



News & Views



from the Tower

President's message

Many of you will have received an email on Friday, 23 August from vp@bsol.asn.au, advising of our Annual General Meeting in October. Unfortunately, the email was accidentally sent during testing of our replacement Membership Information System, using a Draft AGM Meeting template.

Luckily the details in the draft letter are correct, except the year should be 2019, not 2018! The vital details are:

Thursday 24 October 2019

1.00 pm for 1.15 pm start

Queensland Cricketers Club, 411 Vulture Street, East Brisbane, Qld 4169

You will receive another corrected AGM notice in a few weeks.

Our search for a new committee president took a positive turn when two people responded to an ad placed in *Volunteer QLD*. However, one has advised she is withdrawing and the other is proving difficult to contact, so it seems we may be no further ahead after all.

Ivan Kirk, who filled a temporary vacancy as Treasurer at the beginning of this year, has advised he will not stand for election at the AGM. During his time, Ivan has emphasised some of the risks that the Management Committee needs to consider. We may be a volunteer organisation, but we are bound by state government legislation. My thanks to Ivan for his time with us.

Recently four BSOL members attended a one-day conference in Sydney, hosted by [Leep](#), who through 'focussing on building digital skills and confidence, [we] work to close the digital divide and reduce social and economic exclusion'. A number of like-minded organisations attended. We discussed our challenges and swapped experiences. BSOL was the only totally volunteer organisation in attendance, although several of the others relied on volunteers for much of their work.

continued p. 2

September 2019

Editor: Lee Ellwood (news@bsol.asn.au)

October contributions by 25 September

Inside this issue

Coming up in September[2](#)

Let's meet ... Ron Horst[3](#)

Linux Group[3](#)

Management Committee[4](#)

The dreaded password (4)[5](#)

Digital Photography Group.....[6](#)

East Hub invitation[7](#)

Letter to the editor.....[7](#)

Mentor Support Group[8](#)

Banyo Library clinic invitation .[9](#)

Apple Group[9](#)

Brainteaser[10](#)

Hub contacts[10](#)

September happenings

See the online [Events Calendar](#) for details

Fri	6	Linux Group
Mon	9	East Hub Senior Learners' Clinic
Tue	10	Digital Photography Group
Thu	12	Apple Special Interest Group
Tue	17	Management Committee
Tue	17	Mentor Support Group
Wed	18	Banyo Library meeting
Thu	19	Western Suburbs Clinic
Tue	24	New Mentor Induction training
Wed	25	Newsletter contributions due

President's report (continued)

(from p. 1)

BSOL is also a highly self-directing and distributed organisation. Our Central Office processes memberships and the hub coordinators manage the assignment of learners to mentors. After that, our activity progresses through agreement between the learner and the mentor. I have always enjoyed the flexibility of this arrangement. However, we do need some management, and now we are seeking a president, a treasurer, and an IT manager.

If you have skills that could be applied to one of these roles and so help BSOL continue to provide digital learning to seniors, please consider nominating for a committee role. I'm happy to provide further information about what's involved. Contact me on vp@bsol.asn.au for more information.

Lastly, we'd love to see as many members as possible at the AGM to support BSOL's future.

*Ron Horst
Acting President*



'You can't see me!' - Alyson Muirhead

Coming up in September

BSOL members' and guests' clinics

BSOL conducts free monthly clinics for members and their guests in Brisbane City Council libraries. These clinics usually comprise a presentation followed by a discussion on topics that attendees want to raise. There's time to socialise over tea, coffee and biscuits, and guests are warmly welcomed. Here are September's scheduled clinics:

- **Carindale Library:** 22 September, 2–4 pm, hosted by East Hub. This month's subject is 'Watch this Space'. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Banyo Library:** 18 September, 10 am–12 noon, hosted by North Central Hub. The Nundah Rotary Club will be making a presentation on their 'Computers4Learning' program that provides refurbished computers to persons on low incomes. Click [here](#) for details.

