



ParraPals Newsletter Vol 5, No: 2, February 2011

President's message

Wow, that was a hot week, wasn't it? I trust you all survived it without any serious impact. I know I cancelled a couple of things to avoid going out, and just sat in front of the air conditioner.

Every so often we get inquiries about learning to use Apple Mac computers (Macs) and we have to say "Sorry, we don't teach Macs."



Mac computers use a different operating system (not Microsoft Windows) and have a slightly different keyboard and mouse.

Some people say they are easier to use and that they handle graphics (like photos) better than PCs.

Judy Joyce is a Mac user and she has agreed to demonstrate hers to us at Friday's Members' Meeting.

The committee has also decided to buy a Mac so we can start to offer training in Macs.

Seniors Week is fast approaching and ParraPals will be participating in two events – the first, on Tuesday 22 March, is a "Healthy Walk" around Parramatta, and we will be running a photo competition for those walking.

We will be setting up some lap tops in the small hall next to the Town Hall

and offering to help people improve their photos taken on the walk using Picasa.

There will be two categories in the photo competition – best photo of an individual healthy walker, and best photo of a group of healthy walkers.

In each case, the prize will be a free membership to ParraPals and one free course.

If you're interested in helping out with the day please contact me. We will need lap tops with Picasa 3 (latest version) on them and your teaching skills.

The second event is



on Thursday 24 March and we will be presenting an information session at Granville, giving a taste of what our club has to offer.

A few of our members are experiencing poor health at the moment – to each of you I wish you a speedy recovery and I hope to see you soon.

See you all on Friday at the Members' Meeting.

Regards

John Moxon
President

Johnmoxon1@gmail.com

Courses with one or more vacancies

Day/ Time	Dates	Course	Hours	Cost
Mon 9.30-11.45am	March 7,14,21,28; April 4	Digital Photo Stories	10	\$40
Mon 1.00-3.15pm	March 7,14,21,28; April 4	Managing Digital Photos	10	\$40
Tues 9.30-11.45am	March 8,15,22,29; April 5	Scrapbooking in Word 2007	10	\$40
Tues 1.00-3.15pm	March 8,15,22,29; April 5	Beginners 1 in XP	10	\$40
Wed 9.30-11.45am	March 9,16,23,30; April 6	Beginners 1 in Windows 7	10	\$40
Wed 1.00-3.15pm	March 9,16,23,30; April 6	Windows 7 – Beyond the basics	10	\$40
Fri 9.30-11.45am	March 4	Scanning slides and negatives	2	\$10
	March 11	Laptop familiarisation	2	\$10
	April 8	Problem solving session	2	\$10
Fri 1.00-3.15pm	March 4	Facebook – Beyond the basics	2	\$10
	March 11	Skype	2	\$10
	March 25	Problem solving session	2	\$10
	April 8	Problem solving session	2	\$10

Book now at reception 9806 5030 (club hours only) or Judy on 9871 6820.

New software to be installed soon

As a member of ASCCA, the club is entitled to order discounted software from Donortec. Microsoft and other companies make many of their products available to non-profit organisations at vastly reduced prices. The discounts are available to organisations, NOT individuals.



We have obtained 20 licences for Microsoft Office 2010, 2 licences for Microsoft Office 2011 for Mac, and one licence for Microsoft Access 2010. The latter is used for the club membership records.



As John said, we will be purchasing an Apple Mac laptop shortly.

It is proposed to commence teaching Microsoft Office 2010 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) when there is a demand for it. So if you have purchased the latest version of Microsoft Office, put your name on the waiting list.

Genealogy Special Interest Group

The Genealogy Group will meet on **Friday 18th February** at 12.30pm, after the members meeting. This allows you time to grab a bite to eat. The SIG will finish by 2.00pm. Any member interested in genealogy is welcome.

The theme of the meeting will be “brick walls”. If you are coming up against a brick wall in your research, bring your problem along and SIG co-ordinator,

Deborah promises that between the group, they will come up with some suggestions.



On the other hand, if you've recently smashed down a brick wall, come and tell the group how you did it!

The group will also look at some of the ideas in the latest Lost Cousins newsletter, including problems with FamilySearch, new records at FindMyPast, Scottish directories available online, and [historypin](#) photos.

The photo above of Deborah Martin and Judy Joyce was taken at the SIG's field trip in November.

Come with us to Luna Park

At the last meeting of the Club's Digital Photography Special Interest Group, a suggestion was made that we visit Luna Park.

We were won over when we realized that not only was it a great place for photo opportunities, but entry to Luna Park is FREE. So unless you want to take a fun ride or three, the only cost will be your \$2.50 excursion fare (by ferry) and your lunch. And of course you can bring that with you if you like.

And don't forget your digital camera!

The date is **Friday 1st April**, leaving from the Rydalmere Ferry Wharf at 9.50am (or Parramatta at 9.30am). Parking is easy at Rydalmere.



The ferry leaves Luna Park at 2.08pm to catch the 2.30pm Circular Quay ferry back to Rydalmere and Parramatta.

All members are welcome. All enquiries to Michael Myers on 9801 1686.

Flyers are available at the club.

Aukje Gomez recovering

Experienced computer student Aukje Gomez was preparing to teach later this term, after buddying for the first half of the term.

However, Aukje had a car accident in January, resulting in a fracture of the neck. Fortunately she is all right, and the surgeons at Westmead Hospital were able to minimize any damage, but it has knocked her around and she has had to take the term off club activities.

We wish you a speedy recovery, Aukje and hope to see you soon.

