**Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches Inc.**

**Training Coordinator’s Report**

**28th AGM**

**August 16th 2023**

The position of Training Coordinator over the past year has again been rewarding and challenging. We are certainly starting to recover from the COVID pandemic with student numbers slowly on the increase. However in saying that we are still way below our pre pandemic numbers. We have focused heavily on seeking new students and trainers through local publications, shopping centres, social media, Northern Beaches Council newsletters and various websites.

Term 3 2022 Started on the 18th July and finished on the 23rd September 2022. We had 61 students and 23 trainers student numbers pretty static when compared to the previous term.

Term 4 2022 Started on 10th October and finished on the 16th December 2022. 57 students were enrolled for this term numbers slightly down from the previous term. We still maintained 22 trainers even though a number of trainers were absent during this term.

Term 1 2023 Started on the 30th January and finished on the 6th April 2023. We started this year with 58 students and 23 trainers. Still fairly consistent with previous terms but student numbers well down on pre pandemic numbers.

Term 2 2023 Started on the 24th April and finished on the 30th June 2023. Student numbers are down slightly with 55 students registered and 23 trainers on board for term 2.

In term 1 we extended our training venues to include The War Vets, John Peachey is the coordinator of this side of the business and full details can be found in The President’s report. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate John on this initiative. It has proved very successful and will only grow from here.

We welcomed 7 new trainers this year, Lee Packer, John Chambers, Gerhard Zigmann, Graham Jarvie, Peter Moule, Michelle Breen and Patricia Novikoff. It has been wonderful to have so many new trainers on board and this has enabled us to maintain our trainer numbers when trainers are away for travel or health reasons.

The genealogy group on a Friday morning continues to flourish. Some wonderful work has come out of this group with a number of the students publishing books on their family history. Our thanks as always to the wonderful trainers who run this group being Ida Greenway, Selina Jackson and Thea Hall.

Trainer’s lunches at Dee Why RSL continue to take place on a quarterly basis; this is an opportunity for our trainers to get together in a social environment and proves very popular. Our latest lunch was held on the 21st of June 2023 with 20 trainers attending. Special awards were presented to Thea Hall, Ida Greenway and Selina Jackson for the work they do with the Family History Group. Ian White also received an award for his work on the Train the Trainer programme.

Our Christmas party was held in The Oaks Room at Dee Why RSL on the 7th December 2022. Our students and trainers enjoyed a full Christmas dinner and had lots of fun with the trivia competition. Long service awards were presented to the following trainers: Christine Smith 20 years, Peter Whalan 20 years, Greg Ennis 19 years, Paul Treichel 18 years and Alan Taylor 18 years. Special guests at the event were Michael Regan Mayor, Northern Beaches Council, Graeme Liddell, President Dee Why RSL and Shelia Zakhar-Malone Executive Manager Community Dee Why RSL. A big thank you to Dee Why RSL for providing the room, your support is greatly appreciated.

Our stand at the Seniors Festival Expo Northern Beaches in February was well attended. We did get one new student from the event and she was very pleased to tell me that she also won our raffle. A big thanks to Caroline Hamilton-Smith for organising the event.

The crime prevention team from Northern Beaches Police Area Command presented an Identity Fraud and Scam awareness session. This took place on the 11th May 2023 in The Tramshed Hall. We had over 50 people registered to attend and would like to thank Senior Constable Sandra Fraietta and her colleague for a very interesting and timely presentation. Thanks again to Caroline Hamilton-Smith for organising the event.

A special trainers lunch was held on Wednesday 15th March in The Bistro at Dee Why RSL to celebrate Graham Clark’s 22 years combined service as a volunteer with Computer Pals Manly and Computer Pals Northern Beaches. Graham recently resigned as a volunteer due to health issues.

We lost one our long time trainers this year, Greg Ennis passed away on the 11th April 2023. Greg joined Computer Pals as a volunteer on the 20th February 2003 some 20 years ago.  We were fortunate to acknowledge his long service with a certificate of appreciation at our Christmas party last year. I only got to know Greg in the last 10 years and he was a dedicated trainer thoroughly enjoying sharing his knowledge with his students. The feedback I received from students was nothing but praise; sessions with Greg were always at a premium with many students not wanting to give up their spot.

Statistically the training roster is as follows. Student/Trainer numbers have been: -

***2021/2022 training year 2022/2023 training year***

* Term 3, 2021 : N/A N/A Term 3, 2022: 61 students 23 trainers
* Term 4, 2021 : 55 students 21 Trainers Term 4, 2022: 57 “ 22
* Term 1, 2022 : 57 “ 22 “ Term 1, 2023: 58 “ 23 “
* Term 2, 2022 : 64 “ 22 “ Term 2, 2023: 55 “ 23 “

The club could not exist without the generous grants and assistance of Northern Beaches Council and Dee Why RSL Club. These grants have been responsible for the maintenance of the club as well as the introduction of new technology.

We also express our thanks to Allison Riddington at The Tramshed for looking after us so well.

We also acknowledge the support of a good functional committee and generous and community interested sponsors.

The club’s greatest asset are the Trainers who happily give up their free time to help seniors in the community understand the wonderful mysteries of the internet, email, different technology platforms, social media and much more. Without them we would not be able to offer this great service to the seniors in our community and I am truly thankful for each and every one of them.

I present this report to the 28th AGM for your consideration.

Anne Matthews

Training Coordinator 2022/2023.

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