

ParraChatta



PARRAMATTA
COMPUTER PALS
FOR SENIORS

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

PO Box 3102, Parramatta NSW 2124

(02) 8628 0947 Mobile: 0417 817 587

Website: www.parramattacps.org.au

Vol 15 No: 2, February 2021

President's message.

I apologise profusely for advancing the club by one year. It was, of course, our 14th birthday as we entered into our 15th year. All the other comments about what a great achievement this was for our club still stand. However, this gaff will allow me to use the same quiz as an ice-breaker next year. I will obviously expect much improved results due to the prior notification you have received.

The first term for 2021 commenced January 25 (then skipped the public holiday on the 26th) and is now in full swing again. With the changes in COVID distancing requirements we have increased the number of students in the classroom to 4 and a trainer.

We had 5 new members attend a "Welcome to Parrapals" sessions on

Thursday Jan 28 or Monday Feb 1. This is the best way to gain an overview of the club activities. Another welcome is scheduled for Feb 18 and then March 11 - so continue to talk to people about our club and keep the membership ticking upwards.

Deborah Martin graciously agreed to run an extra "Introduction to Zoom" class (Fri. 19 Feb) to allow these new members to join our Zoom meetings as soon as possible.

We thought that the number of new members reflected Christmas gift-giving (or post-Christmas hand-me ups) but then found that the Western Sydney Local Health Services Centre for Population Health was advertising Parrapals in their Stepping On program. This is unsolicited publicity but we willingly accept it.

After a virtual committee meeting, Bob Donnelly has been appointed as Vice-President (filling the vacancy left by me). He has a lot of experience with Probus club leadership and I look forward to his input to our club.

Di Bartok, from the Parramatta Times is writing a piece about PCPS for their February edition, so watch out for that.

PCPS had 2 events in conjunction with Stitch in February. Both were Tech Talks (Online Learning Resources and What's new in iOS 14). Both attracted the maximum number of 10 Stitch participants. This is great news for the club as we get our name out to a new audience and we can encourage Stitch members to join ParraPals. Fingers crossed.

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

Deb N.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Trainers' planning meeting

For term 2, 2021 - Friday 5 March

Members' Meeting.

Friday 19 March 2021

Friday 23 April 2021

Committee Meeting.

Friday 12 March 2021

Friday 16 April 2021

Could all members please note the trainers' planning meeting. You will need to have your course requests in the suggestion box (real, via an update or by email to parramattacps@gmail.com) by at least Thursday March 4.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

In the early part of the term, it appears that a small(ish) number of people are enrolled for a large number of courses each. This reflects the content of Term One with a number of introduction level courses for people with new devices.

Scanning sessions filled very quickly this term, so we may increase the number of these sessions next term (trainers willing).

We were able to slot our new members into the introductory courses in Term 1, which is excellent.

We are still looking for volunteer office assistants. These very useful people answer the phone and deal with at-the-door enquiries about the club so that the trainer doesn't have to leave the students. If you are interested, please contact Colleen Burns on the treasurers email below.

Information about courses, SIGs/UGs and meetings information 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



[New people at ASCCA.](#)

The new President of ASCCA (after the resignation of Nan Bosler) is Jennifer Wilcox. Jennifer has been an ASCCA director since 2011, after starting and developing the Walpole Seniors Computing Club since 2007. Walpole is a small town on the south coast of WA. Jennifer is strongly involved in SWADE (Senior West Australian Digital Experience) Inc. which is now also extending to the Northern Territory.

With Jennifer in the photo above, is Dr. Scott Hollier who has recently been appointed as an ASCCA director with specific responsibility for accessibility. Scott will be submitting some information about accessibility to the monthly ASCCA newsletter so that will be useful. If you have questions about accessibility issues, Scott can be emailed at scotthollier@ascca.org.au.

BeConnected News

Beconnected is advertising new courses in Smart Homes, Social Media Apps, Buying and selling online and How to use Zoom. These courses are free.

If you need it, you can arrange the support of a Parrapals trainer while taking these Beconnected courses

by contacting the Training Coordinator at hazel44auburn@gmail.com.

How to Geek

www.howtogeek.com

Has an interesting article related to the “retirement” of Adobe Flash. This will be most important to people who play online games.

After reminding people that the program was retired due to security reasons, How-to-Geek offers a pathway for continued use of the product. It is located at.

<https://www.howtogeek.com/707830/how-to-use-adobe-flash-in-2021-and-beyond/>

This may not be relevant to you but imagine the kudos to be gained by telling a grandchild who is lamenting the loss of their favourite game how to restore it.

Scamwatch scamwatch.gov.au

Although the homepage for Scamwatch has not been updated, there is a side panel showing up-to-date scam problems.

For example, on **Jan 20** a warning arose about **Remote access scams** - people offering to fix a “problem” on your device by taking control of

the device and charging you to get it back. Then on **Jan 21st** a scam was started pretending to be the Australian Domain Administration (auDA) targeting people with websites. **Jan 22nd** had dozens of people reported new Optus Impersonation scams. **Jan 23rd** produced a phone scam based on eBay purchases. And **Jan 24** produced another attack on AuDA.

And that's one week.

Australian CyberSecurity Center cyber.gov.au ...

Has an excellent series of articles at;

<https://www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/individuals-and-families/protect-your-devices>

about preventing scams on your devices and also actions to take if you have been caught by a scammer. Worth having a look at, even if you are an experienced computer user. Going back to basics can help.

Some Great Disability Podcasts ideas.org.au

[The Disability Download \(UK\)](#) with current topics, shared stories and open conversations about disability.

Adaptdefy meets people who defy what they and others thought was possible. Talks about tools and equipment, mindset, to strengthen the adaptive community and increase freedom.

Chronically Fully Sick (Chloe Sargent/Joanna Nilson) “about chronic illness, the wondrous joys of unrelenting pain and all sorts of generally silly and straight-up rude garbage. (You have been warned).

ListenABLE(Dylan Alcott/Angus O’Loughlin) speaks to people with a disability about their lives and asks them questions you thought were off-limits in a podcast.

One in 5 (Melbourne Disability Institute) talks with people with a disability about experiences with employment, housing, the law, supporting families and early intervention

VALID podcast regular commentary and updates on VALID’s work, chats with people who share their stories about disability.

Blind Citizens Australia covers personal stories, mental health and diversity.

The Future is Inclusive 10 part podcast, aiming to build empathy and understanding among all the Parrachatta Vol 15, No. 2

people involved in the support of a person with disability

The Purple Orange podcast a mix of first-person stories, discussions and exploration of issues relevant to the disability community

Disability Done Different conversations that happen when passionate people aren’t afraid to speak their mind.



Cartoon of the Month (rd.com)

ParraPals Committee

President: Deb Neyle

pcpstrainerdebn@gmail.com

Vice president: Bob Donnelly.

Secretary: Silvia Vega

parramattacps@gmail.com

Treasurer: Colleen Burns

treasurercps@gmail.com

Training Co-ordinator: Hazel Labka

hazel44auburn@gmail.com

Others: John Hain, Deborah Martin, Richard McQueeney, Dawne Zotz.

