



The

Dialogue Box

January 2016

The Official Newsletter of

Carrington Computer Club for Seniors

Editor: Bill Reilly

Carrington Computer Club for Seniors for January 2016:

YOUR COMMITTEE IS IN URGENT NEED OF YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR WORKSHOPS.

First of all:

Let me apologise for not publishing a November issue of the Dialogue Box.

This was due to the fact that my wife and I have moved to Cobbitty.

We now reside at 10 Primrose Street Cobbitty in the Wivenhoe over 55's self-care Village.

The Opal Card:

Was the subject of our guest speakers at the October meeting.

Seniors can use the Gold Opal-card to travel all day for just \$2.50 on various modes of transport such as buses trains and ferries.

It is important to tap on and tap off as you begin and end each journey.

Opal cards have replaced paper tickets as of 1 January 2016, thus you will no longer have to worry about losing tickets or fumbling through pockets wallets or handbags to find that little piece of paper when the ticket inspectors come through Or when you are exiting the station or getting off the bus.

You can apply for your card by phone by calling 136725 or on the Internet and opal.com.au Opal cards can also be purchased from kiosks if you can locate one and also at many other outlets.

Payment for your trips can be

arranged by automatic debit or by topping up your account with a minimum of \$10 which can be done online or at ticket agencies

If perchance you lose your card it can be reinstated if it is registered, which you need to do when you apply for your card.

You can get detailed information from the Opal outlets or from the Opal website: opal.com.au

The presentation included a 3 minute "How to use the Opal card" video.

Our guest speakers discussed how members can get a card, use it and make the most of it, with a Q&A session after the presentation. Our presenters helped some members to apply for the cards after the meeting.

The team has suggested they can come back another day if residents are keen to order a card.

Members will need to have with them their: **NSW Seniors card, or their Pensioner Concession card (DVA and DHS) or for war widow/ers, their DVA Gold Health card.**

Find an opal card kiosk or railway station:

I searched around the opal website: opal.com.au and with quite some degree of difficulty I found that the Campbelltown railway station has a kiosk which sells opal cards however it appears that their hours are very limited.

There are a number of local outlets.

Woolworth Camden.

Camden Newsagency.

Wincamden Newsagency

Camden Petroleum,

30 Argyle St, CAMDEN. and

Narellan Newsagency,

Harrington Park Newsagency

Perhaps it would easier to use the phone number: **136725**, To

get more accurate information. There is also a short video on the website tab "get an

Opal card" Also the following text is listed underneath the video.

Gold Senior/Pensioner Opal card

There are two simple ways to apply: either online or by calling **13 67 25 (13 OPAL)**

Make sure you have your NSW Seniors, Pensioner Concession or NSW War Widow/er card handy to confirm your eligibility.

I have used this link and found it to be quite easy to operate I am now waiting on my card to arrive in the post.



Computer Room Duty Officer

The computer room will be open directly after the January Meeting, and will close at (3 pm.)

The computer room will not be available for open sessions until the day of our January Meeting

Australia Day 2016:

Australia Day is celebrated on January 26 each year and commemorates the first landing in Australia by Captain Arthur Phillip. Most Australians consider January 26 with national pride, flying the Australian flag from businesses, homes and cars. They attend festivals, fireworks, community and sporting events or gather for family barbecues at homes, parks or on the beach. The public holiday of Australia Day always occurs on January 26 no matter what day of the week it occurs. Many people become citizens of Australia on Australia Day at Citizenship Ceremonies across the nation. It is also the day that the Australian Government awards the Order of Australia to selected Australians, which is 'an Australian society of honour for according

recognition to Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or meritorious service'.

Naming of the Nation

The name "Australia" was first suggested by Captain Matthew Flinders, an English navigator and surveyor. He was the first explorer to sail entirely around Australia and identify it as a continent. "Australia" means "southern" in Latin. The continent was officially christened "Australia" in 1824.

The beginnings of colonised Australia

As a nation, Australia had a painful start. Under British rule it was initially intended as a penal colony. The ruling classes in 18th century England considered criminals to be incapable of rehabilitation. Their method of reprimand was to segregate convicts from the general population. In October 1786, Arthur Phillip was appointed captain of the HMS Sirius, and assigned to transport British convicts to the continent. His mission was to establish an agricultural work camp. Captain Phillip commanded a fleet of 11 ships and 1,500 passengers, including 700 prisoners. After an 8-month journey, they reached Sydney Cove.

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2015 Christmas
morning tea

Beginners guide to Cruising:

All aboard! There has never been a better time for cruising. If you're thinking of setting sail for the first time, here are some tips for a fun time at sea. Sit on the deck with the sun on your face and a glass of bubbly in hand. Gaze over blue bays and beautiful harbours, mighty fjords or shimmering reefs. Better yet, do it all without having to lug a suitcase, read a map, traipse from hotel to hotel or worry about where to eat.

Cruising is surely the ultimate in relaxing holidays and is now more exciting than it has never been, with something for everyone. Spectacular mega-ships cater to those hankering for glittering entertainment and a sociable nightlife. Boutique and river ships offer a more intimate atmosphere, while floating resorts cater to families or those holidaying with grandchildren.

Meanwhile, adventure cruises head to remote destinations, themed cruises absorb you in art history or culinary pleasures, and river cruises enable you to explore far inland. Have fun, improve your skills, indulge your enquiring mind: that's modern life on an ocean wave.

The only drawback is that so many options can be confusing. Don't worry. A good travel agent can point you to a cruise line that suits your interests and budget, and there's a wealth of information online.

