

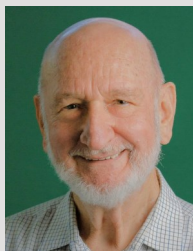


SWITCHED - ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Barry
Keen



Dates to Remember

School holidays
started Thursday 2nd
April to 22nd April
Monday April 27th is a
public holiday

Our Classes resume
Tuesday 28th April at
Wallsend Library.
Monday 4th May Club
Lambton
Wednesday 6th May
Adamstown Library.

Monday May 4th will
be an enrolment day

Next free Morning
Tea with guest
speaker Monday 25th
May

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – March/April 2026

With the end of school holidays and children returning to class on Wednesday 22/4 and then Anzac Day on Saturday 25/4. The Government has declared 27/4 to be a Public Holiday. This puts us in an odd position where our first class will be at **Wallsend Library on Tuesday 28/4** and Adamstown Library will be closed for repairs on Wednesday 29/4. **Adamstown should be back on Wednesday 6/5.** The first class for **Club Lambton will be on Monday 4/5.** **Monday 4/5** will be normal classes (BeConnected in the morning and Assistance class in the afternoon).

This will also be an enrolment day for membership 2026-2027 A special offer at this time of year is \$25 giving you membership for May & June '26 plus the full financial year to 30/6/2027 [14 months value for the price of 12].

18-24th May is National Volunteers Week. All of our volunteers will receive a Certificate of Appreciation. Well done everyone!

Coming up will be our **next free morning tea on Monday, 25/5/26.** Our guest speaker will be **Kathy Lewis (NovaCare)**, talking about **Changes to My aged Care which took effect November 2025**. Kathy has spoken to us several times over the years and is a good value, and the topic will be of interest to many. There will be no afternoon class as this will be a Committee Meeting.

The Computerpals 2026 Calendar was updated 10/4/26. The latest edition is on the club's website computerpals.org.au. The team will meet shortly to finalise the classes for Term 2. It's coming soon!

I wish to emphasise that **WRITERPALS** meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays monthly AND ARE MEETING DURING THE HOLIDAYS. Carmel is making a special effort for you—see her there at Club Lambton 10:30 am.

The **ASCCA Creative Writing competition** theme for May is 'Heirloom'. Have you inherited an heirloom that has special meaning for you, or is there something you would like to hand on? Is it an object, a value, an idea, a memory? Closing date is **25 May**.

Not that I want to boast, but Newcastle is still leading the competition scoreboard.

Brenton has more to tell about our next Social Outing (see page 3).

Cheers
Barry Keen
President



Contact Us

To contact the Roster Team or the

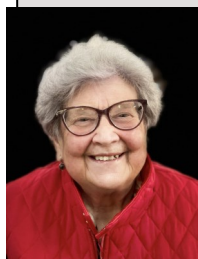
Treasurer regarding class rosters or payments use:

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Committee



Carolyn Keane



Wendy Smith

Secretary



Mervyn Pope



Brenton Elsey

Social



Margie Olsen

Member Information

Payment Details:

Our bank account details are

Account Name **Computerpals**

BSB **650 000** (Newcastle Permanent Building Society)

Account **962205402**

in the reference section put your SURNAME and INITIAL, plus M (for membership payment), #... (for Assistance class)

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

WriterPals update

WriterPals is now running smoothly.

The group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday each month and starts straight after the morning session on Monday at Club Lambton at 11:30

Please come along if you are interested. **Please note: Writerpals will meet during school holidays.**

The ASCCA photo competition theme for March was - self portrait - take a creative selfie.

Here is the winning entry:

First Place – “Drowning in Knitting” by Pam Doughty

This is a standout entry that earns first place through sheer creativity and commitment to concept. Pam has fully immersed herself — quite literally — in her passion, using knitting needles as a natural frame that draws the eye straight to her warm, joyful expression. The layering of textures, colours and garments creates a wonderfully rich composition, and the playful title perfectly completes the story. It rewards the viewer the longer they look at it.



