

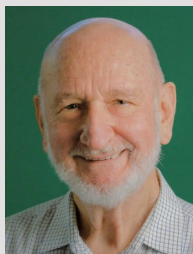


SWITCHED - ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

**Barry
Keen**



Dates to Remember

CPals 25th Anniversary
Friday Aug 29th

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – August 2025

Hi everyone,

The AGM was successfully held on 1/8/25.

A motion was passed to extend the terms of the President and Vice President for 12 months in terms of the club's constitution.

The Returning Officer Marj Stanton declared all positions vacant and then advised all previous committee members had renominated and as there was no contest declared them all re-elected.

We are starting the year well with 118 financial members. I expect some of the expired members will renew their membership in due course and new members will join us.

Our past year was successful with many learners attending our BeConnected classes at Club Lambton and Wallsend and Adamstown libraries. There was heavy demand for one-on-one assistance in the afternoon on Mondays at Lambton for financial Computerpals members.

Our tutors and other volunteers are our strength and I commend all of you including our learners for your fellowship, friendship and support. I want you to know I value and appreciate you.

Health issues are plaguing us and have impacted on some of our volunteers and learners. I wish you all the very best in contending with these issues and where possible returning to good health.

We have our clubs' 25th Anniversary lunch coming up on Friday 29th August [ComputerPals Newcastle 25th Anniversary lunch](#)

If you wish to attend please complete the registration form and send your money for the lunch a.s.a.p.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Barry Keen
President

2025/2026
Committee
Members at the
AGM



Contact Us



To contact
the Roster
Team or
the
Treasurer

regarding
class rosters or
payments use:

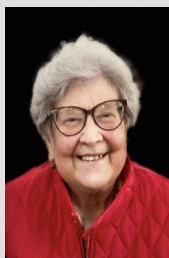
islingtonpals@gmail.com

Committee

Carolyn
Keane



Wendy
Smith
Secretary



Mervyn
Pope



Brenton
Eley
Social



Margie
Olsen



Member Information

From the Treasurer:

Please keep a note of the date you renew your membership because each year we get instances of members paying twice. When we send out renewal reminders and you are not sure whether or not you have paid your membership for this year please check with our treasurer Grahame King by

text to **0410 688 214** or email – grahameking22@gmail.com

and he will reply advising if you have renewed or not.

Regards

Grahame King

Classes

Remember: *please book in for the classes you want to attend..*

Note: BeConnected classes are free, but afternoon Assistance classes on Mondays are not (cost \$5 per 1½ hours) and are available only to ComputerPals financial members. Don't just drop in—we are restricted to the booked in numbers we can help.

How do I book in: **Phone: 0478 219 220** leave your name & phone number and the reason for your call– someone will get back to you.

See [club website](#) for more information.

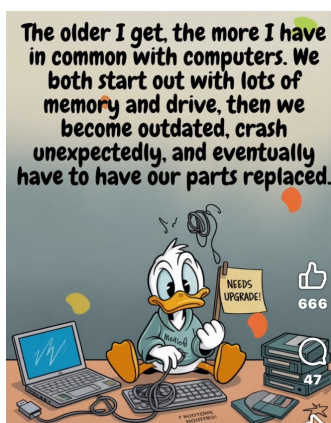
NEED COMPUTER HELP AT HOME?

Members often need tech help at home to set up their computer, maybe link it to a printer, or maybe it's the internet connection, or help setting up a smart TV.