Here's what to think about when booking your first cruise:

1. **Start early.** Last-minute cruise deals are becoming rare. Plan at least four months in advance to get the best price and cabin choice.

2. **Choose the ship.** Size, amenities, entertainment options, luxury levels and ambience vary greatly, so do your research.

3. **Choose the cruise.** Destination, style of shore tour and cruise length – from three days to many months – should be considered.

4. **Check inclusions.** Most package deals cover meals and onboard activities and entertainment. But you usually pay extra for drinks, shore excursions or speciality restaurants.

5. **Upgrade.** Pay for the best cabin you can afford, especially if marking a special occasion. A larger cabin, higher deck and larger external window (even a balcony) is worth the extra.

6. **Think about excursions.** Standard city tours can be enjoyable – and cheaper – on your own. Spend money on more interesting options, such as scenic flights or cultural visits.

7. **Make plans.** You don't have to pre-book shore excursions, spa treatments or speciality restaurants, but doing so beats the onboard rush and can save you money.

8. **Book travel insurance.** It covers you against costly cancellation fees, delays and medical emergencies.

9. **Extend.** Often you get little scheduled time in departure and arrival ports, so consider booking hotel nights, so you can relax before and afterwards.

Before you sail, you get a package of information giving details of your itinerary, ship and what to expect. Keep luggage to a minimum, since cabin storage can be limited. However, bear in mind that some ships have an evening dress code, while shore excursions may require recreational wear.

There's something thrilling about pulling away from the dock and setting sail. The first night usually comes with an extra buzz and party-like atmosphere. Next day, passengers settle into their own rhythm, whether it's a busy social round or quiet time for two.

Many people cruise just to enjoy

the resort-like facilities of the ship: not only swimming pools, spas, casinos and cinemas but everything from ice-rinks to climbing walls and croquet lawns. You can attend cooking or language workshops, dance lessons or trivia competitions. Comedy clubs, Broadway-style shows and circuses provide evening entertainment. It's entirely your choice to do as much or as little as you like.

Shore excursions are also optional so, if you want, you can stay on board or go ashore by yourself. These organised, pre-planned group tours cover sightseeing in ports, inland trips, or activities such as snorkeling, scenic flights, beach barbecues or white-water rafting. Time in port may be a few hours or the entire day and evening in larger cities.

Most of all, as you embark on your first cruise, don't worry too much: first-timer cruisers aren't uncommon. Cruise staff are generally very helpful, while regular cruisers – those old salts with the wind in their hair – are happy to explain how things work. Just relax and enjoy. If you think sailing into the sunset is something that only happens in romance novels, it's about time you tried it for yourself.

Start your cruising in Australia or New Zealand. From short trips to major journeys, large cruise liners to intimate ships, our own backyard offers an affordable experience for everyone.

To find out more about cruises in Australia and New Zealand, go to [*individual cruise-line websites*](#), or browse these useful pages:

www.cruisingaustralia.com covers Australia only, from the big ships all the way to scenic harbour cruises.

www.cruiseaway.com.au is clear and comprehensive, with a useful overview of cruise lines and destinations.

www.cruising.com.au includes the detailed itineraries of just about every cruise imaginable.

www.cruises.com.au has a news section to keep you abreast of the latest in cruising.

www.creativecruising.com.au highlights some smaller, more interesting cruise options.

This is an example of the articles that appear in one of the best websites devoted to seniors.

yourlifechoices.com.au

This is an Australian site devoted to items of interest to Australian seniors. It also carries a puzzle section which includes Trivia, Crosswords, Sudoku etc.

Take a look you may find another interest. I do the Trivia every day.

Jim Cook.

Workshops:

We are looking for people interested in participating in workshops run by Camden library, for connecting to library e-books facilities using iPads and androids and signing up to other library programs.

Also later in the year Brett Atkins has offered to come and help us with photos and video editing Brett was our guest speaker at a meeting late last year.

November meeting:

Our guest speakers were Telstra representatives, speaking about the NBN Internet and phone system. Having dealt with Telstra to have in the NBN connected in my new home I don't notice any difference from the ADSL system but would suggest that you leave installation to the experts even though it can be a little expensive.

Scams come in many forms:

I was searching a couple of things on the Internet recently on my phone and up popped a message saying your battery has been infected. I tried to close the window and it would not close. Then a blue button popped up saying "close at your own risk" (don't click blue things). Recognising it as an obvious scam I went back to settings on my phone and found the button to "close all tabs" I simply pressed that button then went back to Google to double check the situation and fortunately I had escaped the scam.

Just to be sure I switched the phone off then back on again and rechecked Google and found that it was all clear, so far no further dramas.

Whilst cleaning up recently we came across this little bit of fun titled.

Written by an eight-year-old.

a grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own, so she likes other people's little boys & girls. a grandfather is and then grandmother. He goes for walks with the boys & talks about fishing & tractors.

Grandmothers don't have to do anything but be there. They are old so should not play hard Or run & should never say "Hurry Up" Usually they are fat but not too fat to try children's shoes. They wear glasses & funny underwear & can take their teeth and gums off. They don't have to be smart only answer questions like why dog's hate cats & why God isnt married. They don't talk baby talk like visitors. When they read to us they don't skip bits & don't mind if its the same story over again. Everybody should have one, especially if you don't have Television because grandmothers are the only grown-ups who have the time.

NEXT MEETING

January meeting will be on
Monday 25th January 2016
at 10 am sharp.

in the Acacia Room,
Recreation & Leisure Centre

Morning tea from 9 am.

Don't forget to
wear your name badge.

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if unattended