

## President's Report



Here we are in August, already we are preparing for our Annual General Meeting, our 12th, yes our club started in August 2000. I will be stepping down after my 4th term as President and so would like to look at the year in review.

The main things that come to me is that, besides our ongoing teaching activities, we have gained significant recognition for what we do. We achieved very well, in the ASCCA annual competition we received recognition for our Website and Digital Photography but more significantly our Creative Writing Group, WriterPals were awarded 7 individual prizes and ASCCA Creative Writing Champion Club for 2011. We received a Seniors Week Grant to Showcase our Club in March which was topped off with a NSW Seniors Week Achievement Award for Lifelong Learning. Well done all those involved.

At our clubroom we have purchased 5 new computers and 10 new 24" monitors, thanks to the Technical Team for all the good work in getting them up and running. The facilities in our clubroom are all top class. Our lessons are going well with new courses coming on and good participation. As are the groups, DigiPals, GeneaPals and WriterPals. A reminder anyone who is a club member can participate in any of these groups, there is no charge.

We have some changes happening, besides a new committee to be appointed at the AGM, our lease arrangements and procedures for being present in school grounds are being reviewed and some changes are already implemented. Whenever we have anyone in attendance at the club we must have a responsible person sign in to the Visitor Register in the school office. This will be the Lead Tutor for classes and whoever is the Lead or senior person for any other activity. The responsible person must sign out as they leave. There is a new Evacuation Plan now posted in the clubroom and in the event of an evacuation, real or in practice, the responsible person must take our sign in register and usher our people to the assembly area. This brings a new level of importance to signing in and out. Each member or visitor must do it personally. No signing out for others. You will hear more about changes as they develop.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President Report
- 2 AGM Notices
- 3-4 Reports
- 5 Club information
- 6-7 Hints & Tips



## Committee Members

### President

Lindsay Threadgate

### Secretary

Maura Rainbow

### Treasurer

Maree Field

### Vice President

Rob Gollidge

### Ass. Treasurer

Michael Pitt

### Education Officer

Bruce Deitz

### Technical Officer

Neville Clifton

### Rosters

Denise Brandon

### DigiPals

Carolyn Keane

### Newsletter /

### Webmaster

Bruce Carter

### Tutor Roster

Mitzi Gordon

### Social Organiser

Barry Keen

### Committee

Elaine Butler

If you have not yet, make a note and attend our AGM on 17 August, let Barry Keen know if you are coming. I hope everyone feels that our club is going really well, I certainly do. If you don't then let us know the areas we need to improve. I look forward to seeing the new committee at the helm.

Your President

Lindsay

## AGM August 17th, 2012

To be held at East Maitland Bowling Club from 11am, lunch available afterwards. Pay for your lunch when you arrive.

ComputerPals is seeking committed members to nominate for the Committee. Positions on the committee are:-

- The Executive Committee - President, Vice President, Financial Coordinator and Secretary.
- Committee Members - Assistant Treasurer, Technical Officer, Education Officer, Enrolment Officer, Social Coordinator, Tutor Roster Officer, Newsletter Reporter and one Committee member.

In order for ComputerPals to grow and progress, we must take steps now to ensure its future growth and development and continue the development of the club.

Do you have a desire to grow the organisation? If so, apply now, and let us follow you! Volunteers are a vital element within the leadership structure of Computerpals and play a crucial role in extending the reach of our strategic goals. This is an opportunity for you to make a difference. For our club to grow and progress, it requires involvement from leaders like you.

A number of candidates have already been nominated for positions, though not for all positions. Nomination forms are still available in the Club and are also available by contacting the Secretary.

Nomination forms must be submitted at least one week prior to the AGM.

**Reminder : Our next Enrolment Day is  
Friday 31st August - 9:30 to 11:30**

# DigiPals Report



Great companionship and sense of adventure were the hallmarks of our intrepid group of 17 members who hit the train tracks on Tuesday 3 July for our Social Day Out to the Telstra Communications Museum in Bankstown. We braved cool but otherwise fine weather, followed the map and timetables to negotiate our way into what was, for most of us, unfamiliar territory.



# Social Report



Barry Keen  
(Social Secretary )

Harold Franks was the instigator of this expedition (thanks Harold) and we coordinated with his friend Brian Mullens (both pictured to the right).



We were met and hosted by the volunteers of the museum the "Sydney Morsecodians" and shown their extensive collection of communication memorabilia from the days of morse code in 1854 to the present day.



Following on we had lunch at the Bankstown RSL Club just down the road and then made our way home, tired but happy and satisfied with another good day out.

Photos from the day submitted by members are on the DigiPals Web Album.

*“Committee members may be contacted by following the instructions on the CONTACT US page on the club website”*



Maura Rainbow  
( Club Secretary )



Neville Clifton  
( Technical Support )



Maree Field  
( Treasurer )



Our next Social Day Out is to Paterson Township NSW on Saturday 4th August at 2pm

The plan is for all to drive from home to Paterson (allow about an hour for the trip) and meet at the Court House Hotel in King Street, Paterson at 2pm. We can then have a couple of hours of easy wandering and seeing the sights then meet back at the hotel for refreshments and chat time before heading home.

Car pooling may be the way to go for some people who would like to attend but need transport. If you can arrange this between friends that's ok, if not I'll try and link people up.

I look forward to seeing you there and having a wonderful day together.

