Switched on Seniors

Newsletter of ComputerPals for Seniors – Newcastle
A Member of ASCCA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

More than 70 people attended our last morning tea where Sue Crowe not only spoke about hearing problems, she also spent considerable time conducting simple hearing tests on a number of our members. Our next morning tea will be during October and we will have a speaker giving essential information regarding prostate cancer – an extremely important topic.

Also at the recent meeting, the members voted on the preferred menu choices for our August 12th luncheon and AGM. The main courses will be either: Roast Beef with Red Wine & Mushroom Sauce OR Grilled Barramundi with Lemon Butter Sauce – the desserts will be either Warm Apple Pie OR Pavlova with Kahlua Strawberries. Vegetables will be served with all meals and there will also be tea or coffee, bread rolls and dinner mints. If you have special dietary requirements, please contact Robyn's at Kotara on 4957 6251 well in advance of the date. The cost will be $25 per person. Cold drinks will be available in the bowling club. Elsewhere in the Newsletter, Barry Keen will have the details regarding payment so please make sure that you read on!

There is something rather special under way with Domayne Computers! By the end of July I should be able to give you all the details, but so far, I can let you know that there will be special prices for photo developing, a free VIP Members card for our ComputerPals members and a number of other benefits regarding the lending of equipment to the club.

At the present time we have volunteers and nominations for all positions on the committee BUT we will still accept nominations for anyone else interested in serving on the committee. Contact Maura Rainbow, our secretary, for nomination forms.

Today, 1st July, we've had the classroom carpet cleaned so the room should look a little better when we return next term. Thanks to Nev Clifton and John Saunders for clearing the room for the cleaners. It's amazing how all the movable furniture could be stored in the lunchroom! Nev and Lindsay Threadgate have been working at home on the new computers so they should be ready for our return.

Our short courses are proving so popular that every Friday morning is booked from now till the end of the year and we've even scheduled courses for Friday afternoons. At the same time, our five-weekly courses are resulting in full classes for most courses. Our trainers are showing their continued enthusiasm by attending the training sessions each month, so that means that with their training session, and meetings for DigiPals, GeneaPals and WriterPals, every Monday afternoon is booked. So we are now working five days per week! – Just don't anyone suggest evening or weekend classes!!

Fortunately we have a fortnight's break from classes so the tutors can regain their breaths, although I know that some of them have already committed for extra baby-sitting during the school holidays.

We have received some requests for specific courses and if you have a course that you'd really like conducted, write it on a slip of paper (with your name, please) and put it in the suggestion box. That way, our roster ladies can have a guide for courses for sessions seven and eight.

Remember the ASCCA competitions! ANY MEMBER can submit photographs (contact Graham Woolridge, Carolyn Keane or Barry Keen) or creative writing (contact Carmel Smith) – you don't have to be a member of either of the special interest groups.

I hope to see many of you at the AMG/Luncheon as it's a great chance to meet and socialise.

Bruce Deitz—President Computerpals Newcastle Inc.

Committee Members

President: Bruce Deitz

Secretary : Maura Rainbow

Treasurer : Maree Field

Vice President : Rob Golledge

Assistant Treasurer : Michael Pitt

Technical / Education: Neville Clifton

Rosters : Denise Brandon

DigiPals : Carolyn Keane

Newsletter / Webmaster: Bruce Carter

Tutor Roster : Mitzi Gordon

Social organiser: Barry Keen

Committee : Elaine Butler

Teams

- Technical
- Rostering/Enrolment
- Education
- Web Page

Contact Us

Committee members listed above may be contacted by following the instructions on the CONTACT US page on the club website.

Morning Tea

Committee Report

- Neville reported the club had possession of the newly purchased hardware. These new computers will provide an improved and more up to date computer experience.

- Neville indicated the new computers are currently being prepared for use. Some problems have been experienced in placing XP on them as most newer machines are specifically designed for Windows 7. The club want to ensure all operating systems are working flawlessly when students begin using them.

- Enrolment is progressing well especially for short courses. Keep your eye on the webpage as updated courses will appear regularly.

