Switched On Seniors

ComputerPals Right On Button

"WHAT started as a small group to teach computer skills to seniors in Newcastle has grown in 11 years into a large and busy organisation recognised at state level for its contribution to the community.

ComputerPals Newcastle was given a State Seniors Week Achievement Award for Lifelong Learning. Of 59 awards presented, 52 went to individuals and seven to organisations, with only two of these for Lifelong Learning.

ComputerPals president Lindsay Threadgate said the club had provided basic computer training to as many as 2000 seniors.

"We now do much more than basic computer skills training," Mr Threadgate said.

ComputerPals is run by volunteers in a room in the grounds of Islington Public School. Members volunteer as tutors."

Source : Newcastle Herald Article.

2012 Seniors Week Achievement Awards

Lifelong Learning - Organisations

ComputerPals for Seniors Newcastle is where seniors master technology. Volunteer seniors provide training for fellow seniors in computer skills and other related digital technology. ComputerPals has a number of interest groups including Digital Photography, Creative Writing and Genealogy.

Over the past 11 years, more than 2,000 seniors have participated in ComputerPals programs, with many advanced learners becoming tutors in order to pass on their knowledge to new members.

Source : Family & Community Services website.

Committee Members

President
Lindsay Threadgate

Secretary
Maura Rainbow

Treasurer
Maree Field

Vice President Rob Golledge

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

Important Dates

20/7 Enrolment Day - 10:00 - 11:30am
17/8 Annual General Meeting
- AGM Meeting 11:00 am
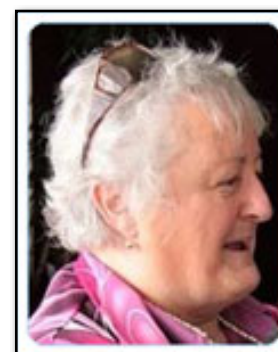- AGM Lunch follows at approximately 12:00 noon

Membership Now Due

Membership for 2012/2013 to now due. Those who have already paid, many thanks. For members who paid only half a year ($10) this was up to 30th June this year therefore they are now due to pay 2012 and 2013.

WriterPals Report

"Our day'll be rooned" I said to Fred "If this rain doesn't stop

'Cause then the germs will come along and cause our folks to drop."

In winter, health's a dodgy thing and we have to take more care,

'Cause then we cough and sneeze a lot and spread germs everywhere.

Now germs are quite a friendly bunch they never pick and choose.

They'll land quite happily anywhere with coughs and colds and flus.

So we postponed our meet for June our next one's in July.

Where it will be we don't know yet but we'll tell you bye and bye.

Just finish off your ASCCA tales and maybe a poem or three

And hopefully you'll come next month when I tell you where we'll be.

The other choice to write about takes you back to your teens

So tell about your life back then, your antics, hopes and dreams.

Next meeting is July the 9th which can't be at the school

So we'll see you at a café or someplace else that's cool.

Cheers & blessings
Carmel Smith
(Organiser)

Social Report

DigiPals Report

Barry Keen
(Social Secretary)

NEXT SOCIAL DAY OUT - TRAIN TRIP TO THE TELSTRA COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM, BANKSTOWN - Tuesday 3rd July.

Please note this is a change of date from the previously advertised date in the calendar and on the website. The museum is manned by volunteers and they tell me they can't accommodate us on our scheduled Saturday. This will be during school holidays so it won't conflict with any club classes. I apologise in advance to anyone who can't come mid-week in the school holidays if they're committed to baby-sitting duties or have other commitments.

Train cost for Seniors/Pensioners - $2.50 for the day
Entry to museum - gold coin donation
Lunch - own cost at the RSL Club across the road

Departure from Newcastle 7:24am. We should arrive home about 6:33pm (Newcastle). I hope you can join us.

GeneaPals Report

Lindsay Threadgate
(Coordinator)

Attendance: A room full, about 25

This was the first meeting of our new format, Beginners at 1.00 pm, General at 2.00 pm and, Intermediate at 2.30 pm.

While the plan was not strictly adhered to it seemed to be a very good meeting. A number of new members / visitors attended.

Beginners: Annette Carroll distributed some data sheets for people to use to record their research. Much discussion ensued about research techniques, the does and don'ts. Most importantly

It was stressed:

- Check everything two or three times and do not accept research of others as being correct.
- Be aware of spelling variations, literacy was often low or non existent.
- Remember when you tell someone that their research is wrong that you may well offend them (perhaps expressing uncertainty is better), If they are family then they have ownership as well.
- Mistakes are common on Birth and Death certificates and even more common on transcriptions.
- Past generations were not proud of convict heritage.

New member Roselyn will make a presentation on the use of Family Tree programs at the next meeting.

For Beginners.

Lindsay presented on using Trove, the National Library of Australia online Digitised Newspaper site and circulated a summary of the presentation.

We then did a search to demonstrate firsthand the research techniques and capturing results.

This flowed into the Intermediate time but I think everyone was well pleased with the meeting.

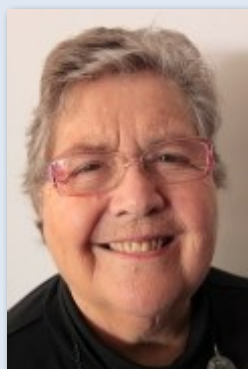Next Meeting 16th July, SPST

Lindsay

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

Hints & Tips

Windows Updates

At the very least, you should keep your computer up-to-date with the latest Windows security patches and updates for your operating system.

Microsoft has made it fairly easy to keep everything updated by including an automatic updates feature in Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7.

It is a good idea to install these Microsoft updates shortly after they are released. In most cases, Windows updates are created to fix security holes and vunerabilities that can be exploited by hackers to take over your computer or use it to send spam or viruses.

If you don't have Windows set to automatically update, you can visit the following website to check your computer for these updates and download them.

http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com

Antivirus Updates

Keeping your antivirus software up-to-date is also an important step in keeping your computer running properly while connected to the Internet.

Too many computers that have antivirus software installed, but virus signatures have not been updated in several months or even years.

Your antivirus software is only as good as the last virus signature update you have installed.
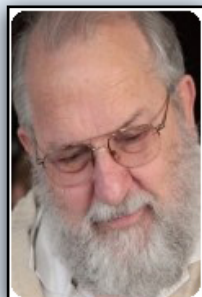
Most antivirus packages will have an auto update setting - leave it turned on.

If a virus was discovered yesterday, and you haven't updated your antivirus product today, then you are open to being infected by that particular virus.

Maura Rainbow
(Club Secretary)

Neville Clifton
(Technical Support)

Maree Field
(Treasurer)

Anti-Spyware Updates

Whether you are running Lavasoft Ad-Aware SE, Spybot Search and Destroy, Windows Defender, or another antispyware product, you need to update the software regularly for it to be effective.

Most of you will at least have Windows Defender as it is part of the Windows Vista and Windows 7 operating systems.

Unfortunately, many of these programs don't update themselves automatically.

When you open your antispyware program look for a button or tab to update the adware database and do this on a regular monthly basis before scanning your system.

Firewall Updates

Most firewall programs will prompt you that there is a newer version to download. Its always a good idea to download these updates when they become available.

If you have recent Windows operating systems and have not purchased a firewall program, you should have Microsoft Firewall protecting your system.

Other Updates

What about the other programs installed on your computer, do they need to be updated to remain secure?

The easy answer is yes, however most of these other programs don't automatically tell you when a new version is available.

The average computer user usually doesn't have the time or the patience to check all these other installed programs and update them.