



Switched on Seniors

Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors Newcastle
A Member of ASCCA

VOLUME 8

ISSUE 12

Committee Members

President	Lindsay Threadgate
Vice President	Roger Cornish
Secretary	Jan Whiteman
Treasurer	Michael Pitt
Technical	Neville Clifton
Education	Bruce Deitz
Rosters	Carolyn Keane
Newsletter	Daphne Luker
Social	Dawn Howe
Asst Treas.	Mervyn Pope

Committee Members

Denise Brandon
Jo Moonan
Mitzi Gordon
John Saunders

Course Sessions :
Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, Thursdays,
of each 5 week Session

Times of Sessions:
1. 8.45am –10.15am
2. 10.30am –12.00
3. 12.15 pm -1.45 pm
4. 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Short Course Sessions:
Friday Mornings or
Monday afternoons

Enrolment Days:
December 12
10-11.30am

Check the Web site for any
up-dates

President's Message



I can't believe that a month has passed since I last sat and typed a President's Report - but it is. The Christmas season is upon us and we all know what that means. I hope you all enjoy the Festive Season. Merry Christmas and Happy computing for 2009. Hope to see as many of you as can make it to our Christmas lunch on Friday 5th.

All those who do so much for our club deserve a well earned break to be ready for another year of helping Seniors master technology at ComputerPals.

That last statement keeps reminding me of what ComputerPals is all about. How do we do that? Most of all with a lot of help from a lot of people, all of who volunteer their time to do all the things necessary to provide the lessons each week. But we do other things as well, we have a growing digital photography group, DigiPals, and we have social activities to allow our members socialising time outside lessons.

If you are reading this then you are most likely a member of ComputerPals, what about making it your mission for 2009 to get a friend to come along and join, just think about what it has done for you to be a member. I know how much it has improved my computer skills.

2009 should be a great year, make it even greater by mastering technology even further.

Happy computing and did you make that backup DVD? I did and although I have not been zapped by lightning it is still around, you might have noticed.

Your President
Lindsay



**Important information regarding activities and dates
appears on the MEMBERS page of the Web Site.**

Dates To Remember;
Christmas Lunch - 5th December, Cardiff RSL - 11.30am
Enrolment Day - December 12 , 10 –11.30am

Committee Report

We have had our last committee meeting for the year and do not meet till mid January.

Our new First Aid Kit has been installed on the wall near the tutor computer and the Stroke 'FAST' wallet cards are now available.

Our Education Officer Bruce has compiled CD's and notes ready for 2009. Bruce also reported that we now have 40 Tutors.

The last Enrolment day for 2008 will be on Friday 12th December from 10am-11.30am.

The Technical team has installed another printer.

Social Activities Officer Dawn has plans under way for 2009 so watch the website and newsletter.

On behalf of the committee I wish everyone and their families all the best for the Christmas Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Jan

**NASTY LITTLE CRAWLIES!**

If you don't want added protein in your cuppa

At the end of each day can the tutors please make sure that the lids are closed on the tea, coffee, sugar etc. as there is evidence of mice and cockroaches in the building.

BOUNCING EMAILS

If you are not receiving regular emails from ComputerPals then your email address that we have is incorrect. Please send an email to secretary@computerpals.org.au with your full name in the subject line and I will correct it.... Jan

Our 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.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

If you are looking for a Justice of the Peace in your area the following website will locate all registered JP's by postcode. All you need to do is type in the postcode and a list will be shown that contains the relevant contact details.

<http://jp.lawlink.nsw.gov.au:80/public/searchByPostcodePublic.do>

TRAIN THE TRAINERS



Our club could not function without the people who volunteer as tutors.

Fortunately, we now have 40 men and women who volunteer their time and expertise to present the varied courses we have to help both beginners and the more experienced computer users. Some of these people travel from as far afield as Maitland and Bonnells Bay (and all points in between) while many of our tutors come in to teach on more than one day per week.

Each fortnight, on the Monday afternoon, we have a session for tutors only. We've called it "Train-the-Trainers". Our technical team will have spent all morning maintaining the computers, then the members stay for the afternoon. Each month, the sessions are scheduled to coincide with committee meetings, and once again, the members stay for the afternoon. Then of course, these people come in later during the week to conduct their classes.

The topics discussed vary a great deal but one thing remains constant, and that is the happy atmosphere which involves everyone. Different members make their contributions, so that we all benefit from shared knowledge, and all types of administrative decisions have been made to ensure that our club continues to be one of the most harmonious groups that anyone could choose to attend.