- The new TV is very successful as a teaching and learning tool. It will also be trialled to display upcoming events in between lessons.

- Our volunteer tutor numbers are very pleasing and in some cases we have a waiting list, owing to interest by prospective volunteers.

- Club fees are now due. You must be a current member to enrol in courses.

- Please read the information on outings and DigiPal opportunities. Barry is regularly updating the web, newsletter and providing email notification where appropriate.

Digipals Report - July 2011

June and the shortest day of the year are now gone so we can look forward to the end of winter soon and hopefully an early spring. In the meantime we can brush up on our camera knowledge by watching some of the excellent video tutorials available. There are so many "how to" videos available if you Google up your query you can spend many a cosy evening honing your skills.

Our day out at the Swansea Heads was a great success with a really good turnout and the evidence is on our Digipals website. We followed this outdoor trip with our clubroom meeting where we analysed our photos and learned how to avoid and overcome some of the more common mistakes we amateurs make.

The website Digital Photo Secrets (you can subscribe and receive the regular monthly newsletter) this month covers Scene settings and is really worth reading and digesting. The modern point and shoot camera is a marvellous piece of technology and it is designed to make photography so much easier, but you do need to become familiar with it's working and you do need to practice, take plenty of photos and ask for them to be critiqued. If you do this you will be surprised how good you will become.

We have the ASCA photo competition coming up in August so start checking your photos as we would like to submit plenty this year as each submission earns Computerpals Newcastle credits and as we did rather well last year we hope to put in another good performance. Barry Keen will be sending out a special notice in July explaining the criteria and the deadlines for submissions.

We have "Know your camera" courses scheduled for Friday 26th August and Friday 16th September and the bookings may be made at our clubroom now.

Sadly the special train to the Aberdeen Highland Festival has been cancelled but an intrepid and enthusiast group of Digipal Warriors are travelling by car to attend this day of high Celtic festivity, it promises to be great fun with some rather unique photo opportunities.

Our next clubroom meeting will be in August as school holidays will mean we don't have access to the premises.

Remember to use your camera regularly, take it with you where ever you go and keep snapping.

Happy snapping, Graham.

DigiPals Contact Person :

Barry Keen (Social Secretary)

Pictures from Swansea

Annette (flowers)

Joan (Seascape)

Allen C (Kookaburra)

SOCIAL REPORT

Barry Keen (Social Secretary)

Reid's Reserve, Swansea Heads Outing 4/6/11

34 members/partners/family rolled out for the afternoon out at Swansea Heads and another really excellent social day. Taking in a relatively close location few of us have been to before and expanding our local knowledge and experience.

The weather behaved for the most part with only one short light shower that barely got us wet just as we were leaving the beach/rocks at the headland.

We went up to the Marine Rescue Station for views up and down the coast and back toward Swansea and Blacksmiths. The scenery was great from up there and then we moved on to Illawong Park for more coastal views – south towards Hams Beach and Caves Beach before we made the last stop at the Caves Beach Hotel for the camaraderie session.

2nd July we are going to Aberdeen and the Highland Games........ coming along?

Have a look at the Club's Website – Groups Tab – Digipals webpage for a selection of photos.

Cheers

Barry (Social Secretary)

More Picture from Swansea

Carmel for her portrait of a keen photographer

Ian for his seascape

MORE SOCIAL NEWS

Remember the AGM Lunch

MAINS - (1) Roast Beef with Red Wine & Mushroom Sauce and (2) Grilled Barrmundi with Lemon Butter Sauce followed by

DESSERTS (1) Warm Apple Pie and (2) Pavlova with Kahlua Strawberries.

ATTENTION MEMBERS :

Membership fees were due 1st July 2011.

Failure to do so means you are unable to enrol in courses or vote at the AGM

If you have not paid, please do so ASAP.

Our day out to the Aberdeen Highland Games was another success. 19 members/family/friends attended which was good considering everyone had to drive 2½ hours there and 2½ hours back. The day started foggy and cold, went to overcast and later came out with beautiful sun and clear skies (I was running hot by the end of day). The activities were interesting and entertaining and well worth the effort of going - I'm sure the others will agree!