New members

Welcome to the following members joining in January:

- Howard & Shirley Ambler
- Lyn Barling
- Val Craig
- David Norkami
- Maureen Davis
- Cathy Dickins

- Annie D’Silva
- Christina Dunn
- Ellenor Fox
- Barbara Hadden
- Jan Harris
- Maria Hinrichsen
- Liz Langmead
- Joyce Mizzi
- Cecelia Reed
- Allan Rigg

Computer tips

Mobile computing – already upon us

Five years ago, John and I owned a desktop computer and a laptop. Now, whilst we still have a desktop, we own three laptops and a netbook. I am likely to be using one of the laptops (or even two at a time) at the dining room table, in bed, on the balcony or in the computer club. I never go travelling without at least one of these computers.

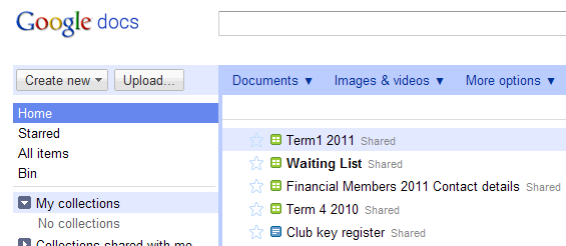
We also have a Kindle each. Great for reading a classic or the latest thriller on the bus or over a cup of coffee at Michel’s.

Yesterday, visiting friends for lunch, I developed iPad envy. I’ve not yet got a smart phone or an iPhone. Maybe that’s coming. Most of my younger Facebook friends “update their status” by mobile phone.

Computing is no longer desk bound. We are highly mobile. We set up a home network so we can use our laptops throughout the house. We buy a dongle for our laptop so we can surf the web, open our emails and check Facebook away from home. We look for hotels and cafes with WiFi . We

want to access our emails and social networking sites anywhere, even when we don’t own the latest gadgets.

We set up a Google account for our emails and link our ISP email address to our Google account. We set up a Google web album to share our photos with friends around the world. We’ll share documents with our colleagues on the “cloud”.



We already do that at ParraPals. With so many of our trainers and executive taking enquiries and bookings for courses at home via email and phone, we have a couple of shared Google documents for our course timetables and waiting list. With “share” permissions, we can add and edit member information. This system works well.

We are no longer satisfied with having our technology tethered to the home. Whether this is a good thing or not, I’ll leave you to judge. But it’s the reality.

According to CloudEight Information Avenue – see <http://thundercloud.net/infoave/> - the future will not be Windows based:

Soon, laptops will be coming from the world's largest computer manufacturers that will ... be Google Chrome-based.

These new generation laptops will be faster, lighter, sleeker, and more mobile than any before. They will take less than five seconds to boot up and shutdown. They won't have terabyte hard drives or 4GB of RAM. They won't have hard drives as we know them at all. They'll used SD

cards for storage. The applications you run using these laptops are in "The Cloud". You don't need a huge amount of built-in storage space to store applications, photos, documents, etc. It's all stored in "The Cloud". Your computer is faster because it's not loaded down with huge programs and your hard drive is not full of data. You no longer have to install huge Windows programs, you download small, fast, "apps".

Those of you who use smart phones or iPads know all about "apps". Apps are to smart phones and these new Chrome laptops what programs are to Windows. But apps don't require huge amounts of hard drive space or memory to run. Many of them run from The Cloud and the ones that don't are small footprint, memory-efficient applications.



Many information technology experts are predicting that systems using Google's Android or Chrome operating systems

will start overtaking Microsoft's Windows. Already there are many phones using the Android system, and a vast number of Applications are being developed for the Android.

As you will know, Apple – after a period in the wilderness – has once again become a real competitor to Microsoft. All its products are highly mobile – a sign of the times.

What will Android, Chrome and Apple mean for our computer club and others like it? Only time will tell.

Meanwhile, we need to educate ourselves about these new products, and we are doing so, beginning in March with a demonstration and

presentation about just some of these new gadgets.

Do any of our members have an Android based smart phone, an iPad, e-book (other than the Amazon Kindle) that you could bring in next month? If so, contact John on johnmoxon1@gmail.com or Deborah at dmmartin@bigpond.com

Facebook tip



Facebook has a habit of suddenly changing the way it likes things done.

Just recently, I've noticed that I hadn't seen any "status updates" – formerly called "posts" from some of my friends in the NewsFeed. It seems that Facebook has changed the default to "Show posts from Friends and pages you interact with most". In otherwords, those you comment on or "like".

Edit your News Feed settings

Show posts from: Friends and pages you inter... ▾

You might prefer to show the latter.

Edit your News Feed settings

Show posts from: All of your friends and pages ▾

It is easy to change. On your home page, Click the blue options arrow on your Most Recent button. Then choose Edit Options, and you will see the above settings. Don't forget to click Save, or the change won't take effect.



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



"How shall I torture you today?
Put you on the rack? Boil you in oil?
Make you call a technical support line?"

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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

<http://www.historypin.com/>

Compare photos of places in yesteryear with how the place looks today.

Learn more about it during the Genealogy SIG on Friday 18th February.

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

NSW Seniors Week 2011

Dates for Your Diary

Term dates

- Term 1 starts Monday 31st January to Friday April 8th April.

Monthly meetings

- Friday 18th February, 9.30am
- Friday 18th March, 9.30am

Special Interest Groups

- Genealogy – 18th February
- Digital Photos – 18th March
- Field trip – DP – 1st April

Seniors Week 2011

- Sunday 20th-Sunday 28th March.

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*