



## ParraPals Newsletter Vol 5, No: 3, March 2011

### President's message

I'm just so glad we don't live in an earthquake prone region – our hearts go out to those poor people of New Zealand and Japan.

On a happier note, I have started my photo course at the Museum of Contemporary Art and it's just great. Unfortunately, it does mean I can't be in Parramatta for the Tuesday of Seniors' Week when ParraPals will be participating in Heart Foundation and PCC Walking Activity.

Our role is to show people how they can improve their photos using Picasa3.



So, walkers will be encouraged to take photos on the walk

and to then improve them, with our help.

We will be awarding a prize for the best "Healthy Walker" and for the best "Group of Healthy Walkers".

If you wish to participate in the walk, please contact Rosemay Cagy on 9806 5126 as bookings are essential. The walk is on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and it commences at 8.30am and should take about an hour.

We had a very successful trainers' and buddies' meeting last Friday and now

have a timetable for Term 2. What is becoming very apparent is that we need more trainers.

To assist with recruitment of trainers, Margaret Tucker Moxon and Deborah Martin are preparing a kit which explains our training ethos (patience,



Buddies participating in Volunteer training

inclusion, and responsive to learners' needs) and what a trainer might expect from us.

If you know of experienced computer trainers, or people who know

computers and who want to learn to become trainers, please have them call me.

Don't forget to come to this Friday's Members' Meeting where we will explore some of the latest gadgets, like ePads and Kindles.

Regards

John Moxon  
President  
[Johnmoxon1@gmail.com](mailto:Johnmoxon1@gmail.com)  
9636 7752

### Inside

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## 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 - TBA	2	\$10
	May 27	Beginners – Apple Mac		
Fri 1.00-3.15pm	April 29	Gmail refresher	2	\$10
	May 6	Skype	2	\$10
*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	XP overflow – Beginners or B B	10	\$40
*Thurs 9.30-12.30	June 2,9,23,30	Internet & Email – Beyond the B	10	\$40
Thurs 9.30-11.45	June 16 ONLY	Facebook – Beyond the Basics	2	\$10
Thurs 1.00-3.15pm	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 – TBA	2	\$10
Friday 1.00-3.15pm	June 10 ONLY	Genealogy - TBA	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 are on the waiting list, you should have received a phone call or email from the trainer of the relevant course.

\*These courses are four weeks x 2.5h

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Hazel No 1 housebound

Hazel Gibbs, our trusty caterer, twisted her knee – not once but twice – whilst preparing for a houseful

of visitors last week, so is unable to attend the March meeting. Her fall-back – Margaret Green – will be away, so she has organised for a number of members to help out with morning tea on the day.

This should be no problem, since these members are generally to be seen with a tea towel in hand or their hands in suds every month.

Did you know that we now have at least 30 members we can call on to take on a wide variety of tasks at short notice – everything from putting kit furniture together to baking cakes or providing transport at short notice.

Nothing much to do with computer skills really – although we gain plenty



of those.

This is over and above the many informal kindnesses between members that we see or hear about every week.

Thank you folks. You make our club a great place to belong.

*PS Why is Hazel Gibbs called Hazel No 1? As she said, she joined the club before trainer Hazel Labka, so it's perfectly logical.*

## New members

Welcome to the following members joining in February:

- Ella Low
- Myrna Gates
- Kevin Tattersall
- Nadia Rudenko
- Kamel Haddad
- Kay Withers
- Ruth Cameron
- Audrey & Colin Biddle
- Florence Ilacqua
- Brian Ogle
- Isabel Munoz
- Catherine Lynn
- Marcia Gallagher

## Computer tips



### What's with TADAust these days

few years ago, TADAust

(sponsored by Technical Aid to the Disabled) supplied a real need for Centrelink pension and benefit recipients who wanted a low cost Internet connection. For about \$5 per month, one could obtain a dial-up Internet connection, perfectly satisfactory for most seniors who just wanted to send and receive email, and do a small amount of web browsing.

There were certainly problems in those days with communicating with

TADAust, but once connected, the ISP was perfectly good.

But these days, dial-up is clumsy and the download restrictions are inefficient. Most people want a broadband connection.

TADAust in the meanwhile has been taken over by [ONESenior.com.au](http://ONESenior.com.au). This company markets itself as “the leading provider of Dial-Up, Broadband and Phone services for the over 55s”.

Certainly, a dial-up connection is available for \$6.95 per month, but **BEWARE**, their fast broadband services are offered at \$25 per week.

Their broadband services are offered between \$29.95 and \$79.95 per month, and there is a 24 month contract period.



So if you are thinking of changing over from a TADAust dialup service, don't just go straight to ONE Seniors, do a comparison of broadband providers.

You can do just as well elsewhere – iPrimus, OptusNet and Bigpond and many more – so I would suggest that you do a comparison with other broadband services through Whirlpool. Check it out at

<http://bc.whirlpool.net.au/>

## TAD relocated to Northmead

Technical Aid for the Disabled has relocated to Northmead and has extended its **low cost computer** business.

TAD is a Registered Microsoft Refurbisher and provides refurbished computers (donated by large corporations like the banks) to people

in receipt of Centrelink pensions and benefits.