August is going to be a busy month with two social events and important business of the AGM.

First - our next social day out will be a local one at Pelican (and surrounds), meeting in the car park off Lakeview Parade, Pelican at 1:30pm. Lots of great views of Lake Macquarie and the foreshore from a different perspective. Promises to be another great day out - take a picnic lunch if you want and go earlier. I'll let respondents to the email/form know where we're going for coffee/drinks afterwards closer to the day.

Second - the AGM - I believe nominations are in hand for all positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary & Treasurer), other positions on the committee are seconded and not elected (these are filled already) - no reason for you to stay away! Financial members - come and cast your vote.

All financial members are entitled to attend the AGM and vote. However, we are limited to seating 100 people in the restaurant for lunch. It will be first in with their registration - confirmed by payment, who will be assured of seats. Please be prompt if you don't want to miss out. Send your money ($25 per person) to the Treasurer at Computerpals - Newcastle, PO Box 73, Broadmeadow NSW 2292 with a note about what the money is for and your name and return email address. Receipts will not be issued. We will confirm your seat by email - bring the email with you to the AGM/lunch - that will be your ticket for lunch.

Members at our various social days out and the recent members morning tea expressed their preferences for the two main meals and two desserts.

These will be served at the table alternating between:

MAINS - (1) Roast Beef with Red Wine & Mushroom Sauce and (2) Grilled Barramundi with Lemon Butter Sauce followed by

DESSERTS (1) Warm Apple Pie and (2) Pavlova with Kahlua Strawberries. Yum !

If you have dietary concerns please specify that on the form.

Barry Keen (Social Secretary)

Writerpals

Our group is small, but wow – the range of talent is amazing! I know I've said that before, but each month I continue to be impressed.

Because our meeting day once again clashed with a holiday of some kind we decided to meet at a delightful little coffee shop, Aromas at Glendale Stocklands. The rain and wind were kind to us and we were able to sit outside and share our thoughts, ideas and creativity. Those who attended were given a rare treat as a simple little song was turned into something incredible. "The Green Door" will never again be the annoying little song I used to enjoy many years ago.

After sharing our own efforts, our main topic was the ASCCA competition. We had a big winner last year with Fred, so that makes Computerpals Newcastle the defending champions. With that in mind …………….

Because our July meeting will coincide with school holidays, again making the clubroom inaccessible, we will be meeting at the home of one of our members. If you would like to attend our meeting, please send an email to Carmel at writerpals@gmail.com and I will give you the address. I won't give you directions, because, with my talent for getting lost I could easily send you to WoopWoop.

Not sure how to tackle poetry? – go to Google and type in "how to write poetry" and you will be staggered at the amount of topics you will find. Poetry is actually a lot easier than it looks, so give it a go and you might find your hidden talent.

If you want to try your hand or need a sounding board for your efforts, please join us on the second Monday of the month at 1 pm. You will be made very welcome.

Cheers & blessings

Carmel

ATTENTION MEMBERS :

Membership fees were due 1st July 2011.

If you have not paid, please do so ASAP. Please all members already enrolled in courses for July, August etc please pay your membership immediately as you are not financial to do these classes.

All other members please remember this is a club with many activities for you to participate in with Genealogy, digipals (photography), writing club and many social activities as well as your computer courses so please renew your membership for the coming year.
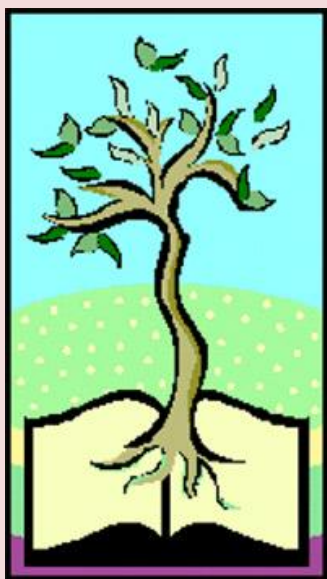
Photo by Barry Keen

