SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : cpalsnewcastle@computerpals.gmail.com

ComputerPals Mission

Our mission is 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.

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.

President's Report

Easter is nearly here and also school holidays.

We have had a quiet time at ComputerPals. Everything seems to be running quite smoothly. The Maintenance Team are slowly putting Windows 8.1 onto all of the computers. We did have a problem with our black and white printer, but it is now fixed and hopefully running smoothly again.

Session 2 is half over, only 2 more weeks of lessons before we break for holidays.

Remember we will be having our social outing to Garden Island on the Thursday, 24th April. Brenton will be sending out an email soon so that you can register for the trip. Seems like it will be an interesting excursion.

The Roster Team and Education Team are hoping that we have put some interesting courses together for you to pursue in the coming sessions. Unfortunately we are not mind readers and would welcome your suggestions of topics you would be interested in learning. Please let us know if we are not meeting your needs. Remember this your club and those in various positions in it, are there to serve you and make our club continue to be happy, helpful and friendly.

Judy will be sending out an email to let you know what courses are available in Session 3 and 4. Bruce Deitz will be back teaching on Tuesday afternoons in the coming sessions.

The Seniors' Week Morning Tea was eventually able to be held in the School Hall. Dorothy and Audrey supplied delicious treats. We had quite a number of people come who had read about us in the Newcastle Seniors Week Booklet.

Enjoy the break. Your Committee, Roster Team, Education Team and Maintenance Team will continue to work during the holidays.

Agapé, Elaine Butler

Who Are Our 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.

Who Is ASCCA?

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. ASCCA's Newsletter and its informative items can be accessed on the web site at www.ascca.org.au

Social Report

Brenton Elsey (Social Secretary)

Our Social Day Out was changed this month to coincide with the start of Seniors Week. On Sunday 16th, 13 participants arrived at the Richmond Vale Railway and Mining Museum ready for a taste of nostalgia.

After purchasing our genuine period tickets, we made our way over to the Richmond Vale platform where "Marjorie" (not Thomas) the tank engine was building up steam in readiness to pull a single carriage full of excited youngsters and wistful oldies over to Pelaw Main. With a whistle blown and a waving of a green flag we were off, smoke wafting through the open (read air-conditioned) windows, reminding us of a bygone era of train travel while the young amongst us lapped up the novelty of the trip. A chance to inspect the old mine workings at Pelaw Main was afforded while the engine was returned to the head of the train for the return journey. Bumping, rocking and rolling our way back, we reflected how far train travel has advanced over the years and the expense of some "soul" anyway.

A wander through the mining museum followed with some very interesting commentary provided by another of their volunteers. Lunch and a cuppa was next on the agenda, with cakes and biscuits supplied by the organisation for "seniors" before a quick drive home ahead of a storm warning.
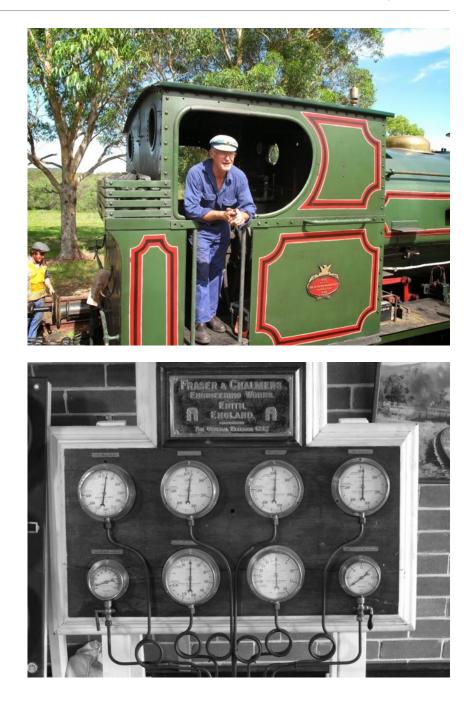
Next Outing

Our next excursion will be to Garden Island Naval Historical Society in Sydney on Thursday 24th April.

This date (note: Thursday) is necessary due to Naval requirements and tour availability. Full details will be available a little closer to the day. However, we have been advised that there is quite a lot of walking and some stairs during the tour (not suitable for wheelchair use) so good shoes are a must, along with sunscreen, hat, water bottle and, if the day looks suspect, a raincoat/umbrella etc.

Keep this date free – it is sure to be interesting and a photographer's paradise.