BSOL Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

SIGs meet monthly in the [BSOL Office](#). They include the very popular Digital Photography Group, where you can learn how to improve your digital photography skills and get out and about on photo shoots with other group members. There are also other more specialised groups such as the Linux Users Group and the Apple Users Group.

- **Linux Users:** 6 September, 10.30 am–12.30 pm
- **Digital Photography:** 10 September, 10.30 am–12 noon
- **Apple Users:** 12 September, 10.30 am–12.30 pm
- **Mentor Support:** 17 September, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. This SIG provides advice and guidance to BSOL mentors, so attendance for this one is restricted to mentors.

Check the [BSOL Events Calendar](#) for details of these events and other happenings.

*Kevin Brown
Hub Liaison Coordinator*

Let's meet ... Ron Horst

During my IT career I have been a programmer, designer, Infrastructure Manager, Project Manager and Team Manager, with BHP, CSIRO and The University of Queensland. I finished with UQ at the end of 2014, and I haven't had paid work since. During 2015 I lived in Kathmandu for six months, doing a volunteer IT project for the Nepali government within Australian Aid. I arrived one month after the Anzac Day earthquake, celebrated the new constitution and struggled with gas, electricity and fuel shortages due to the Indian blockade. My project was not a success, but the experience was wonderful.

Upon my return, I spotted an ad in *Seniors News* for BSOL and joined as a Mentor in October 2016. I don't know why I was reading *Seniors News*, as I'm not yet 60! I enjoy the people I have met through mentoring. Everyone has a fascinating story. I enjoy solving problems or showing my learners how to do something. They help me to learn new things, too. My former CSIRO colleague, Paul Boulton, talked me into taking over his

BSOL vice-presidency in 2017. This role was never too onerous, due to all the work performed by our most recent president, Penny. I am currently nearing the end of a project to replace BSOL's ageing Membership Information System. Although stimulating, it has involved more work than anticipated. I would have been totally lost without the huge help of our member Gary Alcorn, who has performed many hours of testing.



At the moment I'm a little stretched: wrapping up the MIS project, acting as President, trying my best as IT Manager, and preparing for a trip to Western Australia from mid-September. By the time you read this, I will have completed a three-day off-track bushwalk along the Main Range from Spicers Gap to Teviot Gap, indulging my love of nature. Travel with my partner Robyn is my other passion, with a little environmental activism in my spare time. Never bored, and no daytime television!

Linux Special Interest Group

A small group of regular attendees met in August to chat about anything to do with the Linux operating system.

Pete updated us on his findings when trying to mount Google Drive in a Linux environment so that he could sync his Google calendar. He found that Google is not disposed to supporting the Linux world and is exploring other options.

Pete has also found that Audacity (an audio digitising program that's been around for many years) would not access his particular sound card. Not to be beaten, he found a similar utility—Pulse Audio—which has all the features of Audacity and *will* access his particular sound card.

Mal gave us an update on his home server installation and how he has arranged file synchronisation using a utility called [Syncthing](#), which is administered via a web interface.

Mal also gave us a rundown on [Snapcraft](#), which facilitates trying new software programs that are sourced from the Snap repository and run in a 'sandbox' (testing) environment.

The group is scheduled to next meet on the first Friday in September at the Gabba office and we welcome any BSOL member who'd like to join in.

Gary Alcorn

Management Committee

The Management Committee met on Tuesday 20 August with five members present.

President Penny Douglas and IT Manager Paul Boulton tendered their resignations to the Secretary on 21 July and 22 July respectively. Treasurer Ivan Kirk also will not be standing for re-election at the AGM in October, so the Management Committee will advertise these positions and hope to conduct interviews prior to the AGM. We thank these three officers for their considerable contributions to the Management Committee. The committee unanimously voted to appoint Ron Horst as Acting President until the AGM.

Ivan reported a strong performance on subscriptions for the month of July. The Management Liability Insurance policy is still under review.

Kevin Brown reported that an application has been received for the position of Hub Coordinator in North Hub. Gary Alcorn will follow this up.

