



Switched on Seniors

Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors Newcastle
A Member of ASCCA

VOLUME 9

ISSUE 1

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:
January 30
10am - 11.30am

Check the Web site for
any
up-dates

President's Message

Hi All, it is 2009 already and shaping up as a year which will see our club continue to develop. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Festive Season and you are ready to continue to master technology with us.

I was pleased to see such a good roll up at our Christmas Lunch. Commiserations to those who did not win a prize. I am looking forward to a President's Morning Tea in each school term. As well as the opportunity to enjoy social contact with other club members, there will be visiting speakers to enrich your knowledge. Look for the dates and the topics on our Website. The speaker at the first one will tell us how to get the most from our mobile phones. We all have one these days but mostly use only one or two features, so this could be a real eye-opener.

Our Education Officer, Bruce, has been busy as usual, 10 new courses have been prepared and will be offered during the year. These include courses aimed specifically at digital photography and Office 2007 applications of Word, PowerPoint and Excel.

Our volunteer tutors now number over 40 and are ready and willing to help out during the year. Their first tutor training session is on the day before classes begin where a range of new information will be discussed. The value of our tutors can never be over-stated.

Dawn has ideas for new venues for social activities and we look forward to some interesting trips during the year. If they are as successful as our Pits and Pubs excursion last year, we'll be more than satisfied.

DigiPals has really taken off! Look out for the get-togethers. Both meeting at our Islington clubroom and photo-shoots at different locations are included. This is for those new to digital photography, and "old hands" who are prepared to offer advice to novices - all are more than welcome to come along. Just make sure that you're a club member.

Our Website has become the main information source for many members. We are always trying to improve the site so watch for these to happen. If you have any ideas for what you'd like to appear on the site, please let any of our committee members know - OR - of course, you could use the SUGGESTION BOX in the vestibule.

We look forward to a great New Year and hope that you'll join with us to make it one of our best!

Your President, *Lindsay*



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

Dates To Remember:

Enrolment Day: January 30
Classes begin Tuesday 3rd February, 8.45am
Digipals Meeting: Friday, February 13, 1pm
Digipals Field Trip: Friday, February 27

Committee Report

The committee did not hold a meeting in December so a report is not available.

MOBILE PHONE WORKSHOP



Most of us own mobiles these days but do we know how to send SMS, take photos etc? Crazy John's will be conducting a 2 hour workshop for Newcastle ComputerPals ***aimed at Seniors***, that will cover the most commonly asked questions about mobiles. There will be a discussion about phone jargon, call rates and plans and how to save money on phone bills. A hands-on session will follow working with members' specific mobiles to teach us how to get the most out of our phones. The workshop will conclude with a Q&A session .

VENUE : Islington Public School Hall, Hubbard Street, Islington

DATE : Monday 16th March, 2009

TIME : 10am

COST : FREE

If you are interested in attending, please place your name on the list in the clubroom.

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*

GUESS WHO?

**Who was the committee member seen guiding her husband into a car space at the Christmas Party with the sun visor already in place on the windscreen?
Her name starts with D and it wasn't Daphne or Dawn!**

It wasn't a case of the 'blind leading the blind' as the party had not even started!



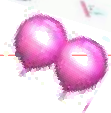
Our constitution, as amended at the 2008 AGM, is available to be downloaded and read via the link on the Member's page on the website.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas lunch at Cardiff RSL was well attended again this year, with lots of Happiness and Good Wishes all around. Many thanks to Dick Wubbles and Allen Chang for the photos. The lucky Door ticket prizes were a big hit and the winners of the \$50 gift cards are: Ken Field - Norm Barry - Dianne Plazier - Ella Lester - Bob Dawson and Bill Baldwin. Looking forward to lots of social activities in the New Year. Thanks to everyone for making 2008 a Happy Year- all the Best for 2009. Dawn



Happy New Year





Firstly a very happy, “Snappy” and healthy New Year to all. In June last year Digipals was hatched at a meeting of some 20 ComputerPals members in the hall of the Islington Primary School. Since then we have grown to some 60? members and the foundation has been laid for a very active camera club.

It is pleasing to note the progress made by some and if you feel you haven’t picked up as much as you would have liked, just hang in and ask for help. You have a whole year ahead of you and possibly the best time to ask for help is at an outdoor shoot. We also plan to run some smaller classes of a practical nature for groups of 4/6 people. We are in the process of putting together a program to “train our tutors”.

Our next meeting is Friday February 13 at 1 pm in the Clubroom at Islington, our next outdoor shoot is on Friday February 27 at a venue yet to be decided on.

XMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION:

We received 43 individual shots and after nearly an hours deliberation we have a tie, so both Carolyn Keane and Beryl Elsey are the winners and will each win a prize. Well done both of you. We will review some of the photos at our next club house meeting.



Beryl’s photo.

**Camera: Canon PowerShot G10
With Flash - 1/3 sec. exposure**



Carolyn’s photo.

**Camera: Canon PowerShot A70
With Flash - 1 sec. exposure**

ANOTHER COMPETITION

The Newcastle Herald is running a Summer Photo Competition. See the details at theherald.com.au. Don’t be shy anyone can have a go and a chance of picking up a prize. The prizes are worth shooting for, have a go.

I wish to thank Carolyn Keane and Dawn Howe for the excellent and enthusiastic support they have given since we launched Digipals, it is greatly appreciated.



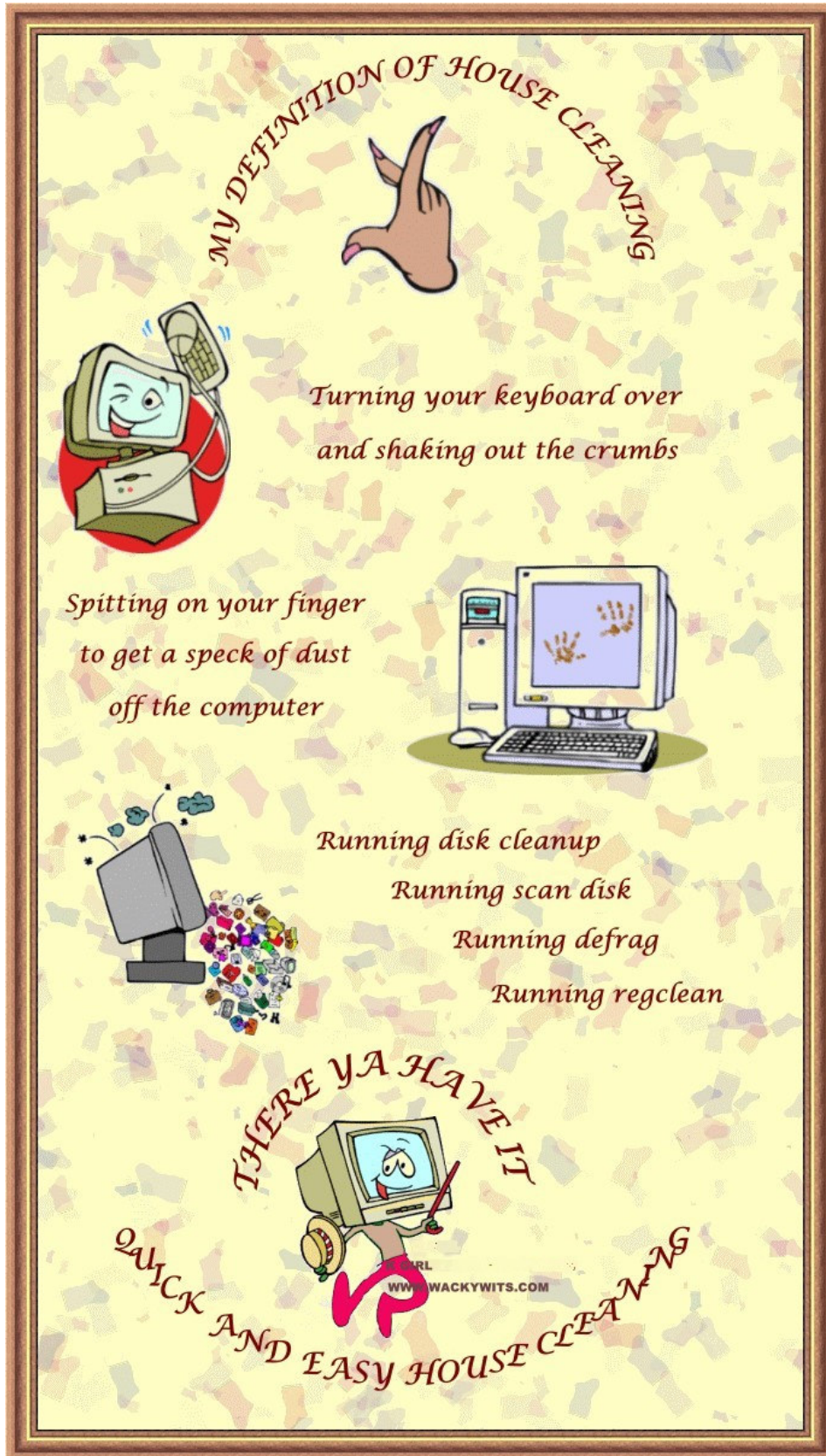
Graham

Remember

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

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

HOUSE CLEANING



*Of course none of us would ever eat near our computers so we could ignore the first tip!!

