BECAUSE I FORGOT MY USER NAME AND PASSWORD."

Oh, and you have to use a capital letter, some lowercase, at least one digit, a punctuation mark or other special characters and it has to be more than 12 characters long. Perhaps you can't use more than 16 characters? Or perhaps that particular service doesn't allow you to use special characters - **even more confusing!**

At home some of us allow the browser to remember our passwords, BUT, is this a safe practice????

The Federal Government's **Stay Smart Online website** recommends we change our passwords every 3 to 12 months depending on whether the account type has confidential or valuable information.

How do we remember our passwords, let alone when to change them????

If you are continually having problems remembering your password perhaps you should consider enrolling in our Password Management Course, commencing Thursday 5th March in Session 2.

Funnybone

Customer: My 13 yr old daughter has put a password on my Windows 8 computer and I can't get in.
Advisor: Has she forgotten it?
Customer: No, she won't tell me it because I've grounded her.