



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

President's message.

Dear All,

Parrapals is winding down towards the end of **another** interesting year. Still, none of our members (as far as we know) have caught COVID-19 which is a great thing, but COVID has caused significant disruption to our club, as it has to many community groups. There have been very few formal classes in the second half of the year. This has affected our income but more importantly has affected the regular contact and social enthusiasm which has been a feature of Parrapals.

As I am writing this, a new variant, Omicron, has entered Australia in small numbers. I sincerely hope that Omicron follows the path of

many mutating viruses - to be more infectious but less dangerous. Viruses do this because they need a body cell to replicate, so if the disease kills the person the virus dies as well. Fingers crossed - the politicians are convinced there will be no further lockdowns so Parrapals will plan for that future.

Our rooms at The Granville Centre (Mondays and Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am and 11.30am-1.30pm as well as Fridays 10.00am-12.00am) have been moved upstairs due to the NSW Dept. of Health taking over the ground floor. Our new rooms are still fully accessible and the training room has 18 Windows-based computers and a big screen etc. It should be fun.

We will also be using the move to Granville as an opportunity to advertise to attract new members.

Of course, we still have the current Parramatta rooms until June so Term One and Two will also be run there.

The new building 5 Parramatta Square (5PS) where the library and community rooms will be located is expected to be available by June but M'leigh Brunetta from City of Parramatta Council (PCC) says that the Library will be moved and settle in before community groups, so there may be a break of 4-6 weeks between losing our free location in Fitzwilliam Street and moving to paid rooms in Parramatta. We have no indication yet from PCC what these rooms in Parramatta will cost. The Management Committee will have to consider the cost of rooms in the pricing of courses. While we have considerable funds available to subsidise member costs, we cannot run the club into the financial ground over a couple of years and then look at our costs v. prices set-up.

There have been some new additions to Management Committee as a result of the AGM.

Lana Crotty, Brian Deacon and Nikki Miani have joined the committee with Silvia Vega and Dawne Zotz "retiring" after many years service. Deborah Martin has stepped into the Secretary's position and Lana Crotty will assist Colleen in her role as treasurer. It is always great to have renewal of a committee, especially in this period of change for Parrapals.

On that happy note, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that you are able to meet up in person and even chance a hug or two.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who kept the club running during 2021. Parrapals would fail without you.

Please remember you can email us at parramattacps@gmail.com, or use the Suggestion Box link in the Parrapals Update.

Deb N.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Members' Meeting.

Friday 21 January 2022

Please note; There is no members meeting in December - social event instead.

Committee Meetings.

Friday 10 December 1.15pm

N.B. an actual meeting in our rooms

Then

Friday 14 January 2022

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Training Coordinator, Hazel Labka

A great strength of Parrapals during the COVID impact has been the special interest groups and user groups that have moved to Zoom. Deborah Martin and Julie Nixon have been standouts in this area and I thank them profusely.

I have obtained a list of all the new members who joined in 2020 and 2021 and may not have seen the best of Parrapals yet. I am contacting them all to get a sense of the type of courses/information that they need. We are hoping to establish mostly beginners' courses at the Granville

Centre - to attract our 2020/2021 new members as well as a new pool of entrants from the local community.

We have also booked two days (Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 January, 2022 9.30am-1.30am) for open days and orientation at the Granville Centre. So, if you are going to be a trainer/assistant trainer at this centre, (or think you might be at a later date) please enter one of these dates into your diary so that we can go through the setup at Granville. One of the time slots will also be open to all existing members to check out the facilities that Granville offers if you have not done so already.

Due to the split sites for training in the first half of 2022, PCPS would welcome any member who would like to volunteer as an assistant trainer. Training will be provided. Please contact parramattacps@gmail.com .

ASCCA News

ascca.org.au

The ASCCA webpage now has all the talks from the Annual Conference in October up on their website. If you were unable to sit through the six hours of Zoom meeting, this is a manageable way

to access the quality information given. There is a progressive timeline so that you can reach the sections that interest you most.