On the IT front, Ron thanked Helen once again for her ongoing support with the upkeep of the office computers. Paul Boulton is willing to assist with any immediate problems and with the development of the new web site—thank you, Paul.

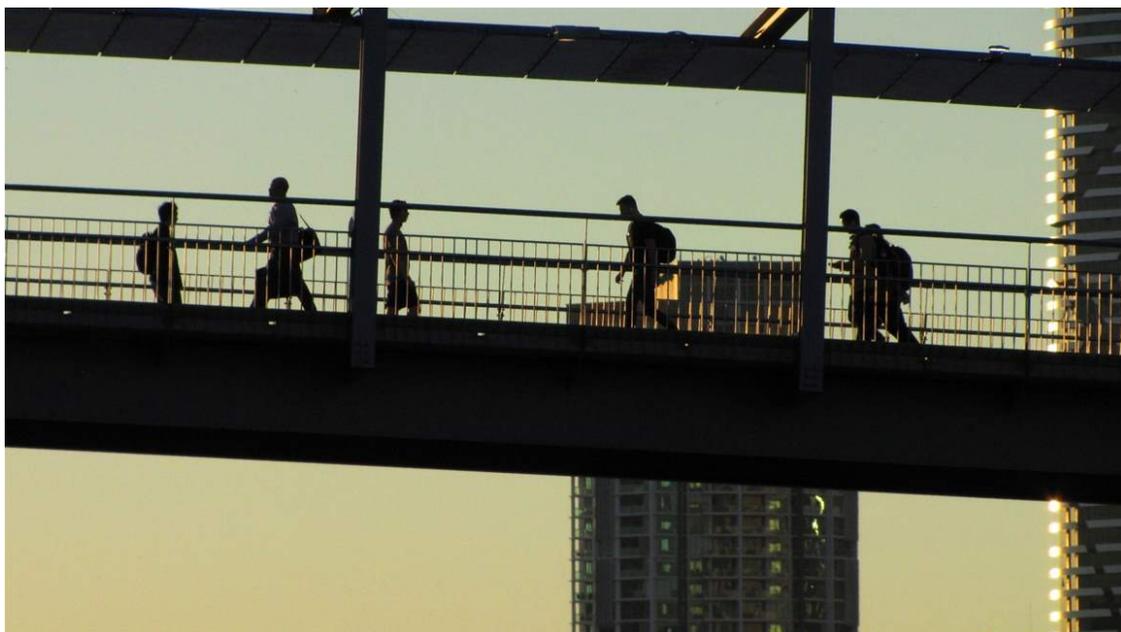
Ron reported that the new Membership Information System database is ready to be implemented on Tuesday 3 September, with a close-off of the old database happening from 23 August. Ron indicated that there could be some minor issues during this undertaking and asked for patience on the part of users during the changeover.

Membership as at 18 August was 760, which is a decrease of five since June.

Four representatives from BSOL attended a conference in Sydney on 'Digital Mentors: The Heart of the Digital Revolution', from which a report submitted by Steve Dixon was discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that Steve's mantra, 'social inclusion precedes digital inclusion', is worthy of note and should be borne in mind when thinking about the way forward for BSOL in general.

If you are interested in standing for election to the Management Committee as President, Treasurer or IT Manager, please contact either Ron Horst vp@bsol.asn.au or me – sec@bsol.asn.au.

Ethna Brown
Secretary BSOL



'Brisbane Commute' —Marilyn Hooper

The dreaded password! (part 4)

Have you seen the film *The Imitation Game* or watched any of the documentaries on wartime code breaking at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, in the UK? Most famous, of course, was breaking the code of the German military Enigma machine. If you like big numbers, the military Enigma has 158,962,555,217,826,360,000 different settings. That's nearly 159 quintillion, or really one heck of a lot. Yet the code was broken, and it's estimated that this alone shortened the war by two years.