Mark Bowe and his team have been helping our club for some time now, and they can also help you

It is Mark's business, so there are costs involved. I suggest you get a quote for the work you want done before you engage them. There is no commercial arrangement with our club

[Computer Repairs, Services and Sales in Newcastle, NSW](#)



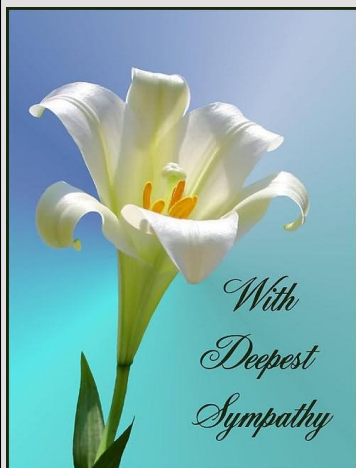
Best Wishes

*For all our members
who are celebrating
birthdays and
anniversaries - hearty
congratulations !*



*To those who are ill
we send our best
wishes for a speedy
recovery.*

Condolences



*To those of our
members who have
lost loved ones
recently, please
accept our
sincere condolences.
You are in our
thoughts.*

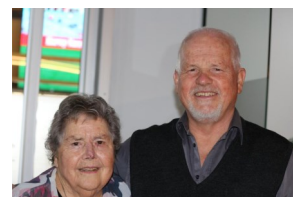
Social News July Highlights

Morning Tea 21/7/25

Fine weather beckoned on Monday 21st July for our Club's mid-season Morning Tea.

Due to a planned power outage/upgrade, Club Lambton was unavailable on that day, so 'big brother' Club Charlestown came to the rescue. With an excellent rollup of some 85 members and guests, President Barry opened proceedings with a welcome to all and then introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Gil Gordon (RI Advice Group) who is a multi-award winning financial advisor and estate planning specialist. With the aid of a power point presentation, Gil explained the need to ensure we all as seniors had our affairs in order, especially important in the event of our passing or that of our partner/family member. A thorough and well documented explanation was given of the somewhat complex laws concerning Enduring Power of Attorney, Wills, Enduring Guardianship and Advanced Health Directives, not to mention various Trusts. An animated discussion and questions followed, indicating the strong interest in this important subject.

It was then time to change pace a little, with morning tea/coffee and a tasty offering of slices, cakes etc. served, giving a chance for those present to mingle, have a chat and catch-up. Treasurer Grahame was on hand to enable the payment of annual memberships, while Mitzi's lucky door prizes were handed out.



Contact Us

To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding class rosters or payments use:

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Committee



Fred Neal

Graham King

Treasurer



Denise Hayes

Mitzi Gordon



Carmel Smith

These people are all volunteers and most also teach classes at Computerpals. We ask that you take this into consideration when your phone call is not answered immediately.

Social News

AGM/Lunch

Our member's Annual AGM and Lunch was held on Friday 1st August at the Cardiff RSL Club, with 31 members attending, with 26 staying on for lunch.

Outgoing President Barry Keen welcomed members to the AGM/Lunch and then read the Minutes of the 2024 AGM as well as the Presidents report, updating members of the activities and happenings of ComputerPals during the past year. Mention was made of the Club's connection with the Good Things Foundation and Be Connected classes, along with the regular classes held at Club Lambton, Wallsend and Adamstown Libraries. The Get Online Week activities provided much interest, along with the Club's Morning Teas and Guest Speakers. Treasurer Grahame King then gave his report, followed by Education (Sandra Keen via recording) and Technical (Judy Wallace).

It was then time for Returning Officer Marj Stanton to declare all committee positions vacant and called for nominations for all these positions. As both the President and Vice President had served their 4-year terms, a special clause in the Club's constitution had to be voted on to enable them to stand for an additional 12 months if required. With no new nominations for any positions and all existing committee members re-nominated, the existing committee was duly elected. In General Business, Wendy Smith has again taken on the additional role of Public Officer, while current Membership and Class fees were confirmed for 2025/26. Wendy then reminded members of the Club's 25th Anniversary Lunch and the need to submit their attendance forms early.

Formalities over, it was then time to sample the culinary delights of the Club eatery and enjoy a chinwag with fellow members.

