



## Open Windows @ Epping

P.O. BOX 1558 MACQUARIE CENTRE. N.S.W. 2113

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## Trash, Treasure or Recycle

Welcome back, members and a special “welcome” to new members. I hope our new members find this “Club” exciting and friendly, enabling you to enjoy learning computing or enhancing those already achieved skills.

As we commence 2012, using our sparkling new Windows 7 Word 2010 computers, Hornsby Shire Council is completing its Epping/Carlingford six-monthly “clean-up” - residents having placed on the footpath allowable goods which they no longer use, want or need. I have always found these “clean-ups” fascinating. Some years ago every second house was disposing of worn out hot water tanks, the following year it was washing machines, refrigerators and dishwashers. This year the kerbs were exuding computers, monitors, computer desks and tables, along with DVD players, chests of drawers, lounge suites, analogue televisions and toys. Much of it was trash, whilst a portion still workable. Once the trickle of “throw-outs” commences, because of the (disappointing) replacement of wood, iron and steel with plastics, the first explorers are the ironmongers – hauling plant-stands, wrought iron railings, wheel barrows and the like onto their trucks. The piles grow and spread, encouraging more

scroungers - cars meandering down side streets, walkers and cyclists poking into and sifting through the mounds. Ah, what may be found? Sometimes plenty, other times nothing.

Have you ever found a complete rosewood outdoor table and bench seats setting for eight people, the only repair needed being tightening of the screws? That setting lasted a further 18 years! What about wishing to install a complete first-grade sound system throughout your home? Amongst the trash are spare parts, once longed-for speakers, broken-down but repairable tuners, amplifiers and even CD players. Caring hands, some technical knowledge and the thrill of bringing these once-loved pieces back to life, proves the truth of the saying “from trash to treasure” is possible, and enables part of that dream to be realized.

This last “clean-up” underwent the warmth of summer, absolute downpours and a ghost! In the depth of night or early morning a mattress plus half-empty boxes were dumped outside our home. Curious and

annoyed, I took a look at the wares. One slim wooden box took my eye, it having a sliding top with perfectly centred thumb-hole, slightly movable. It

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## CONTACT LIST

### Elected Management Committee

Elizabeth Barton	President
Joan Craymer	Vice-President
Pat Schinkel	Secretary/Training Liaison
Tony Carter	Treasurer
Ian Gemmell	Public Officer
Maureen McDonald	Membership Secretary
Lynton Bradford	Technical Officer/Webmaster

### Standing Committee

Arnold Burling	Equipment Officer
Patricia Beal	Guest Speaker Co-ordinator
Brian Kelly	Supplies Officer
Don Mees	Assets Registrar
Pamela Taig	Minute Secretary
Gwen Bradford	Newsletter Editor
Jeanette Masih	Website Assistant

### Special Interest Groups

<b>Creative Writing</b> .....Joan Craymer	<b>Genealogy</b> .....Jean Barringham
<b>Help!</b> .....Various Topics & Hosts	<b>Photography</b> .....Patricia Beal
<b>Contact for Welfare:</b> .....	Helen Gardner

**Club email address:** cps.epping@gmail.com

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was a single-layered pencil case! Still owning a double-decked wooden pencil case from my school days, I was fascinated and could not resist up-lifting this find. Using TLC I un-wedged the lid, revealing a solidly well-made (in one piece) box for four pencils/pens and a rubber. I gently filed the dirt from the lid, polished the box and was thrilled to place those necessary pens (when computing) in front of the monitor, into an elegant box with a smoothly running lid.

Some of Computer Pals' out-dated computers may by now be "spare parts", "treasured" or "re-cycled". Wherever or whatever, they, along with outdoor furniture, sound equipment and pencil case are today part of the theme "Trash, Treasure or Re-cycle".

.....Elizabeth Barton (President)

## Guest Speakers Today's Meeting



*Nicole Senior*

**"HEARTS AND BELLIES: EATING  
YOUR WAY TO HEALTH"**

*Nicole is an Accredited Nutritionist and  
Practicing Dietician*

## March Meeting

*Barry Cupitt*

**"FLIGHT SIMULATORS"**

*Barry worked for 47 years with Qantas in a variety of roles. He was responsible for the building and testing of the RAN Seahawk Helicopter Mission Simulator. Also Test Director of the RAN Collins Class Submarine Simulator at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia.*

## Précis of Committee Meeting 2nd February 2012



**Thanks:** The President thanked Arnold Burling for his tireless hard work over many weeks in dismantling and disposing of the old computers and installing the new ones. Lynton Bradford was thanked for helping with his expertise, along with the “Pals” who called in at various times to offer their assistance.

**Welcome Back:** The Committee was pleased to welcome back our Minute Secretary, Pam Taig, who we have missed while she has been on compassionate leave.