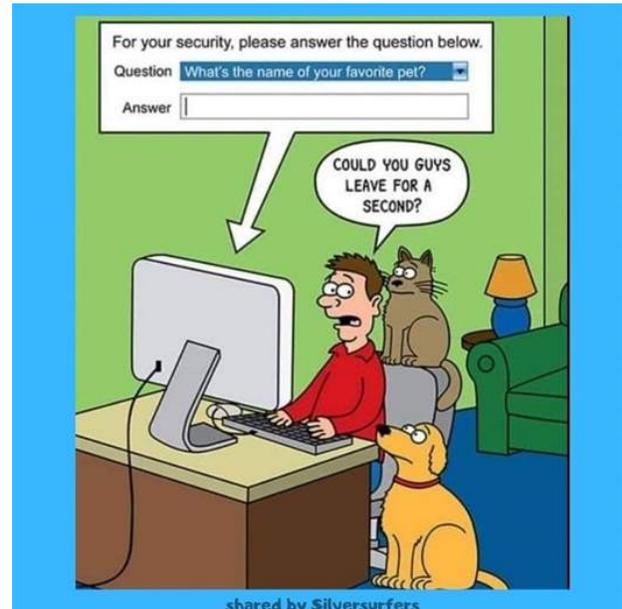
Technology has moved on a lot since those dark days. Bletchley Park built the world's first programmable computer, the Colossus, and that had considerably less computing power than your mobile phone.

What's all this got to do with passwords? Simply put, the amount of computer processing power available today is enormous. Even a rank amateur can download a password cracker and use it to hack into someone's account. That's another good reason to use a password manager, as I've been recommending.

But let's say that you've decided that it's all too difficult, or you don't want to bother your mentor about installing password manager software. How do you know that the passwords you've chosen to use are any good?

Here's a link that will tell you. (By the way, if you're not sure how a link works, just place your cursor over the blue, underlined text below and click on it. It should open a webpage for you. But if it doesn't work straight away, hold down the Control (Ctrl) key, place your cursor over the link and click. That should do it.)

Here's the link: <https://howsecureismypassword.net/>



Now try typing in a possible password, and your screen will display how long it can take to crack it. Let's say you entered 'brisbane'. The response is that it can be broken *instantly*. Hmm, that's no good. Let's add a number and make it 'brisbane2019'. That's better—it'll now take four years to break. Now add a special character 'brisbane2019%' and we jump to 13,000 years. Now that's a good password!

I'm not suggesting that the result is exactly accurate, but it does provide a reasonable indication and can be a bit of fun.

Go on, give it a try. Can you beat 13,000 years?

Mike Timms
East Hub mentor

Brisbane Open House: volunteers needed!

Are you passionate about architecture, design, heritage and beautiful buildings? So is Brisbane Open House!

Our Gabba Towers neighbours are on the hunt for volunteers to help out at some of Brisbane's most amazing buildings over this year's event weekend, 12 and 13 October 2019. Volunteers receive front-of-queue access to buildings, a BOH tote bag and guidebook, and an invite to 'thank you' drinks,.

For more information and to register your interest in volunteering, visit www.brisbaneopenhouse.com.au

Digital Photography Group

Ten members of the Digital Photography Group met at our premises in Gabba Towers to review and discuss the progress of our 2020 calendar. Members had been asked to send in photographs of Brisbane, including its architecture, river, bridges, city and parklands.

We viewed 73 photos via a 2-seconds-each slideshow, which called for an 'impact style' vote. The preliminary votes were counted using photos that had scored at least 4 votes. The short selection was reduced to 40, which will enable a small committee to determine the final choice and layout.

It was decided to use the online print supplier VistaPrint to publish our calendars, and members voted on a suitable background design. Members will be able to comment on

the final draft before the calendar goes to print, which should be at our October meeting.

On 10 September we will once again head out for a photographic excursion, this time to 480 Queen Street. 480 Queen Street is an interesting 153-metre premium-grade office tower in the Brisbane central business district's 'golden triangle'. designed by BVN Architecture.

Our resident member of 'The Brisbane Greeters', Alison Muirhead, will lead the group. If any BSOL member would like to join us, you're very welcome. Please contact Alison first on grannyweatherwax1947@hotmail.com to get the details.

