



ParraPals Newsletter Vol 5, No: 4, April 2011

President's message

Well, the hot and sticky weather has gone for now. Thank goodness, I say.

What hasn't gone, however, is the dedication and enthusiasm of your committee, your trainers, your buddies, and the other volunteers who provide office assistance and catering. We are very lucky to have such a great bunch of talented and committed seniors to keep our club going.

On the other hand, we are beginning to need more space and more trainers and buddies. Many of the courses in Term 2 are already fully booked.

So, if you know someone who could help us as a trainer or as a buddy, please ask them to contact me so we can discuss their possible involvement.



Deborah with Jan Brandon with her iPad at the April meeting.

Some of you may be aware that I participated in a photography course at the Museum of Contemporary Art which was held as part of Seniors' Week.

It was a great course, held over three full days, and it included tuition in using the manual settings on a digital camera, a field trip to take photos and a day of editing those photos (using Adobe Photoshop).

My best photo didn't win any prizes, but I certainly learnt a lot, and would recommend you look out for the course next year.

At our Members' Meeting on Friday 15th April, Hazel Labka will be demonstrating the joys of Picasa Web Albums – a great way to share your photos and videos with family and friends (for free).

So, I encourage you to be there.

Margaret and I will be missing from that meeting and from the club altogether for the next five weeks, as we take off on a driving holiday to South Australia and Victoria.

We are visiting the places where some of our ancestors lived up to 150 years ago and also catching up with friends and relatives.

You'll be able to see some of our photos on Picasa Web Albums (but only if you pay attention to Hazel at the Members' Meeting ;-)

Regards

John Moxon
President
Johnmoxon1@gmail.com
9636 7752

Term 2 courses

Day/ Time	Dates	Course	Hours	Cost
*Mon 9.30am-12.30pm	May 2,9,16,23	Internet & Email Beyond the Bas.	10	\$40
*Mon 1.00-4.00pm	May 2,9,16,23	Beginners 1 – Windows 7	10	\$40
*Tues 9.30am-12.30pm	May 3,10,17,24	Beyond the Basics - XP	10	\$40
*Tues 1.00-4.00pm	May 3,10,17,24	Beginners 1 – Windows XP	10	\$40
Wed 9.30-11.45am	April 27; May 4,11,18,25	Managing Digital Photos	10	\$40
Wed 1.00-3.15pm	April 27; May 4,11,18,25	Windows 7 – Beyond the basics	10	\$40
Thurs 9.30-11.45am	April 28; May 5,12,19,26	PowerPoint 2003	10	\$40
Thurs 1.00-3.15pm	April 28; May 5,12,19,26	Windows 7 – Beyond the Basics	10	\$40
Fri 9.30-11.45am	April 29	Ebay Buying	2	\$10
	May 6	Ebay selling	2	\$10
	May 13	Genealogy - Scottish	2	\$10
	May 27	Beginners – Apple Mac		
Fri 1.00-3.15pm	April 29	Gmail refresher	2	\$10
	May 6	Skype	2	\$10
	May 13	E-Bay Selling		
*Mon 9.30am-12.30pm	May 30; June 6,20,27	Managing Digital Photos	10	\$40
*Mon 1.00-4.00pm	May 30; June 6,20,27	Windows 7 – Beyond the Basics	10	\$40
Tues 9.30-11.45am	May 31; June 7,14,21,28	Beginners 1 – Windows 7	10	\$40
Tues 1.00-3.15pm	May 31; June 7,14,21,28	Creat-A-Card	10	\$40
Wed 9.30-11.45am	June 1,8,15,22,29	Word 2007	10	\$40
Wed 1.00-3.15pm	June 1,8,15,22,29	Win XP – Beyond the Basics	10	\$40
*Thurs 9.30-12.30	June 2,9,23,30	Internet & Email – Beyond the B	10	\$40
Thurs 19.30-11.45	June 16 ONLY	Facebook – Beyond the Basics	2	\$10
Thurs 1.00-3.15ppm	June 2,9,16,23,30	Beginners 1 – Windows 7	10	\$40
Friday 9.30-11.45	June 10 ONLY	Picasa Update	2	\$10
	June 24 ONLY	Genealogy – English & Welsh	2	\$10
Friday 1.00-3.15pm	June 10 ONLY	Genealogy – Australian ancestors	2	\$10

Book now at reception 9806 5030 (club hours only) or Judy on 9871 6820. There is no answering machine at the office.

If you have already reserved a course, we require payment by April 15, due to unprecedented demand, and a waiting list for some courses.

*These courses are four weeks x 2.5h.

Lunch at the Leagues

Join us at Parramatta League Club's Café 88 bistro for an informal lunch on **Monday April 18th** at noon. A chance to get to know other members or catch up with old friends. The free Loop bus stops at the door, and there is plenty of parking.

All welcome.

Have you been to our monthly meeting?

If you haven't, or it's a while since you've been, why not try it. We have a great variety of presentations on information technology – mostly computers but also newer technology like iPads and Kindles. And some of our member volunteers spoil us at morning tea.

We have had increasing numbers – consistently over 50 and have asked Council if we can hire the larger room at the other end of level 2 for our monthly meetings next financial year.

Pleasant Day at Luna Park

Michael Myers and 14 other members enjoyed a great day out at Luna Park, travelling by ferry from Parramatta or Rydalmere.



