



SWITCHED - ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Barry
Keen



Dates to Remember

Members Xmas lunch
Wednesday 10/12/25
at 11:30 am

4th Term ends
Tuesday 9/12/25

1st Term 2026 starts
Monday 2nd Feb

In This Issue

Members Info Page 2/3

Social News Page 4

Scams Page 5

Technology Page 6

Class Schedule Page 7



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – December 2025

Hi everyone,

November has been a month I'd personally like to push from my mind.

From a club point of view, Computerpals has continued to flourish due to the wonderful team we have, who stepped up to continue to run the club effectively. Our committee members and tutors are outstanding, and our learners have been the beneficiaries of their efforts.

We had a social outing to the Hunter Region Botanical Gardens, which was a great day out, thanks to our Social Organiser, Brenton Elsey. His report appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

December is here, and we are in the last couple of weeks before our breakup on 9/12/2025.

Our Christmas lunch will be held on Wednesday, 10/12/2025, starting at 11:30 am at Club Lambton.

If your name's not down unfortunately there can be no additions or refunds after 3/12/25.

All those attending are encouraged to be in their best Christmas outfits in the spirit of the day.

The Christmas lunch will end our club activities for 2025, as we will soon be into the school holidays and our recess.

The program is in the process of being drawn up for our return on 2 February 2026. When it is finalised, we will send it out to you by email and post it on our website for your information.

I now bid you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

With my best wishes and thanks to all my friends and supporters.

Barry Keen
President



Contact Us



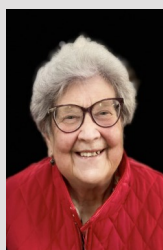
To contact
the Roster
Team or
the
Treasurer

regarding
class rosters or
payments use:

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Committee

Carolyn
Keane



Wendy
Smith
Secretary

Mervyn
Pope



Brenton
Elsey
Social

Margie
Olsen



Member Information

Classes in 2026

Remember: *Enrolment Day 2/2/26 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?

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](#)

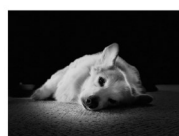
ASCCA NEWS

ASCCA's monthly Photography Competition and quarterly Creative Writing Competition

Click on the following link to find all about it:

[Competitions - ASCCA](#)

[Click here](#) for the November winners



Photography Winner: "Ziggy" by Pam Doughty, AUSOM
Highly Commended: "Waiting" by Cynthia Langley,

AUSOM

In the Writing competition:

A big shout out to Carmel Smith - Winner -

"A Spring Memory of the Sale Yards "

Also to Harold Franks - Highly Commended -

"Spring 1939"

the December/January Photography theme:

Festive/Solstice: *Capture the warmth, light, celebrations or quiet moments of the season — whether it's summer skies, gatherings, traditions or the beauty of the longest days.*

December / January / February Writing Theme:

Celebrations! *A moment, a memory, a milestone or a simple joy. Interpret the theme your way — funny, reflective, fictional or personal.*

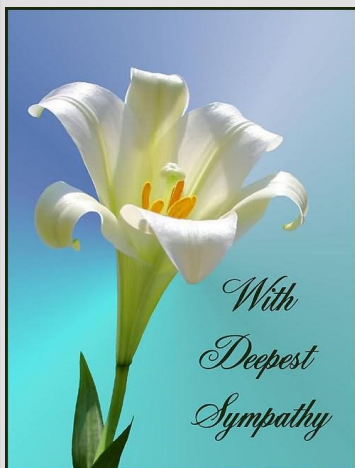
Best Wishes

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.

Member Information con't

memories from a previous year



Sharon Claydon is very pleased to present the new edition of Seniors & Pensioners Information Kit which can be [viewed here](#).

In this kit you will find a range of useful information relating to the latest pension rates as well as information about services and general safety tips. It also contains useful contact numbers should you need further assistance or advice.

GUESS WHO this is!

Contact Us

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

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Committee

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.

COMPUTERPALS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER 2025

On Friday 14th November, just six members arrived at the Hunter Regional Botanic Gardens for an exploration ramble of this well-established institution.

Under a reasonable cloud cover and with a slight cooling breeze, pleasant conditions prevailed for our journey along the many paths encompassing and bisecting the extensive grounds. Staring in a clockwise direction, we were soon halted by a Gardens volunteer who advised that the path was temporarily closed while some tree branch lopping was occurring overhead. This provided an unexpected ‘floor (or should that be – tree?) show’, watching a very agile tree lopper going about his work, dangling by safety wires while operating his battery chain saw – clever work. With the path to be closed for a while yet, it was decided to select an alternative route that took us to possibly the highlight of the Gardens, the Cactus and Succulent section. Here on display was an array and variety of plants to satisfy the most ardent lover of these species. Pushing on we encountered specific areas of natives and cultured plants, palms, ferns, wildflowers and orchids, along with different groundcovers – something for everyone, and many photos were taken.

With tummies beginning to rumble, it was time to adjourn to the Garden’s café for a cuppa, a bite to eat and a good old chinwag to finish the day’s activity. On leaving the car park, Barry Keen added another ‘string to his bow’ by acting as special boom gate operator for all members vehicles to exit—nice work, Barry.

PS: Don’t forget the Computerpals Christmas Lunch. This year, we will again be holding this event at the *Lambton Bowling Club on Wednesday 10th December* (please note – *this is a Wednesday*), with details as per the email already sent out to you.



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Committee



Judy
Wallace

Jackie
Lampe

Vice
President



Lindsay
Threadgate

Ray
Hinton



SCAMS



It is the Xmas Season so even more important than ever
to be aware of scams especially:

Online shopping scams

Types of online shopping scams

- Fake marketplace sellers
- Phishing messages
- Fake buyers
- Fake websites

How to spot a scam

Unrealistic prices:

If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Unusual payment methods:

Be cautious if a seller insists on payment via money transfer, pre-loaded cards, gift cards, or other methods not standard for online retail.

Lack of information:

Scammers may not have terms and conditions, a privacy policy, or a legitimate ABN on their website.

Pressure to act fast:

Scammers often use high-pressure tactics, like a countdown timer, to create a false sense of urgency.

Insecure links:

Don't click on links in unsolicited emails or messages about your order. Legitimate companies will not ask you to verify an order this way.

Incorrect URL:

Check that the website URL is correct and not a slightly misspelled version of a known brand.

How to protect yourself

- Use credit cards
- Do your research
- Ignore suspicious messages
- Verify requests



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	17/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Scanning QR Codes	17/11 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 32 Assistance class	18/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Scanning QR Codes	19/11 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Scanning QR Codes	20/11 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
7	24/11 10:00 to 11:30 am LADY BOWLERS NO CLASS	24/11 12:30 to 2:00 pm LADY BOWLERS NO CLASS	25/11 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	26/11 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	27/11 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
8	1/12 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	1/12 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 33 Assistance class	2/12 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	3/12 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	4/12 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
9	8/12 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	8/12 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 34 Assistance class	9/12 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	10/12 CHRISTMAS LUNCH Club Lambton Arrive at 11:30 am Lunch at 12:30 pm	11/12 Term has ended Merry Christmas everyone See you next year



ComputerPals Mission

Our mission is to educate seniors in the use of computers/phones/tablets and technology as a way of enriching their lives and making them more safe and self-reliant.

We bridge the generation gap and assist seniors to find ways to benefit the community through the collective experience and knowledge we share.

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Information contained in this Newsletter is only for the members of the ComputerPals Newcastle Inc. The Editor accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, libels, inaccuracy or other shortcomings of this newsletter.