



ParraPals Newsletter Vol 5, No: 8, August 2011

President's message

Greetings.

The cold weather is back with us, but please don't let that stop you from venturing out and coming to ParraPals.

Our MAC Enthusiasts Group was successfully established and those present are keen to meet regularly to further their MAC knowledge. The next meeting will be on Friday 26th August at 1.00pm in the Gwen Logan Room.

If you don't have a MAC but are interested in finding out about them, come along and ask questions. All are welcome.



Margaret Tucker Moxon and I were invited by the Parramatta Police to attend a meeting of Winston Hills

Neighbourhood Watch to hear about the new "Eye Watch" initiative which has commenced.

Eye Watch will enhance Neighbourhood Watch by creating Facebook groups so people can report crimes and suspicious behaviour, and by allowing the local police to post local crime information, so it's available quickly.

You will hear more about this at our September members' meeting when Sgt Evans will be our guest speaker.

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Our visit to the ABC program Q and A on 19 September is quickly approaching and we need people to let me know if you're coming. Our bus only has 19 seats, so book in with me soon, please. Just send me an email and I will let you know how to register on-line with the ABC.

Our August Members' Meeting is on Friday 19th August and will feature a presentation on computer technology for people with vision impairment by Tim Connell of Quantum RLV. Hopefully, I'll see you all there.

Regards

John Moxon
Johnmoxon1@gmail.com



Train the trainer 2011

Term 3 courses

Day/ Time	Dates	Course	Hours	Cost
Mondays 9.30am- 11.45am	Aug 22, 29, Sept 5, 12, 19	Beyond the Basics – Windows XP	10	\$40
Tuesday 9.30- 11.45am	Aug 23, 30, Sept 6, 13, 20	Managing Digital Photos	10	\$40
Tuesdays 1.00 - 3.15pm (5 wks)	Aug 23, 30, Sept 6, 13, 20	Beginners – Windows XP (not Vista)	10	\$40
Wednesdays 9.30-11.45am	Aug 24, 31, Sep 7, 14, 21	Email & Internet Beyond the Basics	10	\$40
Wednesday 1.00 -3.15pm	Aug 31, Sep 7, 14, 21	Train the Trainer	10	Free
Friday 9.30- 11.45am	Sept 9 ONLY	Apple Mac	2	\$10

The courses that are full have been excluded from this list.

Book now at reception 9806 5030 (club hours only), Margaret on 9636 7752 (h) or Hazel Labka on 9702 0089 (h). There is no answering machine at the office.

Do spread the word amongst your friends.

Payments

Most people pay for their courses and membership via cash or cheque made out to Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors. We don't have EFTPOS capacity.

However, if you wish to pay by Electronic Funds Transfer, you should email our treasurer Hazel Labka on treasurer@parramattacps.org.au first so that she knows about it, and can tell you the account number. You must also remember to put a reference on your online payment so Hazel knows who is making the payment and for what.

Club mobile phone

The Management Committee has acquired a mobile phone so that members may leave **simple messages** which can be forwarded to any trainer or member. The number is **0437 132 005**.

Deborah currently has custody of the phone but may not have ready access to the course vacancies.

If you want to make a detailed enquiry about course availability, it is still advisable to use one of our landline numbers (club or home) because the trainer or receptionist will generally need to check our course timetable online - we keep it on a Google document so that volunteer trainers/receptionists always have up to date shared information.

Deborah will show you the Telstra **EasyCall 2** phone (\$99 for phone only) at our next monthly meeting. It is especially designed with seniors in mind, with large keys, and minimum functions, and was featured in the May 2011 newsletter.

Last chance: ABC TV's Q & A



ParraPals has arranged a visit to be in the audience of Q & A on **Monday evening, 19th September**, at the show's invitation. They will send a bus to pick us up in Parramatta at about 7.45pm and deliver us home to Parramatta very late (we can help you get home from there), so you **MUST** tell us if you wish to come. Some of our members have been before, and say it is great fun and well worthwhile.

You should also go online at <http://www2b.abc.net.au/AudienceBooking/Client/AudienceRegistration.aspx> and register. Make sure when you click on the above (Ctrl+) it is all on one line. **The registration page will ask: how did you hear about us? Please write: Parramatta computer pals.** If you have difficulties or queries with some of the questions they ask, please ask John or me rather than let it deter you. We'd like to fill a 20 seater bus.

We will not know what the topic is or who the panel will be - it depends sometimes on "hot topics. This is an evening excursion and will be a late night home, so we realise it is not for everyone. However, let's get a good group together and have fun!



Q&A
Adventures in democracy

New members

Welcome to the following members joining in July:

- Joan & Robert Barclay
- Peter Edwards
- Alexander & Rena Gardiner
- Sandra Gordon
- Zenaida Goseco
- Mary Henry
- Brenda Hodgkinson
- Ken & Helen Holder
- Roslyn Leal
- Cormac McGowan
- Paul Nelson
- June Pollock
- Valerie Robertson
- Michael Wells
- Sandra Yam

Seven of these new members were recruited from our MAC enthusiasts Special Interest Group – see below.

Apple Mac Special Interest Group (SIG)

Our MAC enthusiasts Special Interest Group had its first meeting on July 22, and attracted 13 people. Feedback from the new members was most positive. The members have a variety of Apple MACs, and a varied level of skills. Judy Joyce and Peter Edwards (a new member who is also an active member of another Computer Pals club) were very helpful, since they love their MACs and use them all the time.