Combined Field Trip to Hyde Park Barracks Museum

The Digital Photography and Genealogy Special Interest Groups are visiting Hyde Park Barracks Museum on **Friday, 1st July**.

All members are welcome to join us. We will be departing Parramatta Station at 11 am, having lunch together in the city, and then taking a guided tour of the ground floor of Hyde Park Barracks Museum in Macquarie Street from 1 pm to 2 pm. The entry fee for Seniors is \$5. Note that there is wheelchair access to the ground floor only; Levels 2 and 3 are accessible by staircase with a single handrail.

The Museum is a beautiful sandstone building built between 1817 and 1819 as a barracks for male convicts. Subsequently it was used for single female immigrants; a female infirm and



destitute asylum; courts and government offices; and then as a

museum. The current exhibition is about convict Sydney and features a giant map of Sydney in the early 1820s, a panoramic view of the town, convict dress up clothing, interactive displays and leg irons to try on! Last time Deborah visited there was also computer access to a database of convicts. Photography is permitted as long as you don't use a flash.

For more information, visit their website: http://www.hht.net.au/museums/hyde_park_barracks_museum. If you would like to join the field trip, let one of the trainers or buddies know so they can add your name to the list. Pay on the day. Contact Deborah if you have any questions.

Snap 'n Click at the MCA

About two months ago, the Museum of Contemporary Art advertised a three day course for seniors, in association with the Australian Society of Photographers.

It was advertised as not suitable for wheelchair, but John, with his advocacy skills had that fixed within a week. The venue for the practical session was changed.

He enjoyed it greatly, and one of the senior managers emailed him later to say they are glad John took the trouble to point out their mistake and they would do better next year, so that others with mobility disabilities would not be put off applying.

ParraPals contribution to Parramatta's Seniors Week

Whilst we didn't apply for a Seniors Week grant, Parramatta City Council asked us to undertake two activities for Seniors Week, held in late March.

The first event was a digital photography competition to be held in association with a Healthy Heart Walk sponsored by the Heart Foundation. Our digital photography enthusiasts, headed by Michael Myers set up some laptops in the Jubilee Room at the Town Hall, and when the walkers returned from their Historic Parramatta Walk with their cameras, they were invited to download them and be assisted to enhance their photos with Google's Picasa 3.8 which is so popular at the club.



Guildford Walkers, including winner Ken Burke

Below is a photo of ParraPals volunteer Lily Patterson with one of the winners, Margaret Fyffe and your editor.



Winners were given free membership and a free course at ParraPals.

The other event was a talk about ParraPals at Granville Library. Although it was not well patronised, we obtained new members from it, and “made friends” with the Library, so the staff now know what we can offer Granville residents.

New members

Welcome to the following members joining in March:

- Richard Boots
- Jeanette Chidiac
- Helen Dalrymple
- Rosa & Jim Hajinakitas
- Gwen Hancock
- Ken Hurst
- Sandra Leung
- Josie Milgate
- Patricia Patterson
- Anne Rood
- Dianne Thomas
- Lloyd Thomas
- Ramsy Wahbe.

Computer tips

Translate from one language to another

Google has a great little program which can assist you translate information into another language, or help you understand another language.

You will find it at <http://translate.google.com.au> or simply go to Google at

www.google.com.au and look for the menu item Translate. It might be under More or Even more.

You simply type in the box as I have above. And on the left hand side of the screen, you will find the translation. Here it is in French. There are any number of common languages you can choose. Simply click the arrow key

Google translate

From: English To: French Translate

Hello Nancy
Here is the program where you can translate English into a foreign language and vice versa. Just pick your language. John reminded me where it was. Thank you Google.
Cheers Margaret

(beside the English and French buttons above) to choose your From and To languages.

English to French translation

Bonjour Nancy
Voici le programme où vous pouvez traduire l'anglais vers une langue étrangère et vice versa. Il suffit de choisir votre langue. John m'a rappelé où il était. Merci Google.
Vive Margaret

What could be simpler than that. My French is very rusty, but this makes it easy.

Now don't take us too seriously....



Genealogy Cruise

Trainer Hazel Labka and her partner Deb have recently returned from a wonderful but busy 7 day cruise with <http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/> where they participated in family history seminars and discussions.

Our sponsors

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Meanwhile, members continue to report good feedback about Robert Delvecchio's **InHome Media** which they have used satisfactorily to fix computer problems in their own home.

Phone Robert on 1300 658847 or 0425 202 655.

Useful websites

Jigsaws

<http://www.jigzone.com>

Hover over the photos at the top of the home page, and choose how many pieces you want to play with. I started at 6 pieces and quickly graduated.

This is a great site for practicing mouse skills (click and drag) and for simply another form of playing games. I love jigsaws.

Cookery

<http://www.taste.com.au/>

Australian recipes.

Dates for Your Diary

Term dates

- Term 1 finishes Friday 8th April
- Term 2 starts Wednesday 27th April to Friday 1st July

Monthly meetings

- Friday 15th April, 9.30am
- Friday 20th May, 9.30am

Special Interest Groups

- Field trip – Genealogy & Dig Photography – 1st July

Lunch at the Leagues

Monday 18th April,

12 noon.



Our website, blog & Facebook

www.parramattacps.org.au

<http://parrapals.blogspot.com>

Facebook group: Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors (www.facebook.com)

Email:

secretary@parramattacps.org.au

Till next time. *Margaret*