



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

President's message.

Dear Members,

October already - the year is passing without us being able to achieve much as we are in lockdown, still...

The NSW government has released \$50 Million dollars from the sale of the M5 (which western sydney residents will repay in road tolls over the next 40 years) to support the re-opening of business and services in western Sydney. Parramatta City Council is one of the councils that benefit, so I have written to all Parramatta City Councillors requesting that, at least some of these funds be directed to the support of not-for-profit groups that have been badly affected by the

lockdowns. Specifically, I have asked that they consider the development of an administration and storage hub for community groups to complement the rooms available in 5 Parramatta Square and elsewhere. Admin and storage are essential parts of running a community group but the hour-by-hour hire of PCC rooms does not support these functions.

We are an equipment based club with computers/monitors etc. that are not suitable for being packed up at the end of each session. We are moving towards having greater flexibility with tablets and laptops but these will still require secure storage somewhere accessible.

We now know that the Council does not intend to renew the lease on Fitzwilliam street after June,

2022 and there may be a gap between the closure of our current rooms and the opening of 5PS.

I have been in contact with U3A, which also uses rooms on our floor. They had not been told of the change and, after discussion with PCC staff, have decided to move to Granville. This is not surprising but every community group that moves diminishes Parramatta's amenities for its residents.

On another topic, the private Facebook page (members only) is a venue for all members to share information that they think will be of interest to other members. These posts don't have to be computer related. Although it is private, posts on this page do affect the feelings of members towards the club. Therefore, people should think about the positivity, accuracy and relevance of items they post.

The private Facebook page has 4 approved administrators. These people will either contact the person directly before a post is deleted OR leave an email message at parramattacps@gmail.com with the reason for removal, again

before the post is deleted. This way people doing the posting will become more familiar with the "feel" of the Facebook page and the administrators will need to explain any deletions before they occur. I hope that this settles some recent problems and our private Facebook page is a respectful space for all members.

On a lighter note, PCPS is making arrangements with Parramatta and Toongabbie Probus Clubs to undertake computer classes for their members. Robert O'Donahue, from Parramatta Probus, is currently surveying his membership to find out about their needs. This is very exciting, and should also be financially beneficial.

On a much lighter note, the September Quiz - via Zoom covered the topics of Sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. The brightest participant overall was Carole Davison, with Yvette Alford winning the 65-74 year category, Bev Piermont winning the 75-84 category and Ruth Cameron winning for the over 85s. Congratulations to all the winners.

Participants were asked to contribute topics for the next quiz.

At the moment it looks like a quiz on Australiana - including old films (1940-1970), old music (ditto), history, geography etc. as suggested by Bev Piermont. It should be fun. I promise to be a bit more gentle with the questions - to reduce the groans from participants.

Stay safe at home until we are able to meet in person again.

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 15 October 2021

Commencing 2.00pm via ZOOM

Following meeting date is;

Friday 19 November 2021

NB This will be the AGM for Parrapals.

Please put these dates into your diary and keep an eye out for further information.

Committee Meetings.

Friday 8 October

Parrachatta Vol 15, No. 8

commencing 2.00p.m via zoom

Further date 12 Friday November

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Training Coordinator, Hazel Labka

We continue to be member-driven so be sure to approach the training coordinator, Hazel with any questions or needs.

The training coordinators direct email is

parrapalstraining@gmail.com.

The Training Planning meeting for Term 1 is on the afternoon of the 26th of November. We will be working on the assumption that face-to-face classes are running commencing Feb, 2022. SO... please email your requests for training to the suggestion box (parramattacps@gmail.com) or to the training coordinator on the parrapalstraining@gmail.com address.

ASCCA News

ascca.org.au

ASCCA is promoting their conference and AGM which will be via Zoom on November 10th, 2021. The Conference runs from 9.00am-

4.30pm and the AGM follows straight on from that.

Tickets are available at <https://events.humantix.com/ascca-2021-conference>

ASCCA Zoom Courses for October include

- Tues Oct 5 commencing 12.30pm Photobooks (fee payable)
- Mon Oct 11 commencing 12.30pm Android basics (free)
- Mon 18 Oct commencing 12.30pm Windows 10 basics (free)
- Mon 25 Oct commencing 12.30pm Public libraries' digital resources (fee payable).

ReviewGeek

www.reviewgeek.com

Review Geek this week included an interesting article on Artificial intelligence and the Law.

A UK appeals court [just ruled](#) that AI systems cannot submit or hold patents, as software is not human and therefore lacks human rights. Several courtrooms around the world have come to the same conclusion, despite the efforts of a very enthusiastic inventor.

Dr. Stephen Thaler has repeatedly filed patents on behalf of his AI, called DABUS. He claims that this AI should be credited for the inventions that it's helped to produce. But patent offices disagree. After Dr. Thaler refused to resubmit his patents under a real name, the UK Intellectual Property Office pulled him from the registration process.

Our friend Dr. Thaler responded by taking the Intellectual Property Office to court. And predictably, the body rejected his case. So Dr. Thaler made an appeal, and again, he lost.

In her [ruling against the appeal](#), Lady Justice Elisabeth Laing stated that "Only a person can have rights ... a patent is a statutory right and it can only be granted to a person." And she's correct. Patents exist to prove or disprove that someone has stolen an invention or idea, thereby protecting your right to hold intellectual property. (Patents can also [violate your rights](#), but that's another conversation.)

And no, Dr. Thaler isn't a compassionate guy trying to defend his AI's rights. In his patent applications, he claims that he *owns* the DABUS AI, and should therefore control its intellectual property.