Check them out at

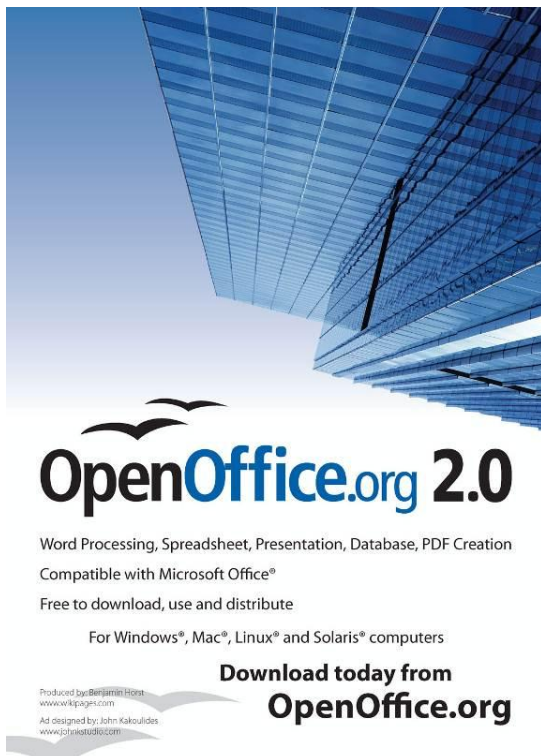
<http://www.technicalaidnsw.org.au/Services/Computers/computersale.php>

(If you are reading this in print, don't put a space after Ser when typing the URL into the web browser's address bar. If you are reading this on line, just hold down your Ctrl key and left click on the blue hyperlink).

Contact TAD at:

Phone: 9912 3400

Unit 10, 185 Briens Road,  
Northmead NSW 2152.

The graphic features a blue-tinted image of a modern building's glass facade. Below the image is the OpenOffice.org 2.0 logo, which includes a stylized bird icon above the text. Underneath the logo, it lists capabilities: Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Presentation, Database, PDF Creation. It also states it is compatible with Microsoft Office and is free to download, use, and distribute. It mentions compatibility with Windows, Mac, Linux, and Solaris computers. A call to action says 'Download today from OpenOffice.org'. At the bottom, it credits the producer as Benjamin Horst and the designer as John Kakoulides.

**OpenOffice.org 2.0**  
Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Presentation, Database, PDF Creation  
Compatible with Microsoft Office®  
Free to download, use and distribute  
For Windows®, Mac®, Linux® and Solaris® computers  
**Download today from**  
**OpenOffice.org**  
Produced by Benjamin Horst  
www.wikipages.com  
Ad designed by John Kakoulides  
www.creativeclick.com

### Would you like to save \$100++ on computer software?

**O**f course you would! So why do so many people –including seniors – spend between \$100-\$349 on Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook) when a perfectly good “Office” program is available for FREE?

Have you thought of **OpenOffice.org**?

If you are not going back to work, and don't need highly sophisticated interactivity between software applications – and even if you do – OpenOffice.org is a perfectly acceptable alternative.

And the beauty of OpenOffice.org is that you can save your files to be compatible with Microsoft files. And vice versa. If you receive an email attachment as a Microsoft Office document (doc, ppt, xls) you can open it in your OpenOffice.org application.

Ask your trainer for more information. You can download the software from the Internet, or the club can provide it on a USB drive for you to take home.

OpenOffice.org is probably the best known example of Open Source software, developed by skilled IT people who believe that software should be freely available world wide.

Check it out at

<http://www.openoffice.org/>

### Read-only files

**E**ver see or hear the term "read-only"?

A read-only file is a document that you can open and read, but no changes can be saved over the original file name. In order to save changes, you have to give the file a new name or save it as a different file format. Either way, you're leaving the original file exactly as you found it.

*Courtesy Westlakes Computer Club*

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



## Our sponsors

### DCA Computers

Unit 4/8 Victoria Avenue  
Castle Hill NSW 2154  
Phone: 9634 2555

[sales@dcacomputers.com.au](mailto:sales@dcacomputers.com.au)  
[www.dcacomputers.com.au](http://www.dcacomputers.com.au)

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Call Robert to arrange an inhome Service that will relieve the stress and **bring back the smiles**

**ONSITE COMPUTER SERVICE**  
We come to you 6 Days a Week

w [inhome.com.au](http://inhome.com.au)  
e [info@inhome.com.au](mailto:info@inhome.com.au)  
t 90374761  
m 0425202655

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

### Luna Park

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luna\\_Park\\_Sydney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luna_Park_Sydney)

Read up on the history of Sydney's Luna Park. Also, their official website at <http://www.lunaparksydney.com/>

### NSW Seniors Week 2011

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

## Dates for Your Diary

### Term dates

- Term 1 finishes Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April
- Term 2 starts Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July

### Monthly meetings

- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30am
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 9.30am



### Special Interest Groups

- Digital Photos – 18<sup>th</sup> March
- Field trip – DP – 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Field trip – Genealogy & Dig Photography – 1<sup>st</sup> July

### Lunch at the Leagues

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 12 noon.

### Seniors Week 2011

- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

### Our website, blog & Facebook

[www.parramattacps.org.au](http://www.parramattacps.org.au)

<http://parrapals.blogspot.com>

Facebook group: Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com))

Email:

[secretary@parramattacps.org.au](mailto:secretary@parramattacps.org.au)

Till next time. *Margaret*