## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am honoured to take on the role of President for the 2011-2012 year.

It is now 9 years since I joined the Club and 5 years ago I accepted nomination for the role of President, I carried the role for 3 years. I thought that I had "Served my Time" however here I am again. I get great personal reward from my involvement in this club. It is much more than a place, as our logo says, "Where Seniors Master Technology".

I look forward to working with the committee, to keep the club ticking along providing such a wonderful Community Service to the Seniors of our city and beyond. Over 400 Seniors either renew their membership or join for the first time each year. This alone bears evidence of the role we play in our community.

Computer skills are so important, so many things in our daily lives almost compel us to "go on line" and if we cannot do it ourselves then we feel a little inadequate. Our core activity is the teaching of these computer skills to our members. Such an important role that we provide. Our lessons are very well supported as are all our other activities.

In accepting the position of President I believe that our club is functioning very well and we need to keep doing what we have been doing. However I know from many past experiences that if you do not continually work on improvement then the only result is decline. I appeal to you all to contribute your ideas on where we can improve. If you think there are areas that we need to change then it is your job to let us, the Committee, know so that we can discuss and implement improvements.

I want to encourage all those who are volunteering and hope that some who have not yet been ready to take on some of these roles find that they are now ready. The more involved you get the higher the rewards.

Critical to our success is having enough tutors especially those who do the Lead Tutor role. We, the Committee, have already been discussing how we can encourage people into this role. Not everyone can do it, however many who now do this role will readily tell you that they did not have the belief that they could until they did it. Once you step up to the line the role is very rewarding and you learn so much more.

I hope the patronage of the club continues, and we are able to continue doing what we have been doing for many years now. Let's look forward to another year of Seniors helping Seniors to learn in a relaxed and comfortable environment at ComputerPals.

Lindsay Threadgate

President

## Committee Members

**President**: Lindsay Threadgate

**Secretary** : Maura Rainbow

**Treasurer** : Maree Field

**Vice President** : Rob Golledge

**Ass. Treasurer** : Michael Pitt

**Education Officer**: Bruce Deitz

**Technical** : 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.

## Committee Report

- Next Morning Tea 17/10/2011 - Speaker to be confirmed

- Members can collect their membership cards from Islington  - will be needed to take advantage of Domayne Kotara offers ( see Education Report in this Newsletter ).

- Investigate advantages of sending delegates to the ASSCA Conference.

- Technical problems with new computers dual booting have been fixed and all are operational. The printer having problems has been repaired and LAN school appears to be working more efficiently.

- Short courses are fully booked however some of our 5 day courses are filling more slowly.

- DigiPals members are reminded to submit entries through DigiPals not directly, as this can affect the number of points the club is credited with in the competitions.

- Members are directed to the social pages on the web ( now called Social not Membership ) for upcoming events.
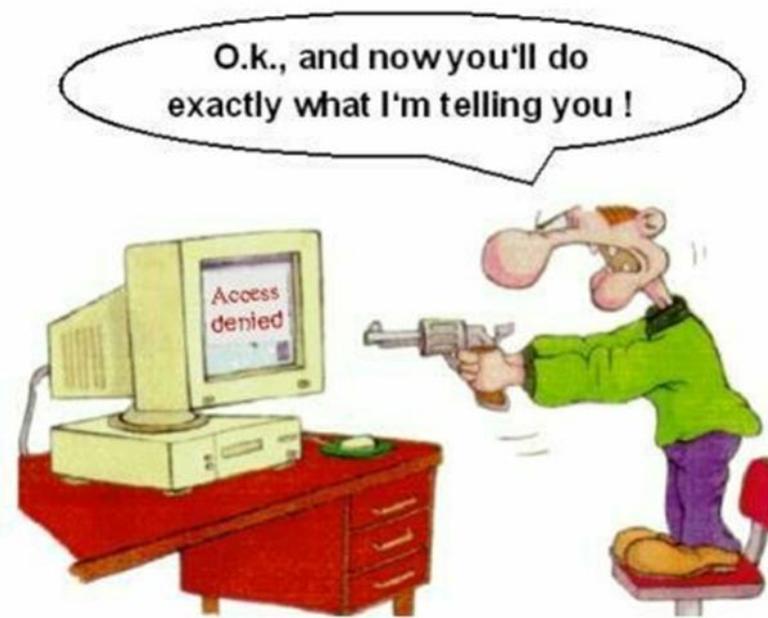


## ATTENTION MEMBERS :

## Membership fees were due 1st July 2011.

## If you have not paid, please do so ASAP.

Report by Graham

Thanks to Nev, Ben and Barry for their photo contributions

Well it's almost here, that is the Spring and the warm weather we all crave. So clean your camera and charge your batteries, make sure you are ready.

