



ParraPals Newsletter Vol 4, No: 5, May, 2010

President's message

You may have noticed that there was no Newsletter last month – Margaret and I have moved house and things have been just a tad hectic. But all seems to be settling down now, so hopefully, that's the only time you won't get your Newsletter.

Many of ParraPals members helped us no end in our move, particularly with the garage sale – proving once again (if it needed proof) that our little club is about much more than just learning to use computers. Many of us have made extremely strong friendships, and, as our outings demonstrate, we all get along together and certainly know how to have fun while learning.



Some members contribute in ways one might not expect (by donating equipment, by bringing in cakes and other goodies, by caring about and helping other members who are experiencing difficulties), and that's great.

Judy Joyce's husband, Max, has been unwell recently. Hazel Labka kindly

stepped in to take Judy's classes.

Thanks, Hazel. And we all wish Max a speedy and permanent recovery.

Please don't forget our Members' Meeting on Friday 21 May when our special guest will be Michael McDermott, Parramatta City Councillor, who will talk about "Computing in Ireland" – and please check the course vacancies and join a course that's not full in the 2nd half of Term 2 (2nd half starts on Monday 31 May).

Kind regards

John Moxon
President
johnmoxon1@gmail.com

Join a June course

Vacancies exist in many of our five week courses commencing the week beginning 31st May. The full list can be found on the next page. For information about the courses, check our website at www.parramattacps.org.au/Courses.html



Vacancies in the following courses

Day	Dates	Time	Course	Trainer
Monday	May 31, June 7,21,28; July 2	9.00-11.15am	Digital Photo Stories	John Moxon
Tuesday	June 1,8,15,22,29	9.30-11.45am	Graphics in Word 2007	Judy Joyce
Tuesday	June 1,8,15,22,29	1-3.15pm	Managing Your Digital Photos	Jon Bayley
Wednesday	June 2,9,16,23,30	9.30-11.45am	Beginners 2 in XP	Wayne Johnston
Wednesday	June 2,9,16,23,30	1-3.15pm	Beginners 1 in Vista	Michael Myers
Thursday	June 3,10,17,24; July 1	9-11.15am	Beginners 2 in XP	Hazel Labka

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The photo above shows Michael, Hazel and Judy hard at work planning the course roster for the current term.

At this stage, both Beginners 2 in Windows 7 (Monday afternoons) and Web design (Thursday afternoons) are booked out, but let us know if you'd like to do it, just in case a student drops out – this does happen.

The pros and cons of Facebook

As you know, our club has established a

Facebook presence, and so far we have 21 members, 18 of whom are members of our club. It's a great way to keep in touch with club activities and comments by members on our events.

After reading the Sunday papers about the tragic death of one young Facebook member, some of you may have warned your grandchildren of the dangers of befriending strangers, and others may have wondered whether it is worth joining!

As with anything, there are downsides to participating in Facebook, but there are many more advantages. I am now in touch with school friends who now

are grandparents, I follow our grandchildren's lives and interests (but rarely comment – they are 14 after all) catch up with new cousins overseas and keep in touch with old work colleagues and current friends at Computer Pals.

I have no interest in the many games one can play – it is easy to hide Treasure Madness and Bouncing Balls and other games of the same ilk. But each to their own – some people love the games.

I like to look at my friends' photo albums, and put up photos of my own from time to time.

Would you be interested in a short course (two hours) on **Making the Most of Facebook**? Let us know at the office, or email me at margaret.tucker2153@gmail.com and we will run at least one course in June or July.

Cyber Security Seminar at ASCCA



As its contribution to the 2010 Cyber Security Week (6-11 June), the

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association will be incorporating a presentation on Cyber Safety into its June members meeting.

Last month, five of us went to ASCCA's member clubs meeting, and because our club was the best represented, we came home with a bagful of goodies – software to give away to members.

The June seminar, to be held on Monday 7th June between 10am and 12.30pm at Level 1, 280 Pitt Street Sydney (between Park and Bathurst Streets) will include two presentations

– one on Online Banking, and the other on Internet Security and Privacy, and a Clubs Speak Out session. The latter is always interesting, since other clubs can give us some good ideas.

Morning tea will be available, and some of us generally have coffee or a bite to eat afterwards.

If you are interested in going, let us know. You will need to contact ASCCA on 9286 3871 or office@ascca.org.au for catering purposes.

Looking for more trainers

The club is always on the look out for trainers, so we can spread the load. We have been fortunate to gain two new trainers – Wayne and Michael – this year, but with trainers away on holidays (currently Deborah and Peter) and on leave for caring duties (currently Judy) we can always do with more.

If you have a friend (or a spouse) who would be willing to join the club and talk to us about becoming a trainer, please let us know. We ask all our trainers to join the club and get to know us. We are not looking for experts – just enthusiastic senior computer users who like other seniors and feel comfortable with a community club ethos.

As you know, we don't expect commitment 40 weeks a year – we make allowances for holidays, medical appointments, caring duties or whatever, and help each other out. A train the trainer is offered at least annually by John Moxon and Deborah Martin.

Our sponsors

DCA Computers at Castle Hill is located in the Castle Hill Industrial Estate on Victoria Avenue, and specialises in building computers. It also stocks a wide range of computer accessories and offers a service of "help by phone".

Contact DCA Computers at
Unit 4/8 Victoria Avenue
Castle Hill NSW 2154
Phone: 9634 2555

sales@dcacomputers.com.au

www.dcacomputers.com.au

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.

As part of our house move, Robert recently networked our three computers and reconnected our sound system.



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www.staysmartonline.gov.au

Stay Smart Online provides all Australian online users with information on the simple steps you can take to secure yourselves online. This includes information and advice on how to secure your computer and your transactions online.

Dates for Your Diary

Term dates

- Term 2 finishes on 2st July.
- Term 3 – commences Monday 19th July to Thursday 24th September 2010

Monthly meetings

- Friday 20th May, 9.30 am
- Friday 18th June, 9.30 am
- Friday 16th July, 9.30 am

Leagues club lunch

- Monday 12th July, 12.00pm

ASCCA events

ASCCA's events in Sydney CBD:
Mon 7th June: Member Clubs Meeting
Wed-Thur 8-9 September: ASCCA Conference at the PowerHouse Museum

Our website, blog & Facebook

www.parramattacps.org.au

<http://parrapals.blogspot.com>

Facebook: Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors

Email:

secretary@parramattacps.org.au

Till next time. *Margaret*