The Contest

They knelt upon the clubroom floor
Their posture quite dramatic
For John and Bruce the fight was on
victory automatic.
Down on their knees they moaned and prayed
Salaamed in all directions.
Their groans and mutters told the tale
Old knees had no protection.
They pulled and tweaked and pried and pinched
And bit by bit succeeded.
With patience and skill they persevered
and got the victory needed.
They pulled off bits and tiny scraps
And finally had a win!
They got that tape up off the floor
And threw it in the bin.

by Carmel Smith

GeneaPals REPORT

Report on GeneaPals meeting

6 June, 2011 - Clubroom

Attendees—18

The meeting commenced with a question from Karleene Kvist about uploading photos and documents to Family Trees in Ancestry.com. Mary Pitt was able to help Karleene, however I think the question has wide interest in our group and needs to be shared. I have asked Karleene and Mary to prepare a little presentation on the subject at our next meeting.

Our Irish sisters, Maureen and Elizabeth told us of their intention to visit England and Ireland in search of family history. Much advice was forthcoming, most importantly the benefit of contacting and making appointments with the various Societies rather than just fronting up unannounced. Most significantly the likely assigning of a volunteer to be present for your visit who if given some information will have prepared much material making your visit so much more productive, what a good hint.
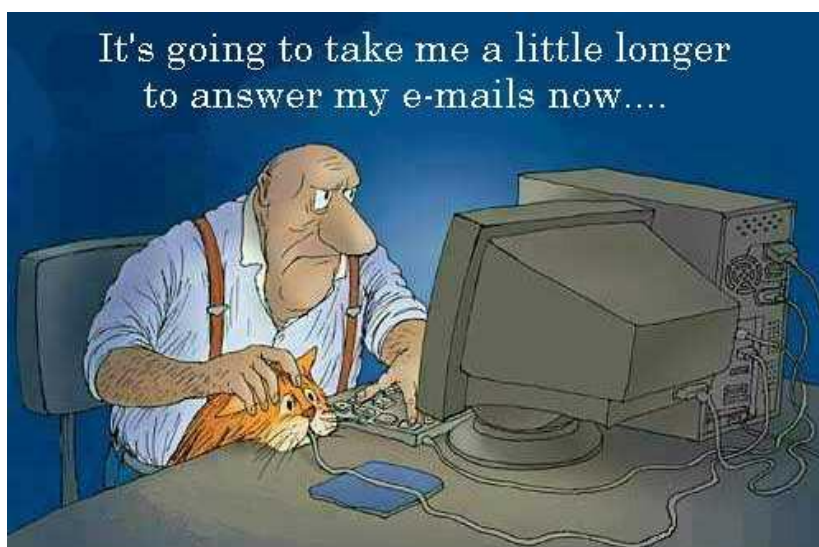
Yours truly presented his family history story prepared both in .html (on a computer disc) and printed as a book. I think to group found it interesting both from content and presentation. I have been requested to put a short course together on how the .html (computer disc) version was done in Microsoft Word.

As usual there is a request for suggestions for future meetings.

There will not be a meeting in July due to school holidays so the next meeting is 1 August 2011 SPST.

Regards

Lindsay Threadgate

It's going to take me a little longer to answer my e-mails now....

BITS & PIECES

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. To become computer literate at their own pace, in a friendly non-threatening environment and to have fun whilst doing so.

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

http://www.ascca.org.au

So Far

Courses are well under way and continue to be very well patronised.

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.

Demand for the courses is high so 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.

Best Wishes

• For our members who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries - congratulations!

• To those who are ill our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

New Members

April, 2011

Shepley Barbara
Reynolds Nola
Pflueger Julie-Ann
Newton Yvonne
Hobbs Catherine
Hennessy Pam
Arthur Beverley
Arthur Kevin
Bulbert Merylle
Collins Patricia
Mason Dawn

May, 2011

Thornton Adele
Wright Anne
Wright Neil
Zidar Stephanie
Thomson Robyne
Robards Elizabeth
Rae Elaine
Rademaker John
Purvis Wendy
Milligan Beryl
McGrath Anne
Maughan Elaine
Maher Fay
Matthews Margaret
Leggo Deborah
Jennings Mary
Jordan Edward
Jaakkonen Liisa
Fleming Ann