Our outdoor shoot was at Pelican and for August we were spoilt with a beautiful afternoon, sunny and almost balmy. A good turn out and after taking many photos we repaired to the Pelican RSL for our usual get together over coffee and a good chat about our photography.

Our clubhouse meeting was a review of our photos and a discussion of the various shooting or recording modes on the modern digital camera. Some of our members are really using their cameras as they were meant to be used but others are still reluctant to try or experiment. If you don't try you won't learn. So be bold, a simple way to improve is to set your camera to SCN mode. This is the SCENE mode and it is a series of preset settings covering everything from Beach, Sunset, Kids and Pets, Foliage or Macro and various Night settings and a number of other setting dependant on your make of camera, this is almost foolproof as the camera does the thinking for you. Check your manual or Google it up on the computer.

Our next outdoor shoot is Saturday September at the spectacular Hunter Valley Gardens. Check your email for Barry Keen's instructions and then just follow his whistle. It should be an excellent day out.

A number of members have bought cameras recently and then found them too complicated or not suitable for their needs. Salesmen in many of the retail outlets are "salesmen" and they should be giving you the right advice but sadly this is not always the case. If you are contemplating buying a new camera, talk to a member of your Digipals committee and we will try to help you choose a camera that is appropriate to your needs. We have access to most up to date camera reviews and we have contacts within the industry who can give us advice.

Our Picasa, Know your camera classes and Fred Schinkel's short courses are proving very popular so watch the notice board at the clubhouse or visit our Computerpals Website for course details. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Have fun with your camera, Happy Snapping.
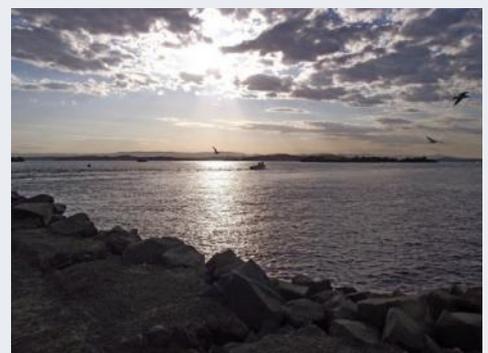
# SOCIAL REPORT

Barry Keen (Social Secretary / DigiPals)

## Hunter Valley Gardens

## Social Day Out

The Pelican day out was another success with 29 people attending and enjoying a pleasant day on Lake Macquarie foreshore.

Looking West with views of the old Wangi power station, North West to Mt Sugarloaf and South to Swansea. Plenty of activity on the water with pleasure boats, people fishing and washing & cleaning their catch, snorkelers also fishing, not to mention the many pelicans and seagulls getting into the action. Very pleasant wandering along the foreshore – peaceful and relaxing.

Then of course we adjourned to the Pelican RSL Club – outside in a very pleasant area where we enjoyed coffee and the odd pastry, cake or two.

The AGM/lunch also went off well with 65 attending. The business over (see President's report) we got on with the serious business of socialising and enjoying ourselves. Gee this Computerpals companionship is tough stuff….but someone has to do it !!!

Coming up next is our day out at Hunter Valley Gardens for their Festival of Flowers on Saturday 3rd of September. There are three options for entry

- **Option 1**: $32 covers entry, lunch and free demonstrations with NSW Floral Art Assn.
- **Option 2:** $37 (same as above) but also includes HVG Train Ride Tour of the Gardens
- **Option 3**: $20 entry only (make your own arrangements for lunch etc.)