Third Place – “Shit Show Supervisor” by Barry Keen

Barry's entry wins on pure personality and humour. The pirate hat paired with the t-shirt slogan creates an instantly memorable character portrait, and his knowing expression sells it completely. It's confident, fun, and entirely self-aware — all great qualities in a self-portrait.



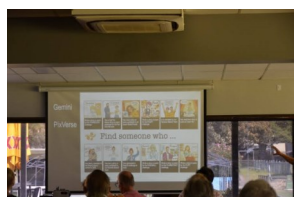
Theme for the April photography competition

April's competition theme is **“Dancing in the Street”** — inspired by our Healthy Ageing focus for the month. Whether it's dancing, walking, exercising, or simply soaking up the energy of life in motion, we want to see what keeps you moving. **Entries close 25 April.**

Social News

Seniors Festival Morning Tea/General Meeting

As part of the NSW Seniors Festival, our Club held its own special event on Monday 2nd March at our 'Headquarters', Club Lambton. Some 102 members (a Club record for a M/Tea) including a few guests turned up for this event, and to listen to the guest speakers, Mr. Ian White and Ms Judy Elias discussing their experiences with AI. Ian and Judy are members of the Northern Beaches ComputerPals Club and put together a couple of presentations highlighting some of the many and varied options this remarkable breakthrough in technology can offer, not only in the business world but in our private lives as well. Following the presentation, morning tea was served, and this gave members a chance to ask a few questions of the guest speakers and discuss the merits (or otherwise?) of how AI might affect their daily lives. The morning was rounded out by the lucky door prizes draw.



Social Day Out

For our first term outing, a trip to Sydney to attend the NSW Seniors Expo was arranged.

While just four members travelled as per the attendance form, numerous other members joined the 'party'. Travelling independently either to attend both days of the event or just on the second day to include the Seniors Concert as well as the Expo. All had an enjoyable time, with many stallholders present, offering a wide variety of lifestyle options for those visiting.

Next Social Day will be local—**Barefoot Bowls at Club Lambton**. On **Friday 8/5**. Meet at around 12:30 pm for lunch at the Bistro. Then we will play bowls from 1:30-2pm.

For anyone interested, Club Lambton will be running Bingo in the morning, you could join them, then follow on with our activity.

Brenton Elsey, Social Secretary

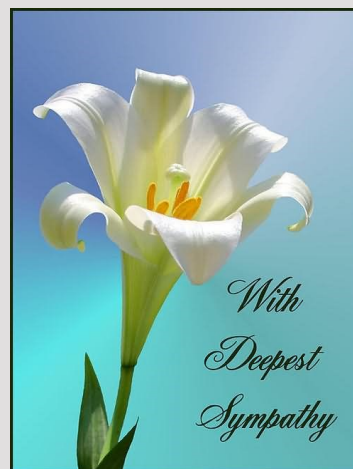
Best Wishes

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.

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

Contact Us

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

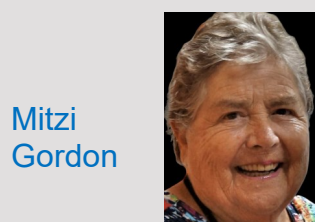
islingtonpals@gmail.com

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.

Scam Watch

I have been getting the odd email about points on my awards credit card expiring so I thought it might be beneficial to copy the information from the commonwealth bank regarding this:



February 2026 – “CommBank Awards Expiring” Phishing Campaign

A recent mass of phishing campaigns has been identified, targeting CommBank users with deceptive notifications regarding the expiry of their CommBank Awards points. These campaigns are primarily delivered via SMS messages, which, despite presenting in various formats, all share a consistent underlying message and language. The messages urge recipients to click a link to redeem their allegedly expiring rewards points.

Reminder: As long as you maintain an eligible CommBank account, CommBank Award points will NOT expire.