Cheers  
Barry Keen  
Social Secretary

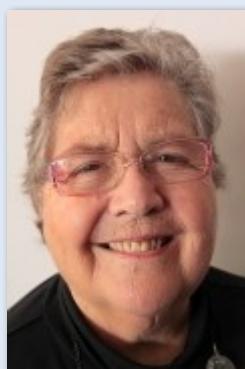
## Important People



Bruce Deitz  
Education Officer



Denise Brandon  
Rosters



Mitzi Gordon  
Tutor Roster

## ComputerPals Mission

Our mission is to assist clubs 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.

### 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.

### 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.



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 at [www.ascca.org.au](http://www.ascca.org.au)

Windows 8 will be the latest Microsoft operating system to be released sometime later in the year. Unlike your current system it will do away with the start button and launch by default with a new interface as shown below. The new interface will be called Metro. It is aimed at tablets, phones, notebooks and computers.

## Hints & Tips



### Why Microsoft axed the Start button in Windows 8?

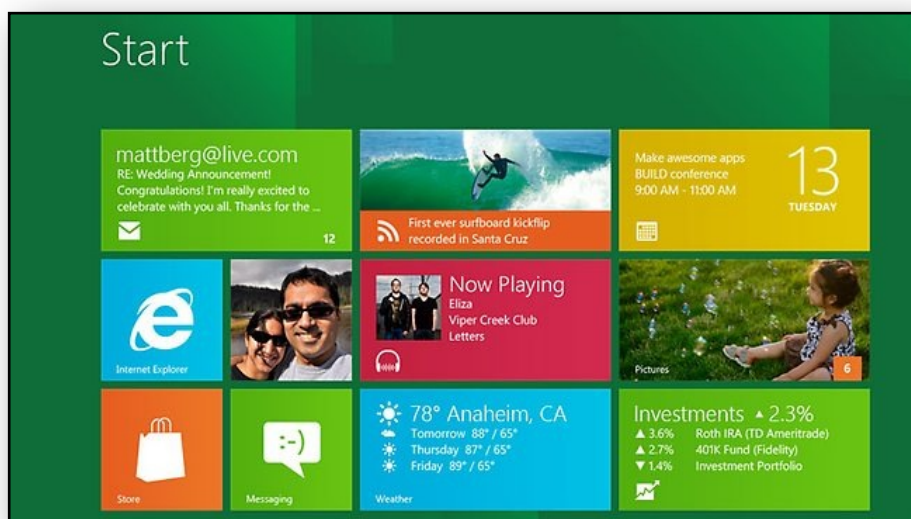
*This post was originally published on Mashable.*

"When Microsoft users launch Windows 8 later this year, they'll notice getting started with the OS may not be as familiar. The ever-present Start button, a Windows staple since 1995, is going the way of the dodo.

In a report for industry site PC Pro, Microsoft executives reveal that Windows users have already largely abandoned the Start button. An increasing number rely more on pinning favourite apps to their taskbar or simply using keyboard shortcuts to access frequently used applications. As a result, Microsoft will now present a tiled Start screen as part of the new Metro interface.

"If you're going to the Start screen now, we're going to unlock a whole new set of scenarios, or you can choose not to go there, stay in the desktop, and it's still fast," Chaitanya Sareen, principal program manager at Microsoft tells PC Pro.

While the tiled Start screen of Metro is similar to the touch interface of Windows Phone, desktop users may find that the traditional mouse and keyboard input methods still work best in Windows 8.



In demos earlier this year, presenters struggled to make gesture controls function properly with laptop trackpads on Windows 8 and Sareen says the touchpad drivers for Metro are "still being refined."

**Mashable is the largest independent news source covering digital culture, social media and technology."**



## Windows Upgrade pricing announced

MICROSOFT Windows users will be able to upgrade from current XP, Vista and Windows 7 editions to Windows 8 for just \$38.97 (\$US39.99).

Windows' communication manager Brandon LeBlanc officially announced the pricing in a Windows team blog.

The \$US39.99 price in 131 markets is a huge drop in Microsoft upgrade pricing which is now in the same ballpark as Apple's upgrade to Snow Leopard OS X 10.6 for \$US29.99.

The \$US39.99 offer is for a downloaded upgrade. A packaged DVD version of the upgrade to Windows 8 Pro cost \$US69.99 while a back-up DVD will cost \$15 plus shipping and handling.

Microsoft already has announced that Windows 8 on a new computer will cost \$US14.99 until January 31 next year.

"We set out to make it as easy as possible for everyone to upgrade to Windows 8," Mr LeBlanc wrote.

"Starting at general availability, if your PC is running Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Windows 7 you will qualify to download an upgrade to Windows 8 Pro for just \$39.99 in 131 markets," he said.

"And if you want, you can add Windows Media Centre for free through the "add features" option within Windows 8 Pro after your upgrade."

This Windows 8 upgrade pricing however was available for a limited time, until January 31, next year. There is no indication whether Microsoft will return to the steeper pricing of bygone years after that.

"This upgrade promotion for Windows 8 Pro both online and at retail runs through January 31st, 2013," Mr LeBlanc wrote.

**Source : The Australian Newspaper**

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Customer: 'I've been calling 700-1000 for two days and can't get through, can you help?'

Operator: 'Where did you get that number, sir?'

Customer: 'It's on the door of your business.'

Operator: 'Sir, those are the hours that we are open.'