

ParraChatta



Official Newsletter of Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors Inc. ABN 88 730 177 997
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President's message



Pete and I are just back from a very wet week on the Sunshine Coast, and it's lovely to be home again.

Your Management Committee made several important decisions at our June meeting. We have decided to transfer another \$10,000 from our cheque account to a term deposit so that we earn some interest to counteract inflation.

We have had some requests from members to use our photocopier, and have decided to charge 10 cents per page for black and white, and \$1 per page for colour copying.

We were asked by UNE to pay for carpet cleaning after our May meeting. In future, we will check the carpet before and after each meeting to make sure we are not paying for other people's mess. We will also provide paper plates for morning tea.

We decided to replace the two old laptops being used by Office Assistants and the Treasurer with new ones, as they are getting very slow. John Hain did a great job of researching the best

possible deal for us and making the purchase online. (For interest, we bought a Dell Inspiron for \$799 and a Lenovo IdeaPad 300 for \$999, saving the Club \$500 on the retail price.)

Dawne had a good response to her member survey about venues for lunches and field trips and is following up some of the suggestions. She will let you know when dates have been finalised.

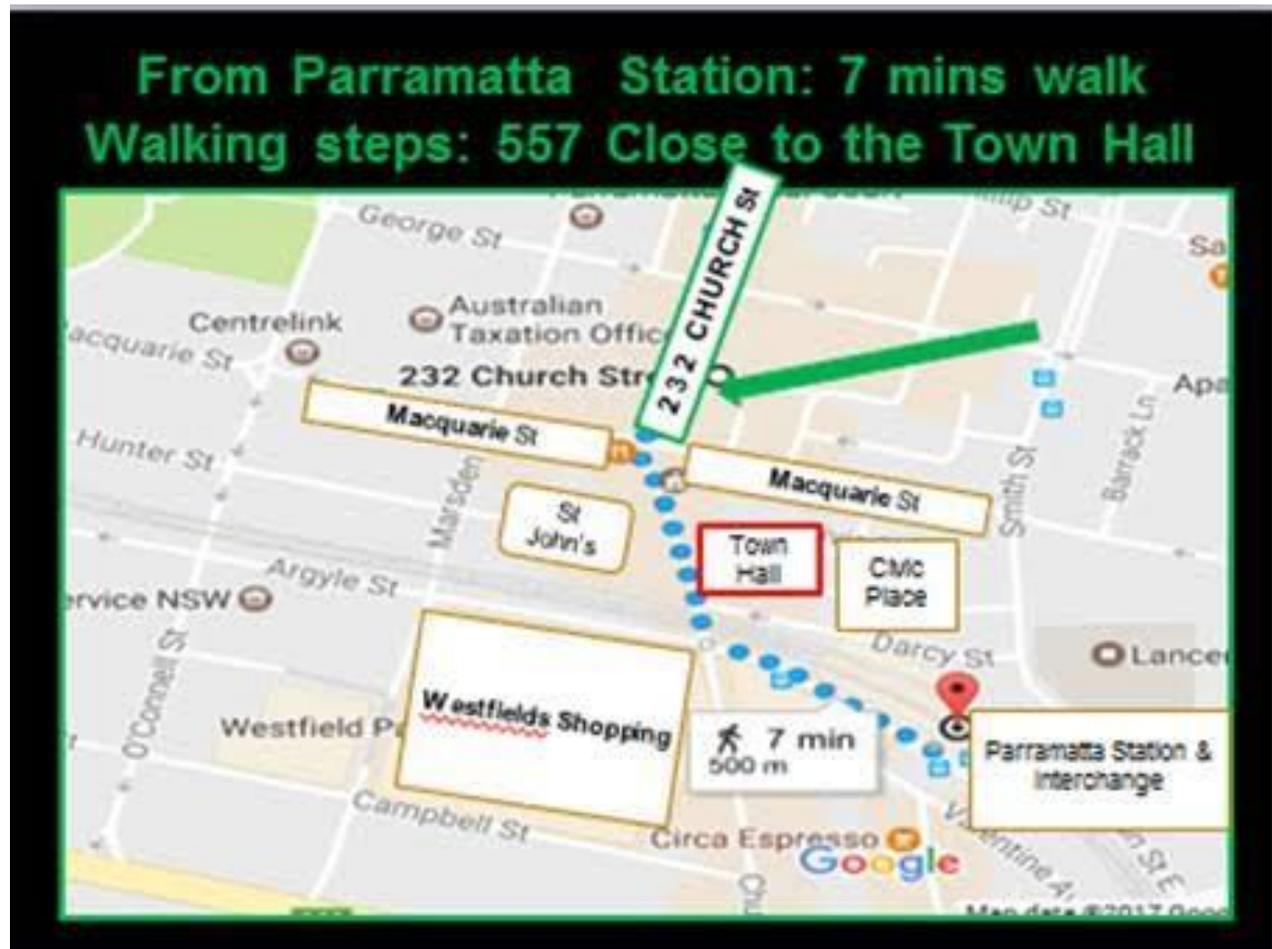
I would be glad to hear of any suggestions you have about guest speakers. We are looking for speakers on topics connected in some way to technology and seniors. Our June meeting is on Thursday, 22nd June. I will be demonstrating how we use Google applications to manage the Club and communicate with members and volunteers.