**Systems & Equipment Update:** With the installation of our new computers and software, our Equipment Officer, Arnold Burling, advised there may be some fine tuning necessary when classes resume.

**Insurance:** A Renewal notice has been received from Webster Hyde Heath for the Club’s Public Liability and Voluntary Workers Personal Accident policies.

**General Meetings:** Final arrangements were made for the February and March speakers.

**Training 2012:** Gwen Bradford advised that all classes are well filled for Term 1. It was pleasing to note that some former members have returned to join classes. Maureen McDonald discussed the two iPads purchased. A Trainer will be sought for conducting one or two session Workshops for interested members.

**Website:** Webmaster, Lynton Bradford asked for suggestions on how our Club website can be made more attractive.

**Supplies:** Brian Kelly thanked members for keeping stationery supplies up-to-date during his recent absence.

**Membership:** Maureen McDonald reported that, including the new members introduced this term, membership now totals 379 with 18 on the waiting list.

**Welfare:** Helen Gardner has been keeping in touch with our members who have been on the sick list by the sending of cards and newsletters. Several letters were received thanking Helen for her thoughtfulness.

**ASCCA:** Joan Craymer reported that the ASCCA February Newsletter is completed and is expected to be online shortly.

**Open Day:** Our Open Day will be held on Wednesday, 14th March with those on the waiting list invited, along with new members from Term 1. Each Tutor will be asked to organise a display of their work for viewing by the visitors. Epping Creative Centre committee will be asked to insert a notice in their next Newsletter inviting visitors to our Open Day. Other ideas for advertising are being investigated such as distribution of flyers.

**Term 2:** A meeting has been arranged for the Enrolment sub-committee to discuss Term 2. First day for enrolments will be Monday, 12th March.

*Précis - Gwen Bradford  
from Minutes prepared by Pat Schinkel*

## **OUR OPEN DAY**

As our contribution to Seniors Week 2012, our Computer Club will be hosting an Open Day on.....

**WEDNESDAY 14th MARCH 2012**

from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Ron Mathews room.

This date is ahead of Seniors Week so that our event will not clash with your plans for that week.

Invitations will be sent to those on the waiting list and this term's new starters will also be invited. Current members are welcome to come along and assist our visitors.

Following a welcome, visitors will be encouraged to move around, view some popular computer programs in action and ask questions. There will also be displays showing the exciting end-results of what can be achieved.

If you have any friends who may be interested in joining our club, please bring them along to our Open Day.

### WHAT LIES AHEAD IN 2012?

In the computer field, there could be a period of consolidation. The explosion of tablet computers and smart phones in 2012 may probably slow as competition forces out the less successful models and manufacturers work harder to polish up the most acceptable designs and software. It will be interesting to see which sizes become the most popular, 7", 8", or 10?"



Smartphones are overdue to drop in price, and we can expect many new apps, possibly in the medical, health and personal support fields. Unfortunately younger users will still push most development, but we would hope middle aged and seniors will see more support for their needs.  
.....L.B.



### Our Club Welfare

Just a reminder that Helen Gardner is our Welfare Officer. Please let Helen know of any member who would welcome a contact from our Club. Her details are on page 2 of this Newsletter.



## And a Big Thank You.....

....To our Equipment Officer, Arnold Burling, who worked over the holiday break to connect the new computers and have them "all systems go" ready for the new term.

.....And our dedicated Tutors who have spent their "time off" updating the lessons to cater for Windows 7 and Office 2010. Also the folders were prepared and Course notes printed for each student.

.....Roy Ridley framed our prize-winning photographs from the 2011 ASCCA competition and displayed them on the room dividers in the Training Room.

We are grateful and thank all our Volunteers who help in so many different ways to make our Club such a success.

# Tips and Hints

## ARE YOU STILL PAYING FOR ANTIVIRUS?

Why not use Microsoft Security Essentials? It is free, you don't have to register, it is designed to integrate with Windows Firewall and works with XP, Vista and Win 7. My only slight niggle is its habit of warning you about once per week that you are "unprotected", which is a gross exaggeration, it simply means it wants you to run a short system scan to make it happy again. Of course you can stop this by setting a regular scan, but I find that inconvenient. Other antivirus programs also want you to do regular scans, so MSE is not on its own there.

Here is a review from TechRadar.com from the UK.

*"If you want good, free antivirus software, then Microsoft Security Essentials is the tool for you. It's small, doesn't sap system performance and gets regular automatic updates to keep you secure. There's no obvious downside to using MSE – and because it's the basis of a revamped Windows Defender that will ship as part of Windows 8, it could well be a good idea to get used to it now. With Microsoft regularly updating MSE there's really no excuse to not run anti-malware tools, when they're as good as this – and especially when they're free."*  
.....Lynton Bradford



Equipment Officer, Arnold Burling working on installing our new computers.  
*Photo courtesy of Brian Kelly*

## COMPUTER PROVERB

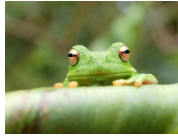
*"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach him to use the Internet and he won't bother you for weeks".*



# CREATIVE WRITING REPORT

As expected, the topic: “**You can never go back**”, evoked an outbreak of reminiscences and differing thoughts.