We really do love our classes - pictured below are some of the members who enjoyed just two of our courses in December.



PUBLISHER



Showing the cards made on the last day of the Publisher course.

MAKING MUSIC



Ray was outnumbered by the ladies in this class!
The course participants are not all hearing impaired but are wearing headsets to enjoy their choice of music without disturbing others.

Bits and Pieces

So Far

Courses will begin again on Tuesday, February 3. Courses are heavily booked at this stage with many classes in Session 1 full or nearly full. Session 2 is filling up fast. To check availability of courses please phone 4961 6576 during office hours.

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.



Dorothy Lewis

Lorraine Shepherd

Kenneth Preston

Patricia Butler

Joanne Smith

Maree Higgins

Elaine Cameron

John Cameron

Doreen Bell

Jim Bell

Max Clarke

Yvonne Pacey

Alan Teuma

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

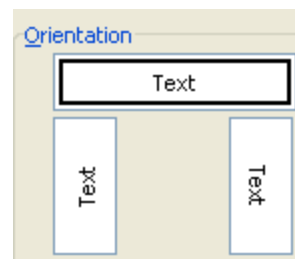
To all of our members who have lost loved ones recently, please accept our condolences.

Tips and Hints

CHANGE THE ORIENTATION OF TEXT IN MS WORD

You can change the orientation in text boxes, shapes, callouts or in table cells to display the text either vertically or horizontally.

- Click the drawing object or table cell that contains the text that you want to change.
- On the **FORMAT** menu, click **TEXT DIRECTION**.
- Click the orientation that you want.



WHAT REALLY GETS RESTORED DURING A 'SYSTEM RESTORE'?

Microsoft designed System Restore to fix problems that can arise on any **Windows XP** system. Whether it occurs from installing/updating drivers, programs or "ubiquitous" unexplained Windows errors, System Restore can often save you from a complete system failure. Microsoft created System Restore with a lot of forethought. System Restore protects your personal data to prevent it from being accidentally deleted when you roll back to a prior time.

When you run System Restore, the following changes and repairs are made:

- Device drivers are rolled back if you have updated the driver on an existing peripheral or installed new hardware.
- Newly installed applications are (partially) uninstalled. Because System Restore makes every effort to preserve document files, applications are not as completely uninstalled as they would be if you performed the operation through the Add/Remove Software Control Panel Applet or a third-party uninstall utility.
- Any altered system files (basically, anything that normally would be found in various Windows directories) are restored.
- Cosmetic changes you made to your system (such as mouse tracking speed or keyboard repeat rate) since the restore point was created are rolled back.
- Basically, anything changed in the Control Panel since the time stamp on the restore point will be undone.

Note that personal files, like email, word processing files, graphics, etc. will always remain unchanged. This is what makes System Restore different from a full backup and restore utility.

Only system changes made after the time stamp on a restore point are rolled back. Also note that time stamps are complete snapshots of the system. In other words, if you install a software program on June 1 and another one on June 2, rolling back to May 31 will eliminate both.

Here's a tip for you - To be safe, you should save all personal documents in the My Documents folder, which System Restore does not monitor, regardless of its contents.

****The article above is published with the permission of Cloud Eight Information Avenue.***

More Tips and hints

PASSWORD SECURITY

Is your password secure? Amanda from World Start has recommended a site which I have checked and I found that my password for Internet Banking was **WEAK**. I have since changed it using the criteria suggested on the site and now have a **STRONG** password. Have a look at:

<http://www.passwordmeter.com>

and test your current password. You may need to modify it!

RIGHT CLICK

We should get used to using the Right Click more often. Listed below are just some of the examples of where to use the Right Mouse Button.

Right Click on...	To...
On the desktop	Access the display properties
On the recycle bin	Empty the recycle bin
On any selected item	Cut or copy
On a misspelled word in MS Word	Choose a correct spelling
On any word in MS Word	Replace word with a synonym
On a picture on the Internet	Save the picture to your hard drive
On a link on the Internet	Open link in a new window
On a program in the task bar	Close the program. (This works great for pop up Internet ads!)

A COUPLE OF QUICK TIPS USING YOUR KEYBOARD

Click Control + D to save a web page to your favourites menu.

Click the Windows key + E to open Windows Explorer.

SECURITY ALERT

You have probably heard about the latest threat to Internet Explorer via television or the newspapers so it is important that you make sure that your computer is set to do automatic updates.

You can also go to Microsoft.com and check for updates on their update page. If it tells you there are updates available go ahead and install them, particularly the Internet Explorer security update.

It is an important patch and needs to be installed to protect your computer.