To take advantage of the full days' program on offer we will need to meet at the gate at 9:30am (especially those who choose Options 1 or 2 as we will need to go in as a Group). People who opt for Option 3 can arrive when they like and catch up with us. I expect that as the day progresses people will scatter and take their time seeing what interests them and we'll gather together again for lunch and socialising. Stay as long as you like and go when you want. Make it a relaxing day. Don't forget to take your cameras, sunscreen, umbrellas – who knows what the weather will be like – we just hope it will be nice.

**1st of October's adventure will be to Morpeth** – more on that later.

**5th of November's planned Nova Cruises Hunter Rover Discovery Cruise** is a definite starter – we made the minimum numbers to assure it would not be a financial drain on the club. It's now up to us to pay up and come along on the day. We still have 9 seats left. The boat can take 50. So if you haven't committed yourself yet you can still do so but don't leave it too late. Cost is $69 – covers the whole day and lunch, morning and afternoon teas.

Cheers
Barry Keen (Social Secretary)

# WriterPals Report

At our meeting this month, we shared what we had written and imagination was given full rein in Bruce's story of his day as an Antipodean Ant.

Well done!

We are continuing this theme for our September meeting - a day in the life of ......... and there is a number of pictures on our website from which to choose an insect or animal. From there, let the imagination run riot and describe a day in your life as an ant, a fly, or any of the other critters on the list.

Good fun!

We also talked about inspiration – where do we find it? How do we decide what to write about our chosen item of inspiration etc? We will follow this up in future meetings. Inspiration comes from anywhere and everywhere and tends to pop up at all sorts of odd moments. A chance comment overheard in a shopping queue can lead to a wonderful story. In the words of Jack London, author of that wonderful book Call of the Wild - "You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club." I agree with that, but sometimes it is inspiration itself that wields the club with an idea that just has to be written about. Much of my writing lately has been done sitting at red lights on the way home from classes!

Our September meeting will be the last one before the ASCCA competition closes, so please get your entries in. The forms can be downloaded from the website. Please have a go at it - who knows? Yours might be the entry the judges can't resist.

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



"There are better ways to log off."

**Bruce Deitz**

**Education Officer**

# Education Office Report

Hello Folk,

Now that we have our new membership cards, I have been able to work with the new franchisee at Domayne Computers and have negotiated some exclusive, special benefits for our club members.

If you go to the photocentre at Domayne Kotara, and present your membership card, you will receive a free VIP card (normally costing almost $25) and this will entitle you to 10¢ 6x4 inch photograph prints, and other exclusive member benefits from now till the 30th June next year (the duration of your current membership.)

Computer Pals members will also receive exclusive VIP pricing storewide on purchases in computers, electrical and furniture on production of your membership card. This will be a big saving on some products and a smaller amount on others.

There will be VIP functions conducted throughout the year and holders of the card will also receive invitations to these.

We have also been offered the use of cameras and other equipment for our workshops if necessary.

To obtain these benefits for our members, I have agreed to present a series of 12 FREE Thursday evening workshops, starting Thursday 1st September. These workshops will be conducted at the store from 7:00pm till 8:00pm and will be open to the public, but I would anticipate that some of our members will also be interested as the workshops will cover topics not included in our club courses. A couple of pages of notes will be available to those people who attend.

The first three workshops will be:
- SETTING UP YOUR COMPUTER  -  Thursday 1st September
- CONFIGURING NORTON 360  -  Thursday 8th September
- SETTING OFFICE OPTIONS AND DEFAULTS  –  Thursday 15th September

Throughout the next three months I'll send out a brief weekly e-mail with the topic for the upcoming workshop. As well, there will be banner advertising panels displayed in the store.

Another great advantage to the club will be weekly advertising of our club as part of the Domayne promotions.

I look forward to seeing several of you at some of the workshops. The address for the store is 18 Bradford Close, Kotara.

Make sure that you pick up your membership card from the clubroom.

Back in the role of Education Officer ........... Bruce

# 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**

- Our club's 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.
- Don't forget to print the calendar that is available on the Club website

## 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.



Helen Hardman

Margaret O'Donoghue

Vince Gilbert

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 accept our condolences.