Throughout the year, we have had over 20 members present at each of the sessions, while those who can't attend send in their apologies. Often the reasons for non-attendance are illness, medical appointments or holidays. (Some seem to have more holidays than others! – no names mentioned!)

Other clubs are battling to have sufficient tutors, while we have a great crew and strangely they don't seek any sorts of rewards (Although an occasional "Thank you" is always appreciated.) It's because of the number of tutors we have, that we can offer so much individual assistance where it is required.

Support your tutors – they're a great group of people who gain their satisfaction from helping others and it's always a pleasure to attend these training sessions.

Bruce Deitz

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E-mail: randyg@norwich.net



**"Hello, Bob? It's your father again.
I have another question about my new computer.
Can I tape a movie from cable TV then fax it from
my VCR to my CD-ROM then E-mail it to my
brother's cellular phone so he can make a
copy on his neighbor's camcorder?"**

AN ASSISTANT TUTOR'S VIEWPOINT ON 'TRAIN THE TRAINERS' [Kay Williams](#)

Just over 3 years I bought my first computer. Not realising you could do more than play games, Word Processing and use E-Bay I did nothing but courses at ComputerPals for the next 12 months discovering the wonderful world of computers as well as its frustrations.

At the end of that time I was approached to join Train The Trainers with Bruce Deitz (whom I had known for 40 years as a teacher) on a Monday afternoon with view to becoming an Asst. Tutor. Being a Lead Tutor is not an option for me because of my poor hearing.

Monday afternoons are a revelation of knowledge gained, camaraderie and friendship. Many of the afternoons deal with coming courses and the changes needed, mainly because of the introduction of Vista and the updating of information needed to give these courses.

Although some of the information is, 'over my head' (mainly because I don't as yet have Vista) I always come away knowing I have learnt something and have enjoyed the professional input from Bruce from his extremely well-prepared afternoons.

We do have other Tutors updating us on changes in their courses and often we have 'hands on' where we all participate. One is continually learning and if we have a problem we share it with others to help resolve it. This happens more frequently than you would think.

I would urge anyone who is interested to come along to these afternoons, which now will not resume until next year, because the friendships and knowledge gained is immeasurable and a testament to Bruce's professionalism. One then can go out and help in courses, or on day's that suit one's own lifestyle, to help make other Seniors enjoy this wonderful, but sometimes very frustrating world, of Computers.



Remember

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

<http://www.ascca.org.au>



The month has been a frustrating one as both our outdoor shoots have been spoiled by the weather. The first with very high temperatures and the Warners Bay shoot with a deluge. Warners Bay was followed with 18 hardy souls turning up for a most enjoyable dinner at the Warners Bay Tavern. Barry Keane, Beryl and I followed the dinner by braving the traffic to obtain some night shots - the results are on our Digipals web album.

During the month at our regular clubhouse meeting we covered time delay, night shooting and the effective use of the "B" or bulb mode. Much enthusiasm has been seen but please express it by loading your experimentation to our Digipals site. Don't be embarrassed, there is no such thing as the perfect photo, it is just a matter of perception. If you put your handiwork on the site we can help you get a lot more joy from your photography.

Remember, keep practising, if nothing else you will become more familiar with your camera.

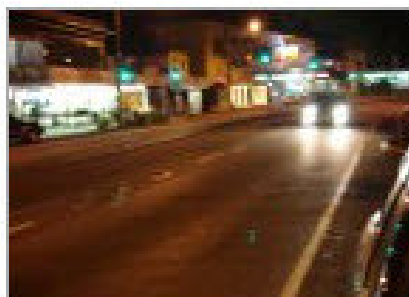
We intend publishing a full program for next year and this will be done before the end of this year. We have some interesting topics and weather permitting we have some exciting outdoor activities in the pipeline. If you have any topics you want included let us know as soon as possible.

To all our members, we wish you and yours a very happy Xmas and much good health (dare I say it, some good weather on our outdoor shoots) and lots of happy snapping.



Graham Woolridge

NIGHT SHOOT & DIGIPALS DINNER AT WARNERS BAY



Social Report

Stockton Picnic

Sixteen 'Pals' enjoyed each other's company at Stockton on Monday 17th November. The weather was overcast but didn't dull the day. We watched the tugs working in the harbour, chatted and took some photos.

We will be holding more picnics in 2009, including catered "Fish and Chips" picnics where we'll be having games and competitions. Should be lots of fun! *Dawn*



What should one expect from a Computer Retailer guarantee??