PS: Don't forget the next Special Social Occasion, our Club's 25th Anniversary Lunch to be held on Friday 29th August at the Cardiff RSL Club (you should have all received an email with details) – mark your diaries, and if attending, please send in your acceptance form and payment before 21st August deadline. Click this link to register >>> [ComputerPals Newcastle 25th Anniversary lunch](#)

Cheers
Brenton



Contact Us



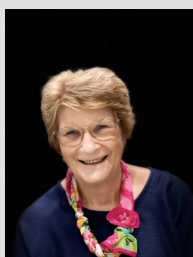
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Committee

Sandra
Keen



Judy
Wallace

Jackie
Lampe

Vice
President



Lindsay
Threadgate

Ray
Hinton



SCAMS



ACCC
AUSTRALIAN
COMPETITION
& CONSUMER
COMMISSION



SCAMWATCH

Celebrity death hoaxes used as click bait

Have you been on facebook and had pages appear that are making false claims that celebrities including action movie star Jason Statham and TV personality Simon Cowell have died in accidents over recent weeks?

Agata Stepnik, a digital communications expert at the University of Sydney, said that while celebrity death hoaxes are as old as social media itself, artificial intelligence (AI) tools are increasingly making the false claims more convincing, which helps boost engagement.

The posts, however, all attempt to entice users to click through to external websites that host ads and could be used for even more nefarious purposes, Dr Stepnik explained.

“Essentially, following the link usually takes the user to a phishing webpage, where they can then be set up to be scammed or defrauded,” she said.

“The best thing that people can do when they see one is to resist the temptation to click.”

ATO impersonation scam: mother-in-law lost \$4000 over a fake tax debt

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/protect-yourself/real-life-stories/scam-victims-tell-us-their-stories>

Her story

The scammers called my mother-in-law’s phone advising that they were from the ATO and that she owed \$4000 tax debt. They were very demanding and hostile. My mother-in-law has English as her second language and was very worried, as they threatened her saying the police were coming to arrest her. They demanded she go to a petrol station and purchase the gift cards. She purchased \$3000 iTunes, \$500 Google Play and \$500 Steam cards. They then sent WhatsApp messages to her requesting photos of the cards be sent, which she did. They then requested more money and more cards to which she declined and contacted family.

Signs this was a scam

- The threats of arrest and request for unusual payment methods were the signs that this was a scam.
- The Australian Tax Office (ATO), government agencies and any legitimate business will never threaten you with arrest, or demand immediate payment of a tax debt or fine with unusual payment methods like gift cards, Bitcoin or pre-paid credit cards.

Avoid this type of scam

- **Hang up the phone or delete the email** if you ever get a call or email claiming you will be arrested due to a tax debt. Do not call the number provided in the phone message or email you receive.
- **Hang up immediately** even if you're concerned that the phone call may be legitimate — call the ATO on 1800 008 540 to check.

Technology

Interesting iPhone technology facts

"i" in iPhone:

The "i" in iPhone, like other Apple products, initially represented "internet".

More Powerful than Apollo 11:

The iPhone has more computing power than the Apollo 11 spacecraft.

Over a Trillion Photos Annually:

iPhone users take over a trillion photos each year, highlighting its impact on photography.

Ceramic Shield Glass:

The iPhone 12 introduced Ceramic Shield glass, made with nano-crystals, making it one of the toughest smartphone glasses.

Face ID and TrueDepth Camera:

The iPhone X introduced Face ID, a facial recognition system that uses the TrueDepth camera system.

Background Sounds:

iPhones have built-in background sounds that can be used for relaxation or sleep.

Apple Intelligence:

The latest iPhone models, like the iPhone 16, have features optimized for artificial intelligence, known as "Apple Intelligence", [according to Computerworld](#).

*Other Interesting Facts:***Global Impact:**

The iPhone has had a massive global impact, not just on technology but also on culture and society.

200 Patents:

The first iPhone had 200 patents filed for its technology.