If you haven't been to the ASCCA site recently, it is also worth checking out the "Self-Help links" - these give you access to the web addresses of many useful government and educational sites.

PCMag au.pcmag.com has a good article on the pros and cons of moving to Windows 11 as your operating system (provided that your computer is quite up-to-date). Windows is quite strict about the compatibility requirements for Windows 11 but some users are reporting that they can download 11 to supposedly incompatible PCs.

Scamwatch

Scamwatch.gov.au

Has a new article "**Watch out for fake online deals and avoid scammers this sales season**" which was posted on 22 Nov 2021 and included the information that Australians have already lost \$12.9 million in

2021 and the Christmas rush is still to come.

Scamwatch stats show that the 35-44 age group lead the way in financial losses but the 65+ year olds are also very affected. The most scammed product this year is pets - probably because the isolated population wanted a pet. Don't send any money for a pet purchase until you have seen and held the real pet that you are buying.

Australian CyberSecurity Centre

cyber.gov.au has a series of step-by-step guides to essential computer and device actions like backing up your devices and setting automatic updates. Both these actions are defences against viruses and scams. The quiet period of Dec/Jan is just the time for these activities.

The specific link is <https://www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/individuals-and-families/step-by-step-guides>

If you have any difficulty following the guides, you can always ask for a help desk with an appropriate trainer. Email Hazel at parrapals.training@gmail.com

Trove -

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/> has digitised 180 years of Jewish newspapers in Australia that might be interesting for your family tree, or just for general reading.

Beconnected...

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au> has a new course on fun things to do with your photos. It is in six parts

1. What you can do with your photos.
2. Understanding image properties
3. All about photo editors
4. Using a photo editor
5. Creating a gift from a photo
6. Managing and storing photos

The specific link is

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/fun-things-to-do-with-your-photos>

National Library of Australia

enews@nla.gov.au

Is advertising their Treasures Gallery that has extraordinary holdings of the National Library of Australia. From maps and rare books to manuscripts, photographs, oil paintings and watercolours, this is where you will find many of the Library's most unexpected and unique items.

While we can actually travel to Canberra it would be worth a visit.

Joke of the Month

Whoever said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results has obviously never had to reboot a computer.

—William Petersen

Brain teaser for November

There are two clocks, one of which goes one minute per hour too slow and the other goes 30 seconds per hour too fast. If they both start at the same time, how long would it be before one clock was exactly one hour ahead of the other.

Answer: The faster clock gains on the slower one by the rate of 1 minute and 30 seconds per hour. After **40 hours** the faster clock will be exactly one hour ahead.

Brain teaser(s) of the month

The average calorie intake by adults in Australia is 2,250 calories. BUT on Christmas Day that rises to 7,000 calories - more than three average days. So this brain teaser is appropriate.

Beatrice ate two-thirds as many cakes as Annabel would have eaten if Annabel had six more than half as many as Beatrice would have eaten if Beatrice had eaten three less than Annabel

would have eaten. How many cakes did Beatrice eat?

You have the whole Christmas break to work on it.

Community Corner.

1. From Julie Nixon

A December **users group for Apple devices** will be held on Monday December 13 commencing at 2.00pm via Zoom. The session will finish by 3.30pm. A zoom invitation will be sent to all members.

2. Research Opportunity

Hello, I write to you as you are on our database as an interested person in research taking place via the MARCS Institute Aged Lab.

- We are running a study for adults over 60 years+ to learn the piano keyboard over a period of 4 or 8 weeks.

- The sessions take place twice per week from end January through to March 2022.
- I've attached the participant information sheet for your information and our advert so you can read more.

If you would like to be considered for this research study, all we ask is that you don't currently play the piano and have not received music lessons in the last 2 years to learn the piano.

Please [register your interest via this link](#) and we'll be in touch to seek your formal consent.

Many thanks for your consideration of this research study. Warm regards,
Anita

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