## Course Sessions:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays of each five week session

8.45 - 10.15 am

10.30 - 12 noon

12.15 - 1.45 pm

2.00 - 3.30 pm

Extra courses will be scheduled on Friday mornings when demand is high.

## Important Contacts

Secretary :

Maura Rainbow

Treasurer :

Maree Field

## 2011 Annual General Meeting Photos











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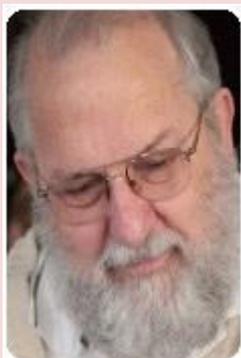
## iTunes Help

In a recent edition we explored adding music through iTunes. If you add your own CD's or add tracks converted from records you have the music but not any artwork.

Remember when you purchase music through Apple or BigPond the artwork is automatically added.

## Why do I Need Artwork?

It's really a matter of choice.

If you have no artwork on an iPad, iTouch or iPad you get a musical note. If you add artwork you see the album cover (see comparison on right). It's sometimes nice to add those finishing touches. Remember the days when the record artwork was an instant way of recognising an album in the record shops like Rayfords.

## What Size is The Artwork?

If you add artwork that is too small it may appear "pixelated" or below what you expect. My suggestion is add artwork from jpegs that are a **minimum 500x500 pixels** - bigger is better quality ( especially on larger devices ).

## Where Do I Get The Artwork?

Artwork is everywhere on the web, all you need to do is search. The best and easiest place to find it is at;

http://www.amazon.com/music

Just type you artist name or album to find eg everly brothers

## Important Contacts

**Tutor Roster**

Mitzi Gordon

Rosters

Denise Brandon

When you find the cover of your album RIGHT CLICK and SAVE PICTURE AS



Remember to look at how large the picture is. 500x500 pixels is ideal

To check the size RIGHT CLICK on PROPERTIES to check size.

If the size is too small search for a better one. If you use Google as a search and check images you can sometimes get lucky.

## How To Add Artwork You've Just Saved?
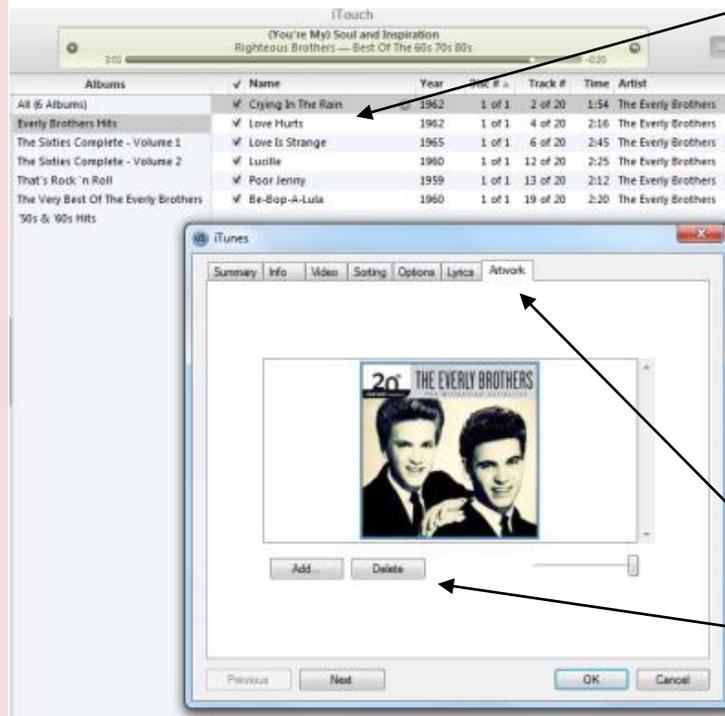


In iTunes select all the Everly Brothers song/s you want to add the album cover to.

With the songs highlighted, RIGHT CLICK on GET INFO.

Say YES to making multiple selection changes if you have more than one song.

Choose the Artwork tab.

Press ADD and then navigate to where you saved the artwork.

Click OK and artwork will appear for the songs selected. You can add or delete artwork using the same process at any time.