Status Symbol:

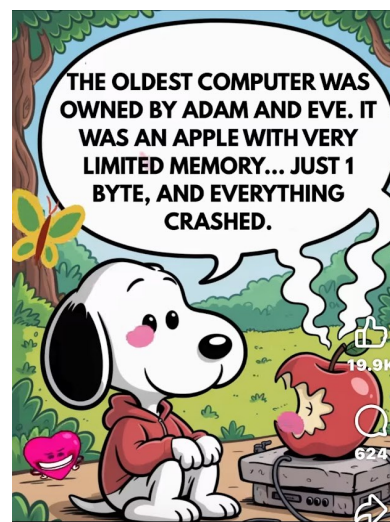
iPhones are often seen as status symbols.

Dedicated Ringtones Team:

Apple has a dedicated team for creating the unique ringtones that come with iPhones, [says Vocal](#).

Multi-Touch Technology:

The first iPhone was the first mobile phone to use multi-touch technology.



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.

**2025 Term 3 - 21st Jul to 26th Sept****Ph: 0478 219 220** (updated 14/07/2025)**BeConnected classes are free. #2. Zoom Classes - register \$10 (covers all ZOOM Term sessions on Thur).****Computerpals Club Assistance classes are cost at \$5 per 1½ hours****There has been a change on 21/7 owing to Ausgrid planned power outage at Lambton****We have moved venue to Club Charlestown - car park entry off Ferris St**

Wk	Monday Morning Club Lambton	Monday Afternoon for ComputerPals Members Club Lambton	Tuesday Wallsend Library	Wednesday Afternoon Adamstown Library	Thursday Zoom session (see your email for the link)
1	CLUB CHARLESTOWN Car park entry off Ferris St 21/7 10:00 to 11:30 am Enrolment Day, Morning Tea & Guest Speaker	CLUB CHARLESTOWN Car park entry off Ferris St 21/7 12:30 to 2:00 pm #20 Assistance class	22/7 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Q & A	23/7 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Q & A	24/7 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class \$2 Zoom fee \$10 is now due (covers all sessions for Term 3)
2	Club Lambton 28/7 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected What is the Cloud?	Club Lambton 28/7 12:30 to 2:00 pm #21 Assistance class	29/7 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected What is the Cloud?	30/7 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected What is the Cloud?	31/7 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
3	4/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Cloud Backup & Photo Sharing	4/8 12:30 to 2:00 pm #22 Assistance class	5/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Cloud Backup & Photo Sharing	6/8 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Cloud Backup & Photo Sharing	7/8 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
4	11/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected How to use Siri & Gemini	11/8 12:30 to 2:00 pm #23 Assistance class	12/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected How to use Siri & Gemini	13/8 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected How to use Siri & Gemini	14/8 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
5	18/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Email Attachments Phone / Tablet	18/8 12:30 to 2:00 pm #24 Assistance class	19/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Email Attachments Phone / Tablet	20/8 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Email Attachments Phone / Tablet	21/8 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class

Wk	Monday Morning Club Lambton	Monday Afternoon for ComputerPals Members Club Lambton	Tuesday Wallsend Library	Wednesday Afternoon Adamstown Library	Thursday Zoom session (see your email for the link)
6	25/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Voice to Text	25/8 12:30 to 2:00 pm Committee Meeting	26/8 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Voice to Text	27/8 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Voice to Text	28/8 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
7	1/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Apps	1/9 12:30 to 2:00 pm #25 Assistance class	2/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Apps	3/9 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Apps	4/9 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
8	8/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Password Management LastPass	8/9 12:30 to 2:00 pm #26 Assistance class	9/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Password Management LastPass	10/9 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Password Management LastPass	11/9 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
9	15/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	15/9 12:30 to 2:00 pm #27 Assistance class	16/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	17/9 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	18/9 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
10	22/9 NO CLASS Lady Bowlers Gala Day	22/9 12:30 to 2:00 pm Committee Meeting Via Zoom	23/9 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	24/9 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	25/9 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class