Fitzgibbon Larry
Fitzgibbon Valerie
Edmunds Denise
De Peralo Jacqueline
Cummings Susanne
Carroll Vic
Boxall Anne
Binns Patricia

June 2011

Buck Julie
Chandler Donald
Cooper Barbara
Devine Barbara
Doody Susanne
Field Pamela
Franks Harold
Gestier Kerry
Lawrence James
Lloyd Debra
Magee Lorraine
Magee Glen
McKinnon-King Lynne
Pandel Maureen
Redman James
Ryan Carol
Stewart Neville
Stewart Noelene
Straker Josephine
Tarrant Mary
Woerdeman Dorothy
Woolridge Molly
Wukowic Julie

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.

Condolences

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

HINTS & TIPS

Our Website

www.computerpals.org.au

We keep all past newsletters which contain "Hints & Tips".

Who Owns Copyright?

The Australian Copyright Council website contains much valuable information. It can be accessed at http://www.copyright.org.au/find-an-answer/ As well as asking and answering questions on their webpage there are Adobe Acrobat documents you can download.

The following extracts are sourced from INFORMATION SHEET G58 obtained from the Australian Copyright Council.

"Key points

• The creator of copyright material is not necessarily the copyright owner.

• Ownership of copyright is separate from ownership of the physical item: if you buy a picture, book, photograph or CD this does not give you rights to copy it.

• Creators of copyright works have moral rights in relation to what they create, although they may not be the copyright owner."

"The general rule—the "author" is usually the first owner of copyright

The general rule is that the "author" is the first owner of copyright if the work is a text work, music, a dramatic work, a computer program or an artistic work (such as a drawing).

For the purposes of copyright law, an "author" is a person who gives expression to the ideas or information in a work—for example, by writing an instruction manual, or drawing graphics, or writing a computer program. A person who contributes ideas or information or suggestions, but does not contribute to the expression of a work, is not an "author". For photographs, the author is the person who takes the photograph. The Copyright Act also provides for works of joint authorship, which are works produced by two or more authors in which the contribution of each author cannot be distinguished.

The general rule that the author is the first owner of copyright may not apply if:

• the author has signed a document which says that someone else will own copyright; or

• there has been no agreement about ownership of copyright, and

• the author was an employee (rather than a freelancer or volunteer) and created the work as part of his or her usual duties; or

• the work is a commissioned photograph, portrait or engraving; or

• the work was made by, or under the direction or control of, the Commonwealth Government, or a State or Territory government; or

• the work was first published by, or under the direction or control of, the Commonwealth Government, or a State or Territory government.

MORE HINTS & TIPS

(Note however, that the special rules relating to government direction or control do **not** apply to local councils and may not necessarily apply to statutory bodies)."

Check out the documents that can be downloaded at http://www.copyright.org.au/find-an-answer/ to answer your questions.

On our website and in this newsletter we attempt to acknowledge materials sourced from the web or publications. If any items are posted which are inadvertently added without permission we will remove them on notification from the copyright owners.

Members sending items to be added to our web or newsletter should provide the original source so we may provide acknowledgement.

What is Spam?

"Spam is the use of electronic messaging systems (including most broadcast media, digital delivery systems) to send unsolicited bulk messages indiscriminately. While the most widely recognized form of spam is e-mail spam, the term is applied to similar abuses in other media: instant messaging spam, Usenet newsgroup spam, Web search engine spam, spam in blogs, wiki spam, online classified ads spam, mobile phone messaging spam, Internet forum spam, junk fax transmissions, social networking spam, television advertising and file sharing network spam." Source : Wikipedia

What to do with Spam?

This is what you should do with spam!

Ignore it!

Report it! - forward to report@submit.spam.acma.gov.au

Delete it!

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If you have not paid, please do so ASAP. Please all members already enrolled in courses for July, August etc please pay your membership immediately as you are not financial to do these classes.

All other members please remember this is a club with many activities for you to participate in with Genealogy, digipals (photography), writing club and many social activities as well as your computer courses so please renew your membership for the coming year.