

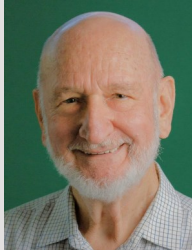


SWITCHED - ON SENIORS

Email : contact@computerpals.org.au

President

Barry Keen



Dates to Remember

Seniors Festival Morning Tea Monday March 2nd

Social Outing—NSW Seniors Festival Expo International Convention Centre, Sydney. Thurs. March 12

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT – February 2026

Our club continues to flourish. Thanks to the teamwork of the committee and tutors.

Special thanks to Carolyn, Jackie and Denise for delivering the BeConnected program at the beginning of each session, and to the support of the rest of the team in helping our learners in the following hour, and in the Assistance class on Mondays.

Our Seniors’ Festival event on 2 March is fully booked. **Registrations are now closed.** If you didn’t get your registration in before the cut-off date of 23/2 for catering, I’m sorry you’ve missed out. Wendy and her team have the catering and arrangements in hand. It promises to be a good and informative day. We will have two members of the Northern Beaches Compals club attending on the day to make a presentation on AI. Judy Elias and Ian White will come to Newcastle (they will stay overnight at my home, so they will be fresh on the Monday).

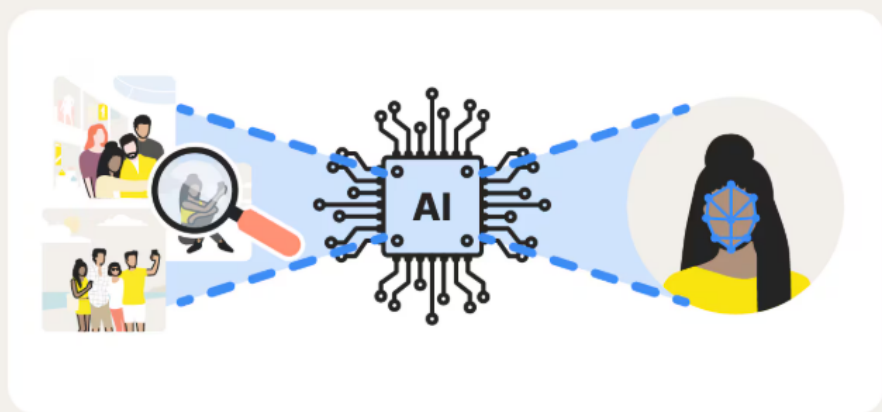
We have 109 people registered to attend.

Brenton has in hand our **next Social Day out on Thursday 12 March** with a train/light rail, \$2.50 trip (seniors’ Gold Opal pass), refreshments are all at own cost. At this stage, we have 5 starters, and others will meet us there as part of what they have otherwise planned. We encourage you to join us, [CLICK HERE](#) for the registration form and submit it a.s.a.p. please

Go to the [social news page](#) for more information.

How AI deepfake scams work

An AI deepfake scam uses a fake video of a real person, often a celebrity, created by training AI on their real videos and voice recordings.



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

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 is up and running

I wonder if anybody reading this report knows how wonderfully heartwarming it is to get Writerpals up and going again! Thank you for the enthusiasm you are showing by turning up to our get-togethers which will get more organized and less chaotic as we move ahead.

Consensus has led to the decision to hold fortnightly meetings at Club Lambton on Mondays between the Be Connected classes in the morning and the Individual Help sessions after lunch. In an effort to avoid clashing with the Committee Meetings on the last Monday of each month, it would seem that the first and third Mondays would be the best days for us, as a number of the committee members are also members of Writerpals.

We have talked briefly about getting our memories recorded as anecdotes and the different ways we can do this using the various methods of voice recording that are available to us on our phones and/or tablets and thereby removing the need to put our dexterous old fingers to work on those tiny keyboards.

The task for our official first meeting will therefore be on the first Monday in March, which unfortunately coincided with our morning tea. The Morning Tea starts at 10am but if you would like to have a short chat beforehand, I will make sure to be there and available when the club opens at 9am so that anybody interested in Writerpals can join me for a chat. That will hopefully be the only really early meeting as all others will be between teaching blocks from 11.30 till 12.30ish or later if you have no classes booked.