And as always, keep learning!

Deborah

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Monthly meeting on 22 June



The UNE entrance is near Greenway Arcade, right opposite the original sandstone Post Office.

Suggestion box



There were three suggestions this month.

Suggestion 1.
Can we have a course on transferring videos from VHS to DVD or computer?

Committee response: To do this, members will need their own machine. It is not a priority; however the course has been added to the waiting list.

Or you could use a company such as DVD Infinity, based at Pennant Hills – check them out at <http://www.dvdinfinity.com.au/index.html>

Suggestion 2: Can we have a course on My Gov?

Committee response: Agreed, information will be presented at a monthly meeting.

Suggestion 3: Can trainers ask what devices students are using before they book into a course?

Committee response: Trainers will specify what devices are covered by the course.

New Members in May

Please make the following new members welcome and tell them about our extra activities and meetings.

- Carol Ann Aston
- Robert Donnelly
- Dorothy Elliott
- Mariola Herbert
- Andrew Mercer

- Josephine Wong

We now have 274 members. (as at 9 June). Seventy-eight members have already renewed for next financial year. Well done loyal members.

New mugs



Rather than replacing the yellow mugs with the same colour, the management committee chose to go with royal blue this time. .

Day/ Time	Dates	Course
Term 3 2017 course schedule – Weeks 1-5 and Term 2 Week 10		
Thurs 1:15-3:30	29 June	eBay – Selling \$10
Mon 9:30-11:45	17,24,31 July	Files and folders \$30
Mon 9:30-11:45	7,14,21,28 Aug; 4 Sept	Android Phones and tablets \$45
Mon 1:15-3:30	17 July	Android Practice Session \$10
Mon 1:15-3:30	24 July	iPad & iPhone Practice Session \$10
Mon 1:15-3:30	31 July; 7,14,21,28 Aug	iPad & iPhone for Beginners \$45
Tues 9:30-11:45	16,25 July	Facebook for Beginners \$20
Tues 9:30-11:45	8,15 Aug	Facebook Beyond the Basics \$20
Tues 1:15-3:30	18,25 July; 1,8 Aug	Email \$40
Tues 1:15-3:30	15 Aug	Scanning – User session \$5
Wed 9:30-11:45	19,26 July; 2,9,16 Aug	Windows 10 \$45
Wed 1:15-3:30	19,26 July; 2,9 Aug	Keeping Your Computer Happy
Wed 1:15-3:30	16 Aug	Tech talk: Spotify (streaming music) \$10

