



Open Windows @ Epping

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

Visit us at



Jacarandas are out in my garden and neighbourhood, generously showering the lawns with their blossoms. As they finish, the same colour appears in the agapanthus blooms, which usually last till Christmas. Other areas will soon show flame trees or poinsettias, spreading their bright red colour much more obtrusively than Christmas bush. Bright colours both, for a season of brightness and the sharing of warm feelings with those close to you.

Preparations for the Festive Season can include the cooking of food, buying and wrapping of presents, perhaps becoming involved in preparations at your Church or other groups. My memories of Christmas certainly involve "helping" my mother make a Christmas cake and Plum Pudding. Well in advance, all the fruit and other ingredients would be bought. The pudding was boiled in a cloth for hours - and indeed I still make a pudding that way. Then, it was a chook which was cooked; these days it is much more likely to be turkey. And seafood is a very popular addition or replacement, much more suited to our climate. Of course other cultures have their own traditions for food and indeed any festivities, whatever their beliefs, and our country is richer for their presence.

When I attended 'work' functions, I appreciated the opportunity to try out the varied, often strange, foods that were brought by those who grew up with different customs and foods. I was fortunate that people worked there who had come as migrants to this country, been welcomed, and felt secure and valued for themselves. So they felt encouraged to share their differences with us, while they were learning about our traditions. We are indeed fortunate to live in our country, as I am reminded each time I go travelling. I do enjoy seeing and experiencing (to whatever extent) other places and cultures, while always being happy to return home afterwards.

As we wind up our Club activities for the year, we may be thankful for new or extended computer skills we have gained, or be grateful that we have had the opportunity to share our enthusiasm for some aspect of using a computer or other device. Regular attenders at our General Meetings have enjoyed, and been stimulated by, various Guest Speakers. Those attending our Special Interest Groups have certainly shared their skills of communicating by words or images, or extending their uses of their devices for

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CONTACT LIST
Elected Management Committee

Patricia Beal	President
Bill Earls..	Vice-President
TBA.....	Secretary
Joan Tumminello	Treasurer
Maureen McDonald	Membership Secretary
Arnold Burling	Equipment Officer
Lynton Bradford	Webmaster

Standing Committee

Gwen Bradford	Newsletter Editor
Barry McLeod	Supplies Officer / Assets Registrar
TBA.....	Website Editor

Special Interest Groups

Creative Writing.....Joan Craymer **Photography**.....Patricia Beal

Contact for Welfare: Helen Gardner

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

**Each member of Computer Pals for Seniors - Epping Inc. is also a member of
The Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) www.ascca.org.au/**

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both utilitarian purposes or pleasure - maybe communicating with scattered family or friends.

In any case, this is one venue where we can find friendships and the shared pleasure of enjoying time together. Whether you will attend many Christmas functions or few, I hope you enjoy this one. Today it also involves the sharing of food, carefully prepared for our enjoyment together. Let it also be a time of sharing ourselves, our memories or knowledge. Our experiences, both of life and of our computers and devices, come from different starting points and needs, and I am sure there is something each of us can contribute, and something else which we could well learn.

I wish you all whatever blessings and pleasures you find, at this time of pausing and refreshment, of celebrating the year past, and looking forward (with whatever resolutions you may make) to another year ahead. May it be a year of enjoyment of whatever pleasures it brings, hopefully with good health. If it involves continuing or new commitments to our club, all will be welcome. If you come to learn, you will be equally welcome. Do talk with one of your Committee if you have any ideas how we can better fulfil your needs. And come back refreshed next February - after hopefully a very happy Festive Season!

.....Patricia Beal



Précis of Committee Meeting 7th December 2017



SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT UPDATE:

The new HP inkjet printer was installed and is working well. Cost of printer also included spare cartridges. The computers are giving minor problems and getting slower, probably due to their age.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

As advised last month, the speakers for Meetings February to April 2018 have been arranged by Shirley Holmes.