One Members experience.

Like many members of this club I was not introduced to computers 'till the Ripe 'ole Age of 55!! & consequently I did not own a computer of my own as I used my Work computer or Hand-me-Downs from my wife's function as an Accountant. This situation prevailed even after I joined ComputerPals in 2003 but then in 2006 by which time I had gained more knowledge than I ever did at work I thought it about time that I bought my own Sooper-Dooper-up-to-Date machine which I purchased from a *well known local supplier*..... At that time it was a top of the range machine for Home Use, i.e. Core2Duo, Massive Hard Drive of 250 Gb!! & all the Bells & Whistles that I could think of for the princely sum of \$1500 – a lot of money at the time!! Naturally, when discussing the specification of *such a Fine Machine* I did not forget to enquire about the guarantee being offered which was a pretty standard 12 months but I was led to believe that the firm was Very Reliable so I had no qualms from purchasing from them.

I eagerly set up the computer at home like a kid with a bag of jellies & for a couple of weeks it was Pure Heaven !! “Goin’ like a Boeing” as they say in the fillums but gradually the machine started to slow down & pick up more frustrating problems with dire warnings about ‘Shutting Down!’ on the screen. The retailer was at first sympathetic with my woes but pointed out that possible problems with software was not covered by the guarantee but could not quantify where “Software & Hardware” issues should be demarcated !! Naturally this leads to the question of what came first - ‘the Chicken or the Egg’? To cut a Long story Short - the computer went back to the retailer FOUR times in seven months - the last time the hardware was partially replaced to obviate possible compatibility issues.

Once again there was a short Honeymoon period but then, as before, all the issues surfaced again & I was left struggling with this expensive & semi-useless machine which was not performing as per the specification. Then at the 19 month point I got a different **DIRE** warning in the form of the following: [NMIndexStoreSvr.exe](#) - I Googled this Gobblededook & got an absolute mine of information ALL pointing in the direction of Nero Essentials 7 which found the culprit to be the Nero plug-in, “Scout”. From there the article gave instructions on how to Disable Scout & I am relieved to report that the computer is now working perfectly .

I have since discovered that this has been a known fault with Nero 7 for a long time & it throws up starkly the grey area between Hardware supplied & the OEM Software that is initially loaded onto it & the negative impact that this can have on the ‘guarantee’ being given & the consequential financial loss that the customer will experience. *It should be added that not all computers loaded with Nero 7 have such problems - ComputerPals is not currently using Nero 7 but is using Nero Ahead V6 which gives no adverse effects.*

If you are Technically minded you may wish to pursue this frustrating subject at the following sites :

<http://www.jakeludington.com/>

http://www.jakeludington.com/nero/20071127_what_is_nmindexstoresvrex.html

<http://stte.blogspot.com/2007/10/what-is-nmindexstoresvrex.html>



Michael, Treasurer@computerpals.org.au

Bits and Pieces

So Far

Courses are winding down as the end of the year draws closer. If you are attending a course and have a query, don't forget to make a note and ask questions. This will help everyone in your class. If the answer isn't immediately available, be reassured your query will be investigated and answered as soon as possible.

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. **As demand for the courses is high 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.



Valerie Forbes	Barbara Jost
Jennifer Hughes	Allan Wrigley
Margaret Bailey	Margaret Flood

We hope that you enjoy the many benefits of belonging to Newcastle ComputerPals and enrol in the courses that interest you. The Tutors and their assistants are also Seniors and conduct the courses in a relaxed atmosphere. They remember how daunting it was when they started out so are able to empathise with all of those who are new to the world of Computing.

Congratulations and 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.



To the members and committee who have submitted articles for inclusion in the Newsletter. Your excellent items have been enjoyed and appreciated by all who have read them.

You make my job so much easier !

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Daphne, Newsletter Editor

Tips and Hints

Microsoft Office 2007 Compatibility Mode

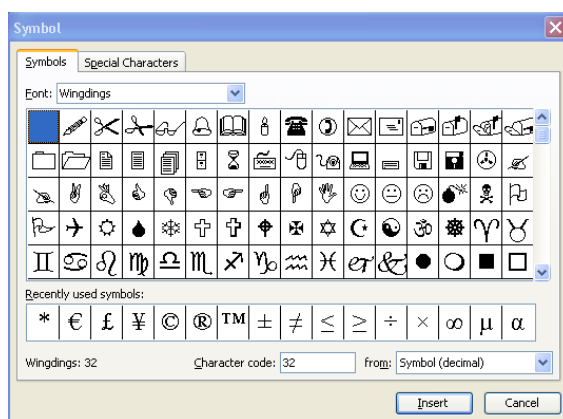
Office 2007 has introduced Compatibility Mode which allows those with earlier versions of Office to open and share files sent to them in the 2007 version . It works with Word, Excel and PowerPoint. For more information go to the Microsoft Support Centre at :

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/923505>

A detailed description of the product and how to install it is available at this site.