The phishing attempts are crafted to appear authentic and exploit the sense of urgency associated with the potential loss of CommBank Awards. When a recipient clicks on the malicious link, they are redirected to a fraudulent CommBank NetBank login page hosted at commbankchecks[dot]top and other domains that look similar. If the user proceeds to login, the site displays a “Points Balance” and prompts them to select “Redeem Now.” This action leads to another page showcasing a selection of products. Upon choosing a product, users are prompted to “Confirm Exchange” and asked to provide their delivery details, which may include email addresses, phone numbers, and physical addresses. Furthermore, users are required to submit payment information, purportedly to cover shipping costs. Any credentials, card details, or personal information entered during this process are at risk of being compromised and may be used for unauthorised access to accounts in the future. CommBank will not ask you to redeem points via a link in an email or SMS message. CommBank Awards can be redeemed through the CommBankapp or NetBank.

To protect yourself, please remember:

- **Verify.** Only access your digital banking from the CommBank app or by navigating directly to the CBA website. Never access the CommBank website via a link in a message.
- **Never Click Unknown Links.** CommBank will never ask for sensitive information or login credentials via email or unknown links.
- **Contact CommBank Directly.** Visit <https://www.commbank.com.au/support/contact-us.html> to confirm best methods of communication.
- **Signs of Phishing** can include:
 - * Urgent messaging;
 - * Providing unknown links;
 - * Unknown or unusual sender address;
 - * Poor grammar;
 - * Unexpected requests for personal information; or/and
 - * Too good to be true.

If you believe you may have entered your details on a suspicious site, please contact CommBank immediately to secure your account and report the incident.

Regularly updating passwords and enabling two-factor authentication can further enhance your account security. For further information, please visit [CommBank Safe - CommBank](#).

The same advice applies to all other banking institutions

Contact Us



To contact
the Roster
Team or
the
Treasurer

regarding
class rosters or
payments use:

islingtonpals@gmail.com

Committee



Judy
Wallace

Jackie
Lampe

Vice
President



Lindsay
hreadgate

Ray
Hinton



Technology

AI again:

With the conflict in Ukraine, Gaza and Iran constantly being in the news, I thought that a little info on the AI terminology and impact might be useful to our members. So I asked AI simply “AI in warfare” and was given the following:

AI is transforming modern warfare by compressing the "kill chain" from days to seconds, utilizing autonomous drones, and enhancing target identification through computer vision, with 70–80% of casualties in some conflicts now driven by drones. Key applications include AI-enabled surveillance, logistical planning, and predictive analytics to improve decision-making speed.

Key Aspects of AI in Warfare:

- **Autonomous Weapons & Drones:** AI-powered drones can identify and engage targets with minimal human intervention, with FPV drone accuracy rising to roughly 80% using AI.
- **Target Acquisition (e.g., Project Maven):** AI systems like Maven or "Lavender" analyze vast data, such as images, videos, and phone records, to rank, identify, and recommend targets, speeding up combat decision-making
- **Battlefield Applications:** Beyond weapons, AI is used for electronic warfare, analyzing intelligence, simulating war games to reduce casualties, and managing logistics.
- **Ethical & Strategic Risks:**
 - ♦ **Decreased Human Oversight:** The push for speed means humans might "rubber-stamp" AI decisions, losing meaningful human oversight.
 - ♦ **Accountability & Reliability:** AI systems can provide inaccurate information, and assigning accountability for misidentified targets or atrocities is a significant issue.
 - ♦ **"Killer Robots":** While full, independent autonomous weapons are not yet widespread, the technology is accelerating, leading to ethical concerns over machines making lethal decisions without human input.

Current conflicts, including in Ukraine and Gaza, are serving as testing grounds for these technologies, highlighting a rapid trend toward AI-driven tactical operations

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.

Technology

OneDrive

Microsoft OneDrive is a cloud-based storage service that allows you to store, sync, and share files, photos, and documents securely online. It acts as a digital, accessible filing cabinet, enabling you to access your files from any device—computer, tablet, or phone—and integrates directly into Windows.