Day/ Time	Dates	Course
Thurs 9:30-11:45	20 July	Scanning course \$10
Thurs 9:30-11:45	27 July	Digital Photo Editing Practice Session \$10
Thurs 9:30-11:45	3 Aug	Windows 10 Practice Session \$10
Thurs 9:30-11:45	10 Aug	Tech talk: Genealogy & DNA testing \$10
Fri 9:30-11:45	21 July	Windows 10 Practice Session \$10
Fri 9:30-11:45	28 July	Office Assistant Training (Free)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG), OUTINGS and MONTHLY MEETINGS		
Dates	Time	Event
Thurs 22 June and 13 July; 17 Aug	9:30 - 11:45am	Members meeting at UNE. Note: 4 th Thursday in June; 2 nd Thurs in July
Thurs 22 June, 27 July	1:15-3:30pm	SIG - Genealogy
Fri 23 June, 28 July	9:30 - 11:45am	SIG – Craft & Cards
Thurs 6 Jul, 3 Aug	1:15-3:30pm	SIG – Android Tablets and Smart Phones
Fri 4 Aug	9:30 - 11:45am	SIG- Windows 10
Thurs 13 July, 10 Aug	1:15-3:30pm	SIG – Creative writing
Fri 11 Aug	9:30 - 11:45am	SIG – iPads and iPhones
Fri 18 Aug	9:30 - 11:45am	SIG – Facebook
Fri 18 Aug	1:00-3:30pm	Trainers Planning Meeting for Term 4

Do-it yourself desks



An Ikea Flatpack being figured out by Dawne and her helpers John and Jon.

Two new desks – one for the trainer and one for the craft group – were purchased this month.

Digital Literacy Conference



Margaret Moxon and Prashanti Hagare represented ParraPals at the LEEP Digital Literacy conference at Blacktown in mid-June. We caught up with Richard Scenna from the app YourLink who was one of our speakers a few months ago.

One of the major messages from the conference was that learning which is fun is much more memorable.

Tips and tricks

Facebook messenger phone calls



Many of you use Skype for phone calls – interstate or overseas. Did you know you can do the same in Facebook

Messenger?

Open a conversation with your Facebook friend. Rather than typing a message, just click on the video icon at the top of the bar. It's exactly the same whether it's an iPad or tablet, iPhone or smartphone.

You can also make a group phone call. Just select the Facebook friends you

want to call prior to clicking the video icon.

Placing calls through the Messenger app may use your existing data plan. Please contact your mobile operator if you have questions about data charges for calling.

Old Movie Film – What to do with them?



Some of us, in our youth, made home movies using 8mm, super8mm, 9.5mm, or even 16mm cameras.

If you have such films stored away in the top of an old cupboard somewhere, do not abandon hope ever seeing them again, just because your movie projector doesn't work anymore (or is long lost).

These films can be digitised and saved as MP4 on a USB stick or portable HDD.

Recently I had several 8mm colour films digitised – some are in quite good condition, others quite badly degraded and washed out.

The service I used, www.digitaleyevideotransfer.com.au/ (currently rebranding as Reelbox Video & Photo Digitisation), is in Queensland.

Watch for discounts – I got a 50% Autumn Special – so saving me about

\$180 on the bunch of films I sent. Their price for digitising a small reel of 8mm (3 mins film) is normally \$20.



The company also transfers VHS tapes to digital file or DVD. You have a choice of sending them a 1 TB or smaller hard drive or a USB stick or they will supply.

There is still a chance to catch their 50% discount (expires 30 June).

Service was excellent, with update emails to register your films arriving, when digitisation was commenced, and when they were being returned.

There are, of course, local places you can use – even one in Horwood Place, Parramatta. But check their prices.

BTW, I found films I'd forgotten about and many happy memories from the 1960s.

Contributed by John Moxon

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Don't take us seriously



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Three quarters of our 2016-17 management committee shown above. Missing are Jon Bayley and John Hain. Front: Deborah; back from left – Silvia, Judy, Dawne, John Lee and Colleen.

President: Deborah Martin
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Vice president: Dawne Zotz

Secretary: Silvia Vega
parramattacps@gmail.com.au

Treasurer: John Lee

treasurer@parramattacps.org.au

Other committee members:

Jon Bayley – Training Co-ordinator

Colleen Burns

John Hain

Judy Joyce