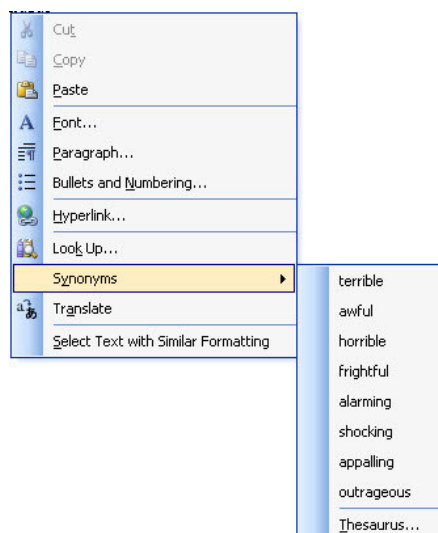
How to insert symbols into a document

- Place your cursor where you would like to insert the symbol.
- Click the 'INSERT' menu and select SYMBOL.
- Click on the symbol that you would like inserted.
- The character will now be inserted.
- Don't forget to look in Webdings and Wingdings in the Font choice for many unusual symbols.



Right Click

We all know how useful the right click of the mouse can be and an especially good shortcut is to right click on a word in MS Word to replace the word with a synonym. The word to be replaced is *dreadful*. Make the choice from the list, left click to replace it in the document.



More Tips and hints

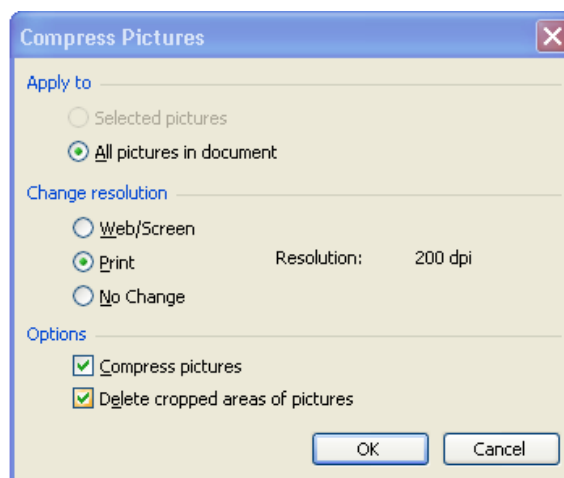
How to Compress Graphics

There is a handy little icon that is available in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Publisher that will allow you to compress graphics and keep your document or presentation at a manageable size. It is located on the 'Picture' toolbar.



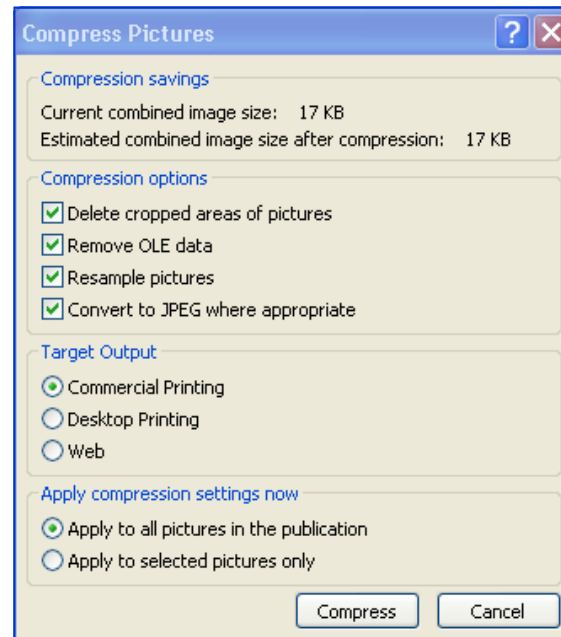
When you click the icon you are given the choice of applying to Selected Pictures or All Pictures in Document.

Microsoft Office
2003
will look like this.



Microsoft Office
2007
will look like this.

Note the extra choices



The graphics in this Newsletter are *always* compressed to decrease the size of the Publication - this allows it to open faster when it is converted to PDF format.