Marilyn Hooper



View of the month: 'View from the Wharf'—Mavis Brady



Photo of the month: 'Tibouchina Flower'—Margaret Ewing

Brisbane council libraries' technology classes

Brisbane City Council Libraries conduct information technology classes that complement BSOL's mentor support. Click [here](#) to search for classes being conducted in the libraries during September.

To select your local library, go to the 'Suburb' box and select from the drop down list, then click on 'Search events'.

BSOL OFFICE HOURS

10 am to 3 pm Tuesday—Friday

The office is closed on Mondays and public holidays.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

Further to Dave White's letter in the August newsletter about the extended mouse facilities in Windows 10 version 1903 (which is definitely worth reading if you missed it), there are a few more tools in the release to assist the visually challenged among us. They may be found in the Settings menu also, but in the 'Ease of Access' section under 'Display'.

There you can change the size of text (or everything) on the screen and adjust the screen brightness to suit your viewing conditions.

Also, under the 'Ease of Access' option are other tools under 'Colour Filters' where you can turn on and select filters which may assist those with colour blindness or light sensitivity.

At last a Windows 10 update with some useful functions!
Gary Alcorn

East Hub invitation

Are you a little confused by smart TVs, Netflix, 'streaming' and 'video on demand'?

At the September East Hub Senior Learners Clinic, we will be talking about 'Smart TVs and the concept of Video on Demand'.

All BSOL members and their guests are very welcome, so please join us for answers to all your questions, along with a friendly afternoon tea.

The meeting will be on Monday 9 September at Carindale Library from 2 pm to 4 pm. There is no need to book. Just turn up!

Full details about the meeting, the venue and where to park are on the [BSOL Events Calendar](#).

Ben Munford
East Hub Coordinator

Mentor Support Group

We had the best rollup this month that I think I have ever seen. Could it have anything to do with our post-meeting luncheon? It was particularly good to see Peter again after a long absence due to ill health. Welcome back, Peter.

Brian opened the meeting with some discussion on the meeting date and the fact that it clashes with the Management Committee meeting. The final consensus was to leave it as it is.

Then, on to this month's questions and topics.

One person mentioned having continuing problems with the Chrome browser on Android devices. Unfortunately, no one could offer a fix for this.

Another asked for advice on Ethernet over Powerline extenders. The response was that they work and are simple to use.

Another question was about how to sync contacts between Outlook 2016 and Outlook on Android. The apps Sync2 and Outlook-Android Sync were suggested.

A student was unable to read the BSOL newsletter using Adobe on an Android device. The solution is to choose something other than Adobe for reading PDF files.

Some mentors recommended LastPass as a password manager, though others suggested KeePass as an alternative.

We heard about Digital Mentor Training that is being offered as part of National Seniors Week. You can find more information and book in for the training here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/digital-mentor-training-brisbane-tickets-69263550143>

A similar course is also available online: <https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/digital-mentor>

An attendee was unable to access the full capacity of his hard disc. The solution is that he needs to use a third-party partition manager. There are many free partition managers available, such as Easus.

Ken replaced a failing motherboard in his desktop but was still able to reuse the old Win 10 licence. He had a problem with the system not shutting down but always 'sleeping'.

Brian had a new system built to his specifications with new components, including an RGB tower case. He was a little taken aback the first evening that he turned it on, but I am sure any younger visitors would approve:



Brian's amazing new computer!

Brian did lash out and spend \$6 on a new Windows 10 licence on eBay, which activated without any problems. However, he didn't try using the key from his old machine, so it's possible that he wasted \$6!

At the end of the meeting, we all adjourned to the German Club for lunch. (photo, p. 9)

*Mark Carragher
Inner West Hub*



The Mentor Support Group in action

BSOL Members' and Guests' Clinic at Banyo Library

We would love any BSOL members to join us on Wednesday, 18 September, for a special presentation by Chris and Veronica from the Computers 4 Learning program.

Computers 4 Learning is a Nundah Rotary Club initiative that provides affordable, refurbished computers to people in financial need. How do they do this? Where do they find the computers?

