

ParraChatta



PARRAMATTA
COMPUTER PALS
FOR SENIORS

Official Newsletter of Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors Inc. ABN 88 730 177 997

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President's message.

Parrapals turns 15 years old in January, 2021. This is a major achievement for a community group so I would like to congratulate all the volunteers and members who have kept this club going for such a long time.

The aim of the club to act as a peer-to-peer teaching environment is still an important role. Complete computer novices still come forward from time to time as people are given new devices (or hand-me-up devices from children and grandchildren who have outgrown them). At the other end of the training spectrum are those members who are confident early adopters of new technologies and skills.

The Management Committee had hoped that 2021 would be different to 2020 but, at least the early part of the year is likely to be a continuation of the same with varying levels of restrictions depending on numbers and the declaration of "hotspots".

We will continue to do our best to address members' needs and desires so that 2021 can be a positive learning and social environment for all of us.

You can email us at parramattacps@gmail.com, or use the Suggestion Box link in the News Update.

Deb N.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Members' Meeting.

ZOOM meeting of Members.

Friday 19 February 2021

Friday 19 March 2021

At the February Meeting, Annastasia Hadjitamera will talk about Stitch. Stitch is a new organisation devoted to encouraging links between different community organisations. Annastasia will give her presentation at the beginning of the meeting, before the formal reports.

Committee Meeting.

Full meetings via ZOOM

Friday 12 February 2021

Friday 12 March 2021

Note that at this stage the Management Committee has decided to revert to monthly meetings for Committee and Members as some/many people were "Zoomed out" by the end of 2020. However, the spaces still exist on the timetable so extra "special" members meetings can be run if desired.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Parrapals has planned a number of beginners level courses at the club rooms to accommodate those people who need help getting started. We hope to still run these courses as beginners find it very difficult to learn via Zoom. However, most Special Interest Groups and User Groups continue to be via Zoom.

To meet the needs of the more advanced end of the training spectrum, Parrapals has linked with BeConnected to access a wider range of courses and is now offering **"Supported Online Learning"**. This new support will allow a member to find an online course that they want to do, and then negotiate with the Training Co-ordinator to allocate an experienced trainer as a "support person" during that course. There is a Tech Talk on February 8th (commencing 10.00am) to look at the range of places people might seek online courses. The cost of this support will be based on Help Desk rates (\$10/hr) with the learner and supporter agreeing on the amount of time spent on a query and response.

As with all new ideas, we will see how Supported Online Learning works. Information about courses, SIGs/UGs and meetings is regularly sent in updates (using the Mailchimp program). If you are not receiving updates please email parramattacps@gmail.com with your information and we will amend our lists.

ASCCA News

ASCCA has released YouTube videos of many of the speakers from their 2020 Conference.

These can be found at;

<https://www.ascca.org.au/index.php/69-uncategorised/370-2020-conference-speaker-videos>

Or follow the links from the usual ASCCA home page.

BeConnected News

Beconnected has released a number of new videos on using social media (concentrating on FaceBook) as well as Zoom courses. There is one Zoom session on “Customising Zoom to suit you” which covers the use of different screens behind the

speakers. Great if you want to be elsewhere during the Zoom meeting.

How to Geek

www.howtogeek.com

This site has a huge number of videos/notes on all aspects of computing. It is worth a look to find some that interest you.

Scamwatch scamwatch.gov.au

Doesn't seem to have updated recently. Still concentrating on COVID related scams and sites that “impersonate” government departments.

Also remember that you can report a scam to scamwatch using the same webpage.

Australian CyberSecurity Center cyber.gov.au

has added a section on “Safety during Online Shopping” to their homepage which is very interesting. Unfortunately they are also reporting attempts to hack into their own systems. This is worrying as ACSC oversees defence and political systems in Australia.



Birthday Party.

A birthday party for the fifteenth anniversary of Parrapals was held on January 13th at the new Granville Centre, 1 Memorial Street, Granville.

Parrapals had Multipurpose meeting rooms 1 and 2 which combined to make a great space - with air conditioning and 2 small kitchen units for tea/coffee and cold filtered water. A smart board is included in the room cost which was quite reasonable.

Twenty-eight members attended which is good for these COVID-affected days and a great amount of delicious but not very healthy food was brought on plates by everyone.

Many Thanks to the people who volunteered for large and small jobs during the event. Especially Hazel

Labka and Dawne Zotz on food preparation, service and clean-up, Wal Hunter for fixing our Click-clack trolley and taking names at the entry and all the men who stacked chairs and tables when the event was finished.

John Lee was the volunteer (last minute) photographer for the party and some of his photos are included below.



A quiz on facts around the number 15 was used as an ice-breaker. The mathematics section was not well handled but people made a real effort to dredge memories out of the various sections of the brain in which they are held.





Chatting to real human beings
was great, even if we didn't get to
hug, mingle much or dance.



ParraPals Committee

President: Deb Neyle

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Vice president: currently vacant.

Secretary: Silvia Vega

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Treasurer: Colleen Burns

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Others: John Hain, Deborah Martin,
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Facebook editor: Margaret Tucker
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