Conversations about the rights of AI will grow more complicated in time. But as of today, they're pretty cut and dry. That's why judges [across the world](#) keep coming to the same conclusion—AI can't hold patents.

Interesting, but it will also be interesting to see how many organisations try to have this decision overturned in the future. If your AI is continually improving itself, when does it become the developer of new functions???

Scamwatch

[Scamwatch.gov.au](https://scamwatch.gov.au)

is reporting new scams where the scammers are pretending to be Australian Federal Police or Australian Border Force. The scammers describe “suspicious activity” on your bank accounts and then ask for information including Medicare card numbers, address and bank details. If you get to this point, the scammers then ask you to deposit money into an AFP account. Do not do this! Scamwatch has reported a record \$211 million in losses to scams **so far this year**, an 89 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, according to new data from Scamwatch.

Australian CyberSecurity Centre

cyber.gov.au

has a good section defining various types of cyber threat. The specific link is

<https://www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/individuals-and-families/threats>

Trove -

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

has a good section on ‘creating something’. This is a broad area on how to use Trove resources to produce a document about an area of interest. The specific link is

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/about/create-something>

Beconnected...

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au>

has a “Get Started” app to help you navigate your way through the many offerings on the site.

Beconnected courses are relevant to particular devices starting from absolute beginners needs and then extending to quite advanced programs. If you haven’t had a look at Beconnected yet it is well worth a look.

Beconnected describes the app this way...

Get Started is a mobile app designed to help you get an older friend or relative online in five simple steps. Here’s why you’ll love this app:

- Simple step by step process to guide you as you help an older Australian get online
- Fun activities, tips and tricks
- Watch videos to help you explain the basics
- Free online courses to build confidence
- Find local face-to-face support Australia wide

The specific link for the app is <https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/get-started-app>

Cartoon of the Month (from the New Yorker.)



Brain teaser(s) of the month

Answers to Brain Teasers for September.

1. Which is the only group of five letters below that can be rearranged to spell out a five-letter word in the English language?
 - a) APERM
 - b) OUBRL
 - c) EMNAP
 - d) ATEIL

Answer a) APERM becomes REMAP

2. What word comes next?

TUNEFUL
FEDERAL
REFUSAL

 - a) Astound
 - b) Fuschia
 - c) Success
 - d) Lantern

Answer c) Success - Each word commences with the fifth and then the fourth letter of the word preceding it.

Brain Teasers for October

1. What point of the compass is 112.5 degrees clockwise from north?
2. What number should replace the question mark in the following series?
6 3 19
5 7 ?
16 2 18 15

Community Corner.

1. Come to a ball at Versailles.

Yvette Alford sends this link to a video about a ball at Versailles. It is part of a much larger series about French Chateaux. It is really worth seeing. The link is <https://youtu.be/FOkx2qoovAY>

2. A Research Opportunity

Research Study Title: **Current perceptions of the effects of exercise on knee joint health in older adults.**

Researchers at UNSW are conducting a project about the beliefs of how exercise affects the health of knee joints in adults over 60 years of age. The research project is looking for people who want to take part in this

research who are over the age of 60 years. We were wondering if you would be able to forward the email below to your Parramatta Computer Pals for seniors members to complete, if interested.

Inclusion criteria for participants taking part in this study includes:

1. 60 years of age or older
2. Can read and write in English
3. Have the cognitive ability to answer survey questions related to their health

It will take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete the anonymous survey.

Direct link for this study is https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6x8hD6PY5YbGF4V

If you have any questions you can contact the lead investigator A/Prof Jeanette Thom on 02 90658837 or via email (j.thom@unsw.edu.au).

3. A Different Research Opportunity

I am a PhD student at Deakin University. We are currently recruiting adults aged 65 years and over to take part in a research study investigating optimal park design for encouraging active and

social use of parks. Participants are required to complete an online survey, to tell us about what design features they prefer in a park. We are interested in hearing from people with varied experiences and would like people who visit parks regularly as well as those who do not usually visit parks to participate. Every participation will be a valuable addition to our research and the findings could lead to a greater public understanding of park design for older adults.

I would be very grateful if you could assist us by emailing the study details and survey link to members of the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association. Participation in this survey is completely voluntary and all the responses will be kept confidential. After completing the survey, participants will get a chance to go into a draw to win one of five \$100 gift vouchers. It is anticipated that it will take about 30 minutes to complete the survey. I have also attached the study flyer along with this email for further details. This project has received Deakin University Ethics approval [HEAG-H 110_2021].

Here is the link to the online survey: <https://parkstudy.com>

I'd be very appreciative of any assistance you can provide.

Thank you kindly for taking the time to consider my request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Warm regards,

Chahana Paudel

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4. From Pam Ayres via Colleen Burns - try to read it in a Pam ayres accent.

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here we
can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any FaceBook
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth,
But we grew up in the 60s -
If you only knew the truth!

There was **sex and drugs and rock
'n roll**

The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!

Parrachatta Vol 15, No. 8

So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whisky, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So, let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide

To fit through the flaming gates!

**It is great to see a personality
endorse the topic of our
September Quiz**

5. The Internet Archive

(<https://archive.org/>)

has for a long time had a Wayback Machine where you can look back to earlier versions of a website. This covers the last 25 years of the internet.

Now (September, 2021) they have introduced a Wayforward Machine which attempts to predict what webpages will look like in the next 25, up to 2046. As some of us probably won't make it to 2046 it will be interesting to see what webpage designers think will happen. The direct link is
<https://wayforward.archive.org/>

ParraPals Committee

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