Our first writer described a nostalgic return to Rockhampton where it was discovered grandmother’s Queenslander house was replaced by a supermarket. The disappointment was somewhat lessened by the memories of the mosquito wrigglers and occasional dead frog in the water tank and the green frogs and snakes in the kitchen. “You can never go back - times change; but we do have our memories”, was this writer’s conclusion.



We were inspired by the story of long ago school teachers at a boarding school; fine people who taught our writer important life lessons like punctuality, discipline and fair play - all tempered with kindness and nurturing care and a love of all sports, especially cricket. We shared the disappointment of a return visit to the school in the 1990s; a visit marred on many fronts, but mainly by the disrespect of the incumbent Head Master.



The next author told the story of the rebirth and restoration of significant Sydney buildings under the

guidance of the National Trust and Historic Houses Trust. These projects certainly involved “going back”. Through extensive research and usually involving some demolition these buildings which, through generations of misuse and neglect had

“hung their heads in shame,” were returned to their former elegance .

Next we explored the profits and joys of “going back” - in company with your siblings. Our writer verified the notion it is a rewarding way to understand and investigate the importance of the lessons learned through those early shared experiences. This writer believes it is also self-fulfilling to empathise and express the way life has evolved due to those and later influences and to revive and nurture the sibling bond.

Our “class clown” for the day lightened the mood by “thinking on her feet” to brilliantly ad-lib to hide the fact she had mistakenly written on “one step at a time” - the topic chosen for next month. It was surprising to discover how closely linked “going back” and going forward “one step at a time” can be when you connect them with the idea of evolution. What a brilliant piece of “Creative Writing”!



Our final writer noted that “going back” often involves a tendency “to gloss over all those uncomfortable or distressing things that we had to live with or address.” It was hard to contest the thought that although “going back” is often unhelpful, reminiscences can certainly provide comfort in our declining years.

**Next Meeting Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March.** The topic really will be “**One step at a time**” for the next meeting—why not come along and find out how our “class clown” deals with this the second time around.

.....Joan Craymer



## New Members.....

We are happy to greet the new members starting for Term 1 and hope they all enjoy being members of our friendly Club. Please give a warm welcome to our new members listed below.....

Sheila Benjamin  
Lex Brown  
Margaret Burke  
Patricia Collins  
Cheryl Earl  
Margaret Harrison  
Chae Suk Ko  
Paraske Kokkoris  
Diana Kraus  
Marilyn Morris

Catherine Murray  
Lavinia McIntosh  
Margaret Nicholson  
Judith Ozanne  
Shirley Rose  
Jean Smith  
Joan Sweeney  
Jenny Taylor  
Lance & May Walker  
Ita Wright



**“No Passengers”**

**Digital Photography Group  
February Photo of the Month**

**From Patricia Beal**

**Topic: “Means of Transport”**



***Don't forget our Interest Groups have resumed for 2012. See page 8 of this Newsletter for all the details including the contact phone number for enquiries.***

***All members are welcome, so come along and join these friendly, relaxed groups and expand your knowledge at the same time!***

## Dates to Note in 2012 - add to your diary now

	Enrolments Open		Computer Class Dates	Weeks
	Start	Finish		
Term 1			Mon 6 Feb - Thu 5 Apr	9
Term 2	Mon 12 Mar	Fri 23 Mar	Mon 30 Apr - Fri 29 Jun	9
Term 3	Mon 4 Jun	Fri 15 Jun	Mon 23 Jul - Fri 21 Sep	9
Term 4	Mon 27 Aug	Fri 7 Sep	Mon 8 Oct - Fri 7 Dec	9

**Our Next Meeting - Wednesday, 21st March 2012 at 10.00 am**

**All members are welcome to attend these Interest Groups**

### **Genealogy Interest Group**

The next meeting will be held in the Foyer Room on

**MONDAY, 20th February 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Topic: "Immigration and Shipping"**

(Contact: Jean Barringham)

**(The following Meeting will be on Monday, 19th March 2012)**

### **Creative Writers' Group**

**MONDAY, 5th March 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

when the subject is **"One Step at a Time"**

You don't need a story, come along to listen and enjoy the company!

(Contact: Joan Craymer)

### **Digital Photography Interest Group**

**MONDAY, 5th March 2012 at 1.00 p.m.**

The topic: **"Patterns"**

Please bring along your photos on a flash drive.

(Contact: Patricia Beal)

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This month's Newsletter compiled and printed by Gwen Bradford and friends

