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

**President**’**s Report – For 28th AGM**

**16th August 2023**

**This is the Presidential Report by John Peachey, for the Year 2022/23**

While still in the community, Covid started to have less impact and people were once again able to travel, we returned to face to face training in the Clubroom, but numbers were down. It appeared that students were reluctant to leave their homes however as time passes number of students attending have risen and the future is now looking better.

Business slowly returned to normal, and we applied for a number of grants to help us recover. Once again Dee Why RSL provided a grant, this time for Trainer Retention and this has been well used. We were given the grant partly in cash and partly in $25 vouchers. The latter have been very useful as prizes or as a token of recognition for trainers. We have had quarterly trainer lunches at Dee Why RSL, which have been well attended, and fun.

The Committee made the decision to recognize people and events within the Club. Long Service was recognized and a number of awards made to trainers as explained in the Training Coordinators report that follows. Certificates have been mounted on one wall of the Clubroom for all to see.

Members of the Committee have worked extremely hard during the year to attract new trainers, new students and getting the Club better known in our area. We have attended several Market Days and had trainers handing out flyers to attract newcomers. Frogmouth has provided some good leads which we have followed up.

Caroline Francis offered to take on the Treasurer role when the previous person left suddenly. She has done a fantastic job, introduced a new accounting package and worked with Jim Parker to make sure all the accounts are now in order. Caroline has been instigator of attending Market Days and making sure we have staff on hand to answer the questions people ask. She enjoys organizing things and with Caroline Hamilton Smith have put on several functions.

Market Day at War Vets was the start of a new venture for us. We were invited to participate in a Saturday morning hour long session held at the Gallipoli Building for their members to ask questions and get solutions to things that have been bugging them! We found that interest was overwhelming and after some very interesting talks with Suzie Spencer, Lifestyle and Activities Coordinator for RSL Lifecare Limited, we commenced to train on Thursdays in the Gallipoli Building’s Amy Taylor room between 10:00am and 3:00pm. We follow the NSW School terms of 10 weeks duration. Initially we had five trainers from our group in the Tramshed move to training on a Thursday at War Vets as well as their current load at the Tramshed. Two new trainers have been recruited to swell our numbers.

We have been flexible in the way we train at the War Vets with Term 1 following what we do at the Tramshed. In Term 2 we introduced new offers on top of the 10-week course. 5 and 3-week sessions are being picked up by students who have completed the 10 week course or who have some knowledge and only need a little more. We now also offer 1-hour sessions for those that know what they are doing but need a bit of fine-tuning. Term 3 has a good mixture of courses with a total of 21 students in total attending. We expect the shorter course numbers to increase as we move on into the term.

The 2022/23 Management Committee consisted of the following members with their functions listed below: -

President John Peachey

Treasurer Caroline Francis

Secretary Margaret Randall

Training Coordinator Anne Matthews

Committee Members Ian White

Judy Schey

Brian Mackie

Caroline Hamilton-Smith

After many years of writing minutes in her own language, well Pitman’s Shorthand, Margaret tells us, Margaret has decided not to stand for re-election to the committee and will take time out to travel. No replacement has been found yet so if anyone present wants a job this one is available!

Brian Mackie, too, has opted to not stand for re-election to the Committee. Brian has been a valued member of the Committee providing sound advice when required.

The time has come for me to step down as President. I have had tremendous support from all the members of the Committee and have thoroughly enjoyed working with them to achieve the results we have but, as Jacinta Arden said, “no longer have enough in the tank” nor the new ideas needed to keep the Club in the forefront of digital instruction for Seniors. I will remain in the Club and be “Immediate Past President” looking after operations at the War Vets.

As no one has volunteered for the President position we will run with it vacant until a suitable candidate can be found.

John Peachey - President

Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches Inc. 16th August 2023.