TRAINING:

A successful meeting of trainers, helpers and committee was held on 10th November. The program for Term 1 2018 was discussed and then finalised by Maureen McDonald. The timetable became available at the November meeting and weekly classes, with some enrolments already recorded. The Enrolment book will be available at the Christmas Luncheon.

WEBSITE:

The Club website has been updated with the latest information. Lynton and Gwen Bradford offered to continue until the next AGM. A volunteer will be needed during the year, to learn about maintaining the website.

SUPPLIES/REPLACEMENTS:

No items currently needed..

WELFARE REPORT:

Thanks to Helen Gardner, for sending her detailed welfare report of members contacted during the last month.

MEMBERSHIP:

Latest membership numbers not available.

ASCCA:

The recent ASCCA Conference was enjoyed by those who attended. Congratulations to our successful members in the ASCCA competitions: Patricia Beal for a 2nd Place and Highly Commended in Digital Photography and Malcolm Barnett, awarded 2nd Place for his story in Creative Writing.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- ♦ Constitution: Having been circulated and discussed, it was decided that no alterations were currently necessary.
- ♦ Key Register: Bill Earls now has all keys to the ECC accounted for and will prepare a list for the ECC. Spare keys are being held, pending distribution to tutors.
- ♦ Christmas Celebration: The committee discussed necessary preparations. The purchase of drinks has been organised by Bill Earls, Lynton Bradford and Alan Craymer. Patricia Beal will check with Marion Hope about supplies of small plates, plastic glasses, serviettes etc. Helpers are needed starting at 10.00 am.

**YES.....
WE ARE STILL URGENTLY
SEEKING A SECRETARY!!**

*Précis - Gwen Bradford
from Minutes prepared by Patricia Beal*





*The Digital Photography Interest Group
December Photo of the Month from Helen Gardner
Topic for the Month: "Open"
"Citrus Butterfly just Emerged"*

Meeting 21st February 2018

The Speaker for our first Meeting of the year will be.....

Lynton Bradford

Topic:

"Understanding the NBN"

Our Club Welfare



Helen Gardner is our Welfare Officer. If you know of any member who is unwell, or for any reason would welcome a card or friendly phone call from our

Club, Helen's details are on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Term 1 2018

5th February to 6th April 2018

Class enrolments are still being taken for Term 1 2018, **so check the Enrolment Book at today's Christmas Luncheon and put your name down for a class.**

The Timetable shows short courses starting on various dates during the Term and you are able to enrol in several of these if you wish.

Our website (www.cpepping.net.au) also has the Term 1 timetable included.

Enrolments (and enquiries) will also be accepted by emailing the special Club enrolment address below.....

enrolcpe@gmail.com

Creative Writing Report

The topic this month was **"It wasn't me"**. *"It made no difference to the Headmaster. Even when I was innocent I was still punished, but I have to admit there were times when I broke the school rules and got away with it."* This was the prelude to a delightful resume of our first writer's school life escapades.

Our next writer started off; *"It wasn't me who suggested we move to NZ - it was my wife."* We all enjoyed the story and photos of the snow capped mountains seen from the living room window (mid-Nov) and the upstairs AirBnB rooms that are proving so popular.

The wonderful red metal ball nestled in wood shavings was a post war Christmas gift that arrived by mail. *"What an opening it was! The smell was overpowering, the contents rancid and mushy. The last remains of a once delicious Edam cheese."*

We heard an interesting range of thoughts from our next writer. First she was concerned for the times she had felt great relief on hearing news of disasters. World conflicts, accidents and other horrific incidents - was she showing *"epic proportions of selfishness"* when she said; *"I'm glad that wasn't me."*

"When my grandchildren visit, I find household items sometimes change, are rearranged, broken, missing, spilt, drawn on, or tampered with out of curiosity. When I ask 'What happened here', the answer is usually, 'It wasn't me ... a mystery.'" A kind Grandma!