Morning Tea/Information Day

Monday 17th was our Morning Tea and Information Day, a chance for prospective new members to learn a little of the Club's activities and share a cuppa and a yarn with the current members. Approx. 35 attendees listened intently to an explanation of the various aspects of the Club and Sub-Clubs and later the prospective members were invited to view the "engine room" where they were given a chance to experience the surroundings and ask any questions – a great day was had by all.

Special Interest Groups

DigiPals

DigiPals is an active group of Computerpals. Members who meet on the third Monday each month at 1 pm to learn and explore digital photography.

GeneaPals

This is our family history group. We have allocated the first Monday afternoon of each month at 1:00pm in the clubrooms at Islington Public School (ex school holidays).

WriterPals

Our creative writing group for enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the **second Monday of each month** at the Islington clubroom. Meetings go from **1pm until we go home**.

TabPals

If you have a portable device; iPad, Android tablet we have a special interest group called TabPals. The 4th Friday of the month is our regular meeting day.

WriterPals Report

Carmel Smith (Organiser)

We welcomed a few new faces this month, some from Geneapals who will hopefully be inspired to get stuck into writing their family stories and anecdotes to go along with the family histories they are researching with Lindsay, and others who are interested in writing.

Stories based on topics set by Lindsay were shared and brought forth some interesting outlooks and opinions, especially with the influence of the Winter Olympics in Russia. Next month our topics have been set by Fred who has come up with some doozies - you will find them on our website accessible via a link on the Computerpals main site. Please check them out and try a story of your own - even if you don't come and share with us.

Barbara has already given us the titles for April and these should also lead to some interesting yarns.

We meet the second Monday of each month at 1 o'clock in the clubroom and all are welcome - with or without stories. Come see what we do, you might find yourself interested and inspired enough to want to write your own family stories.

Cheers & blessings

There's a lesson here:

Russell receives an e-mail from his neighbour :

"Sorry Russell, but I have been using your wife... day and night whenever you're not at home. In fact, probably more than you. I'm confessing now because I feel really guilty. I hope you will accept my sincerest apologies. I will ask your permission in the future.

Upon reading this, Russell gets his gun and without uttering a word he shoots his wife.

A few minutes later he receives another e-mail:

"Sorry Russell: I meant 'wifi,' not ' wife !

Basic Photo Editing Tips

Tip 3: Remove Red-Eye

The presence of red-eye in photos can make even the best photo look a little ghastly. The good news is that it is one of the easiest photo flaws to edit. Red-eye is caused by light from a flash that reflects off the retina of the eye.

Many photo editing software programs easily remove red-eye with an automatic correction tool. The editor simply selects the red-eye removal tool and hovers over the red eyes.

Tip 4: Brighten Up a Dark Image

An image that is underexposed will lead to a darkly shaded photo, where it is difficult to identify objects clearly. Once the dark image is downloaded, it can be edited to make it lighter. By using the gamma control tool, often referred to as **Image Balance**, in the photo editing software, the brightness of the image can be increased. This gamma control is designed to increase the brightness of darker parts of a photo, without overexposing the lighter parts. Using this same tool also enables an overexposed, bright image to be darkened until it looks just right.

Tip 5: Add Some Visual Effects

There are several visual effects one can add to any digital photo. Some of the more common photo editing effects

- Color photos can be easily edited to create **black and white photos.** This creates an old-fashioned look with a photo, and is a great way of making an average photo very eye-catching.
- **Gritty Effect** - This effect gives a bronzed, gritty effect to an image. This can give a picture a very dramatic effect.
- **Vintage Effect** - A modern photo can be given a natural looking aged effect. They tend to have a slightly pinkish glow, as if they have been faded by the sun over time.
- **Gaussian Blur** - Applying a Gaussian blur effect enables an image to have a pure, smooth effect, without losing the overall image.

http://www.ebay.com/gds/5-Basic-Photo-Editing-Tips-for-the-Average-Consumer-/10000000177628149/g.html

Contact Us

To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding rosters or payments use ;

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Affordable Photo Editing Software Suggestions

- Adobe Photoshop Elements
- Adobe Lightroom

(both are less than $200 - for professional software which is non-subscription. Purchase allows you to legally place one copy on Windows and one copy on a Mac e.g. MacBook Air)

- The Gimp (free Open Source - Mac and Windows)
- Apple iPhoto (only for Apple computers)

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