Key Features of OneDrive:

- **File Syncing & Access:** Automatically syncs files across devices, allowing you to start a document on your desktop and finish it on your phone.
- **Backup & Security:** Protects your files by backing up folders, photos, and videos to the cloud, preventing data loss if a device breaks.
- **Collaboration:** Enables real-time sharing and co-authoring of documents (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) with others.
- **Storage Options:** Provides 5 GB of free storage, with paid plans for 100 GB, 1 TB, or 6 TB, often bundled with Microsoft 365 subscriptions.
- **Integration:** Built directly into Windows 10/11 and Microsoft 365 apps.

It is primarily used for both personal file management and business collaboration.

Use the OneDrive app on Android to store, sync, and share files by signing in with your Microsoft account. Key features include automatically backing up photos, scanning documents, accessing files offline, and creating folders using the (+) icon to upload files.

Key Features and Usage:

- **Install & Setup:** Download the OneDrive app from the Google Play Store. Sign in with a Microsoft account (personal, work, or school).
- **Upload Files:** Tap the (+) icon at the top or bottom of the screen and select **Upload** to save files or images from your phone to the cloud.
- **Camera Backup (Automated Photos):** Tap the **Me** icon (profile picture) -> **Settings** -> **Camera Backup** to automatically save photos to OneDrive. You can select whether to include videos or use data.
- **Access Files Offline:** Locate a file, tap the three dots (...) next to the file name, and choose **Make available offline** to view files without internet.
- **Share Files:** Tap the three dots (...) next to a file or folder and select **Share** to send a link via other apps or email.
- **Scan Documents:** Use the (+) icon and select **Scan** to take a picture of a document and save it directly to OneDrive.
- **Manage Files:** Create folders, move, or delete files directly from the "Files" tab.
- **Recycle Bin:** Retrieve deleted files by accessing the **Me** icon and selecting **Recycle bin**.

Samsung users may have the app pre-installed and can sync their gallery directly, notes the [samsung.com support site](https://www.samsung.com/support).

Next newsletter edition will be Files for Apple users



2026 Term 2 - 28/4 to 3/7

Ph: 0478 219 220

(updated 6/04/2026)

BeConnected classes are free. #36. Zoom Classes - register \$10 (covers all ZOOM Term sessions on Thur).

Computerpals Club Assistance classes are cost at \$5 per 1½ hours

BeConnected topics are still to be set and will be advised

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	27/4 Public Holiday Declared for Anzac Day		28/4 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	29/4 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	30/4 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class #36 Zoom fee \$10 is now due (covers all sessions for Term 1)
2	4/5 10:00 to 11:30 am • Enrolment Day • BeConnected 11:30 am - 'till you've had enough - Writerpals	4/5 12:30 to 2:00 pm #46 Assistance class	5/5 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	6/5 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	7/5 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
3	11/5 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	11/5 12:30 to 2:00 pm #47 Assistance class	12/5 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	13/5 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	14/5 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
4	18/5 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected 11:30 am - 'till you've had enough - Writerpals	18/5 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 48 Assistance class	19/5 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	20/5 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	21/5 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
5	25/5 10:00 to 11:30 am • Morning Tea with guest speaker • BeConnected	25/5 12:30 to 2:00 pm Committee Meeting	26/5 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	27/5 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	2/8 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	1/6 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected 11:30 am - 'till you've had enough - Writerpals	1/6 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 49 Assistance class	2/6 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	3/6 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	4/6 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
7	8/6 Kings Birthday Public Holiday		9/6 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	10/6 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	11/6 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
8	15/6 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected 11:30 am - 'till you've had enough - Writerpals	15/6 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 50 Assistance class	16/6 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	17/6 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	18/6 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
9	22/6 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	22/6 12:30 to 2:00 pm Committee Meeting	23/6 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	24/6 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	25/6 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
10	29/6 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	29/6 12:30 to 2:00 pm # 51 Assistance class	30/6 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected	1/7 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected	2/7 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class