Well - it actually was - often our next writer who - as a new arrival to Australia - failed to understand strange Aussie meanings like, *"Bring a plate; See you later"*; and the implications of being invited to a *"Lamington Drive at the local Methodist Church."*

The next story was a rant by the author about not having been the one who chose the topic. The conclusion; *"It wasn't me and neither do I claim the copyright for this drivel. Anyone who wants it can have it!"*

We were in stitches of laughter- about the *"bullish man"* who threatened to sue the pharmacist for ruining his marriage by ringing his home and leaving a message with his wife about his Viagra prescription. When she rang him at his *"work conference"* to give the message, the phone was answered *"by the dulcet tones of his lady love for the weekend"*.

A series of admissions and denials of actions covering 76 years of life led to the sad time when our writer realised she needed to make family changes so that she and her family would actually remember WHO she was!

Next we heard a wonderful true story of self discovery. *"This is not a tale of misery or saying 'It wasn't me' having done or experienced an outlandish task of duty. It was me then, now seeing the humour and embarrassment of growing up."*

An old 'time poor' and stressed friend arrived for a quick pre-Christmas coffee date with our writer and her husband, looking worried. It was soon the remembrance of a long ago shared Christmas card experience that had both girls hysterical with laughter, while poor husband was still trying to work out what had happened. This was a reminder of *"goodwill, friendship, kindness and love! This was the Christmas Spirit."*

Next Meeting - Monday 5th February 2018.

The topic will be a really good one for starting the new year **"Your time starts now."**

Joan Craymer

ASCCA 19th Annual Conference & AGM - 2017 Competition Results

*Creative Writing
Congratulations - Malcolm Barnett
2nd Place - A Neighbour/Neighbours
"Doris My Friend & Other Neighbours"*



2017 ASCCA Competition Winners
Our Epping winners. Patricia - 2nd L back row and Malcolm - extreme R front row, shown with Joan Craymer, ASCCA Competition organiser - 4th L front row.



Joan Craymer with the bouquet of flowers presented to her on her retirement as Vice President of ASCCA. (See item from Nan Bosler in December ASCCA Newsletter).



Patricia Beal receiving her Photography Awards from ASCCA President, Nan Bosler.



Lunch break and time for a chat at the Conference.

*Congratulations to our successful Digital Photography entrant
Patricia Beal and her Award Winning Photographs
in the 2017 ASCCA Competition!*

*Patricia Beal
Highly Commended
Landscape/Seascape
“Transient Light”*



*Patricia Beal
2nd Place
Open section
“Beauty Underground”*



Audience at the 19th ASCCA Annual Conference listening to one of the Speakers.
Will we see you there for the 20th ASCCA Annual Conference in 2018?

Dates to Note in 2018.....add to your diary now

2018	Enrolments Open		Computer Class Dates	Weeks
	Start	Finish		
Term 1	Wed 15 Nov		Mon 5 Feb - Fri 6 Apr	9
Term 2			Mon 30 Apr - Fri 29 Jun	9
Term 3			Mon 23 Jul - Fri 21 Sep	9
Term 4			Mon 15 Oct - Fri 14 Dec	9

NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY 2018 AT 10.00 AM

Come along and join one of these Interest Groups in 2018!

The following Meetings are held in the Foyer Room

Creative Writers' Group

MONDAY, 5th FEBRUARY 2018 at 10.00am

Topic: **"Your Time starts Now"**

You don't need a story, just come along to listen
(Contact: Joan Craymer)

Digital Photography Interest Group

MONDAY, 5th FEBRUARY 2018 at 1.30pm

Topic: **"Christmas Holidays"**

Please bring your photos on a flash drive
(Contact: Patricia Beal)

These Meetings are held in the Training Room

iPads & iPhones Special Interest Group

TUESDAY, 6th FEBRUARY 2018 at 10.00am

(Contact: Maureen McDonald)

Android Tablets & Android Phones Special Interest Group

TUESDAY, 13th FEBRUARY 2017 at 9.30am

(Contact: Arnold Burling)

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