What we have planned for the next two meetings – choose somebody from your lifeline ancestry and write a small yarn about them – could be your parents, a sibling, aunt, uncle, one of your children or even yourself – and write just a few short lines depicting your favourite memory of that person. Make it funny, happy, nostalgic as you choose...it is your memory. Over time we will expand it as your confidence in your writing grows.

Please join us...you will be most welcome
Cheers & blessings
Carmel

Social News

For our first social outing in 2026, we will be travelling to Sydney to visit the NSW Seniors Expo held at Darling Harbour.

‘Live life in colour’ at the NSW Seniors Festival Expo 2026. From travel and lifestyle, to Government, home, health and more, there will be plenty to see and do!

When: Thursday 12 March 2026 (the Expo is open from 9 am – 3 pm). (see the train timetable for our travel times. We will be travelling on the 6.39am train ex Newcastle Interchange, so please check the timetable for departure times at your preferred station.)

Where: ICC (International Conference Centre) Sydney, Darling Harbour, Hall 3

If you want to join in the fun, please complete the attendance form ([CLICK HERE](#)) and **submit it by Sunday, 8th March.**

It is free entry at the ICC. If you have a gold opal card, the travel cost is \$2.50 for the day. Drinks and eats are at your own cost.

We will travel by train to Central, where we transfer to the light rail for the final part of our journey. The Expo will enable us to engage with various businesses and commercial groups, along with State and Federal Government departments, to access information services that promote healthy ageing. Representatives from the Financial Services sector, Health and Wellbeing (eg Dementia Aust, National Heart Foundation, Carers NSW), Food and Vitamins (eg Meals on Wheels), Hearing specialists, In-Home Care Services (eg Nurse Next Door, Right At Home, Healthcare Aust.) along with various NSW and Australian Government services will be on hand to provide you with helpful information.

While it will be difficult for us all meet up on the train. I would ask that **on arrival at Central Station**, we all meet at the end of the platform (main concourse) **before exiting**. I will check the attendance list and issue name tags/lanyards for easy ID before travelling on as a group on the Light Rail.

No doubt many will wish to spend time at different exhibits, so once there, we will agree on a meeting location/time to enable us to undertake the return journey. I would like to get back your lanyards at that time.

Please find the train timetable [HERE](#)

Also, **please check your emails the evening before**, as I will notify you if there are any changes to the travelling schedule (e.g., late notice trackwork, etc.).

Comfy footwear might be the order of the day, along with a few nibbles and a drink in case the queues are too long.

Brenton Elsey, Social Secretary

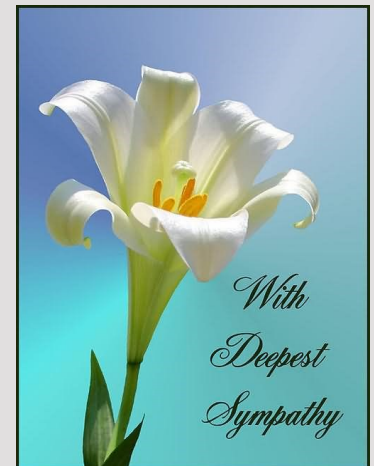
Best Wishes

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.

Contact Us

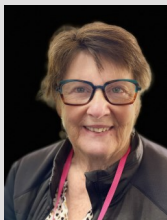
To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding class rosters or payments use:

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

Here is a scamwatch victim story:



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 any 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

Report scams to:

Scamwatch <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam>

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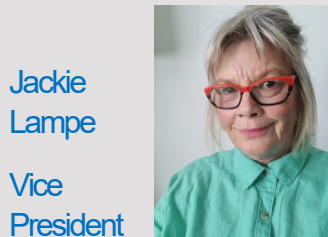
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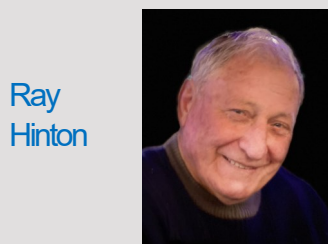
Judy Wallace



Jackie Lampe
Vice President



Lindsay Hreadgate



Ray Hinton

Technology

Lindsay's Latest Computer Tip:

Got a Windows 10 Laptop that is no longer supported by Microsoft and SO AT RISK. Why not turn it into a Chromebook? It is straightforward, does not take long and it just works! Ask me for more detail, Lindsay.