We also asked new member Sandra Gordon, another experienced MAC user to explain what applications she would use on her new MAC whilst overseas. She and her husband were leaving for a Harkess family reunion in Scotland at the end of July. Sandra has been writing a travel blog using WordPress and it is most interesting.

It looks like we are the only Computer Pals group in Western Sydney providing MAC activities for seniors so we hope it will grow.

It is likely that meetings will be held on the last Friday of each month between 1-3pm, in the Gwen Logan Room when we can book it. The next meeting will be held on 26th August.

Please spread the word for us, and ask enquirers to talk to Judy Joyce on 9871 6820 or Margaret Tucker on 9636 7752.

Project “eyewatch” – NSW Police



The NSW Government has asked NSW Police Force to

resurrect Neighbourhood Watch which although still in existence – especially in Winston Hills, where it is now 26 years old – does not enjoy the profile or support it once did.

Based around Facebook, **Project “eyewatch”** is the 21st century version of Neighbourhood Watch, and ParraPals was asked to become involved after Parramatta Local Area Command’s Sgt Brett Evans saw the Parramatta Sun’s article on our use of

Facebook “*Forget Big Brother, Granny is Watching*”.¹

Consequently, president John Moxon was invited by the Police to a meeting of the Winston Hills Neighbourhood



Watch group on Monday 8th August.

The project’s leader, Inspector Joshua

Maxwell was giving a presentation to the membership, and we were asked to contribute to the meeting to explain our use of Facebook and its security features.

We recognised two of the Winston Hills NHW people immediately as members of ParraPals. In fact their secretary joined us just last week and has now completed our two Facebook short courses.

The NHW members are overwhelmingly seniors like us, and about 75% used a computer at home, but didn’t have much familiarity with Facebook.

John and I offered our services to tutor their members in Facebook if they are willing to join ParraPals. This offer was greeted positively.

This will be the third community group we have engaged with – the others being Granville RSL and the Older Women’s Network Parramatta.

The Local Area Command (LAC) has since set up a Winston Hills NHW Facebook Group. People who request to join the group are vetted by the Police, so that undesirables do not enter into discussion – they let me join surprisingly!

¹ See the article in our club-room.

We have also invited Sgt Brett Evans, who is Parramatta LAC's Crime Co-ordinator to be the guest speaker at our September meeting. He is currently on a bit of a learning curve about Facebook himself!

The Inspector is keen for Parramatta Computer Pals to become a "precinct". This means that we'd encourage our members to join a specific Facebook group and engage in a two way process with the Police about crime and safety issues that concern us as seniors or in our local environment.

The Management Committee discussed this at our monthly meeting, but wishes to seek the opinion of our membership and learn more first. There has certainly been a lot of interest expressed by the few members we have spoken to.

Quantum Reading Learning Vision



Tim Connell, Managing Director at Quantum Reading Learning Vision - it used to be Quantum

Technology - will be our guest speaker at the September 16th meeting. Quantum is well known to ASCCA since it often has a display at the annual ASCCA conference.

Quantum specialises in selling and distributing equipment and software especially for people with low vision, blindness and learning disabilities.

Circular Keys – with Deborah

Come and hear Parramatta City Brass Band, Lancers Band, and Circular Keys Chorus perform at the Parramatta Town Hall on Sunday, 11th

September at 2 pm. Tickets will be available at the door - price to be advised. Circular Keys Chorus is the group of 80 women that vice president Deborah Martin sings with.

Tips and Tricks

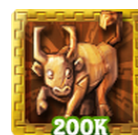
Hide Facebook features

Have you registered for Facebook but been deterred by the pages and pages of friends' games showing up on your Newsfeed?

I certainly was, until I very quickly found that you can choose not to see that information. It's in the handy little tool called "hide" which appears on every Facebook entry.

Hover over your friends' post, and a little grey X will appear on the top right side of the entry thus:

Click on the X and a set of options something like this will appear:



Get 2,500 free Mojo! My Spirit Cow is now a migh X
Shaman in Zuma Blitz!

Cow's wisdom is but one reward for John's score of 220,700. What Spirit Animals have you unlocked?

06 August at 15:06 via Zuma Blitz · Like · Comment · Play Now

Hide this post
Hide all (this game)
Hide all by (named friend)
Delete

How easy is that!



Michael Myers and class 2011

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

MCHUMOR.com by T. McCracken



"Oh great. Not only do we have a virus, but now the computer has developed an attitude."

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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

www.ninite.com

Simultaneously download all the free software you want.

Dates for Your Diary

Term dates

- Mid term courses commence week of 22nd August.
- Term 3 finishes 23rd September
- Term 4 commences 10th October

Monthly meetings

- Friday 19th August, 9.30am
- Friday 16th September, 9.30am
- Friday 21st October, 9.30am (AGM)

Special Interest Groups

- Genealogy SIG meets on 19th August, 12.30pm
- MAC SIG meets 26th Aug 1pm

ASCCA events

- 13th annual conference – 16-17 November at Rydges World Square Hotel, 389 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Our website, blog & Facebook

www.parramattacps.org.au

<http://parrapals.blogspot.com>

Facebook group (Join) AND Facebook page (Like): Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors (www.facebook.com)

Email:

secretary@parramattacps.org.au

Till next time. *Margaret*