A USB, a few minutes
A little bit of Guidance
A Google Account
and Voilla
A ChromeBook



More on AI

Here is an interesting outcome of using ChatGPT that the editor thought would be a good addition to the morning tea info that we will get on Monday March 2nd.

“A Dutch court invalidated a couple's marriage in early 2026 because the wedding vows, generated by **ChatGPT**, omitted mandatory legal declarations. The AI-generated script focused on romantic sentiments—such as "laughing together" and being a "crazy couple"—but skipped the legally required commitment to fulfill the legal obligations of marriage.

Key Details of the Case

- **Location/Date:** The wedding occurred in April 2025 in the Netherlands; the court ruling was issued in January 2026.
- **The Problem:** Under Dutch Civil Code (Article 1:67), couples must explicitly declare they will fulfil marriage duties. The AI script failed to include this, resulting in the marriage being removed from the registry.
- **The Consequence:** Despite arguing that a municipal registrar was present and did not object, the court voided the marriage, stating that legal requirements cannot be ignored for sentimental reasons.”
(AI generated report)

Now, it is pretty certain this will not happen in Australia, but it is an example of how things can go wrong if you accept everything that comes from AI without checking the results first.

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.



2026 Term 1 - 2nd Feb to 2nd April.

Ph: 0478 219 220 (updated 9/01/26)

BeConnected classes are free. #35 Zoom Classes - register \$10 (covers all ZOOM Term sessions on Thur).

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

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	2/2 10:00 to 11:30 am Enrolment Day BeConnected Introduction to BeConnected & ComputerPals Web site	2/2 12:30 to 2:00 pm #39 Assistance class	3/2 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Introduction to BeConnected & ComputerPals Web site	4/2 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Introduction to BeConnected & ComputerPals Web site	5/2 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class #35 Zoom fee \$10 is now due (covers all sessions for Term 1)
2	9/2 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Device Storage	9/2 12:30 to 2:00 pm #40 Assistance class	10/2 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Device Storage	11/2 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Device Storage	12/2 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
3	16/2 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Cloud Storage	16/2 12:30 to 2:00 pm #41 Assistance class	17/2 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Cloud Storage	18/2 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Cloud Storage	19/2 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
4	23/2 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Password Management	23/2 12:30 to 2:00 pm Committee Meeting	24/2 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Password Management	25/2 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Password Management	26/2 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
5	2/3 10:00 to 11:30 am SENIORS FESTIVAL MORNING TEA BeConnected Bookings closed	2/3 12:30 to 2:00 pm #42 Assistance class	3/3 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Q & A	4/3 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Q & A	5/3 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	9/3 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Scams	9/3 12:30 to 2:00 pm #43 Assistance class	10/3 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Scams	11/3 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Scams	12/3 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class Social Day out to ICC Darling Harbour
7	16/3 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Voice to Text	16/3 12:30 to 2:00 pm #44 Assistance class	17/3 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Voice to Text	18/3 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Voice to Text	19/3 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
8	23/3 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Video Calling	23/3 12:30 to 2:00 pm Committee Meeting	24/3 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Video Calling	25/3 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Video Calling	26/3 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class
9	30/3 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Google Lens / QR codes	30/3 12:30 to 2:00 pm #45 Assistance class	31/3 10:00 to 11:30 am BeConnected Google Lens / QR codes	1/4 1:00 to 2:30 pm BeConnected Google Lens / QR codes	2/4 10:00 to 11:30 am Online ZOOM class