Come along to the second floor meeting room at Banyo Library to find out more from Chris and Veronica, followed by a morning tea break and a general discussion session.

The session starts at 10 am and everyone is welcome.

David Curtis

Apple Group

As usual, Simon covered a great variety of topics both for Apple and other systems. Here are the highlights:

[Why use both text message forwarding and Messages in iCloud](#)

[Privacy: What Apple does and doesn't know about you](#)

[How to determine 32-bit apps on your Mac](#)

[Apple is sending out another silent update to fix the webcam flaw in Zoom's partner apps](#)

[How extensions slurped up browsing histories from 4 million users](#)

[Mac webcam hijack affects RingCentral and Zhumu as well as Zoom](#)

[How to locate wi-fi sweet spots with your iPhone](#)

[Potential date, location and time issues for earlier iPhone and iPad devices](#)

[GPS week numbers changed 6 April 2019](#)

[Web users take the ultimate step to guard their data](#)

[Apple's third quarter 2019 results](#)

[Google Play hosted 205 harmful apps with over 32 million installs last month alone](#)

[Eight years after Mac, Windows 10 PCs are getting Internet Recovery](#)

[Here's what all the iPhone status bar icons mean](#)

[Signal app for communicating with more privacy](#)

All BSOL members are welcome to attend our meetings on the second Thursday of each month from 10.30 to 12.30 at the BSOL offices in Wooloongabba.

*Ken Bourne
West Hub Mentor*

September Brainteaser

This month, and next, I'll ask you to consider probabilities.

Answers, with reasons please, to kortravel0@gmail.com

First up, imagine that you're a contestant in a TV quiz show. You're looking at three closed doors. Behind one of them is the prize, a new car. Behind each of the other two is an empty space. You are asked to select one of the doors, and you get to keep whatever, if anything, is behind it.

What happened last month? I received only two correct responses to what I thought was an easy puzzle.

Each number in the left-hand column equals three times the total of the three numbers to its immediate right:

$$30 = 3x(1+4+?).$$

You then point to one of the doors. Before he opens it the compere, who knows where the car is hidden, opens one of the other two doors to reveal an empty space, then offers you the chance to change your mind.

The missing number therefore is 5.

Congratulations to Frank Shaw and Hugh Wiseman.

This month's question is this: should you stick with your original choice, or should you change—or doesn't it matter?

Brian Korner



Level 1, Gabba Towers
411 Vulture Street
Woolloongabba
Phone: (07) 3393 2225
EMAIL: admin@bsol.asn.au
Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 3 pm
Closed Mondays and public holidays

POSTAL: PO Box 6006,
Woolloongabba QLD 4102
WEBSITE: www.bsol.asn.au

Hub coordinators' contact details

There are now nine hubs within the Brisbane area.
Unless the matter is urgent, contact your hub coordinator by email first.

Central Hub—Kevin
 0466 369 995
centralhub@bsol.asn.au

South Hub—Judith
 3841 6140 / 0438 509 828
southhub@bsol.asn.au

Inner North Hub—Brad
 3298 6848 / 0498 117 560
northinhub@bsol.asn.au

East Hub—Ben
 3345 5507 / 0419 571 517
easthub@bsol.asn.au

Inner West Hub—Mark
 0401 433 724
westinnerhub@bsol.asn.au

North Central Hub—Kevin
 (acting) 0466 369 995
northctrlhub@bsol.asn.au

North Hub—Gary (acting)
 3353 1238
northhub@bsol.asn.au

West Hub—Rod
 3376 5956
westhub@bsol.asn.au

Redlands Hub—Paul
 0408 110 893
redlandshub@bsol.asn.au

Brisbane Seniors On Line (BSOL) is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation set up to help the over-50s navigate the maze of computers and the internet. Our mission is to provide seniors of the greater Brisbane area with computer literacy and support while promoting social and recreational activities. BSOL is always looking for new mentors and other volunteer helpers, so if you think you could help us (or know of someone who could), ring or email the office, or visit the website.

BSOL does not necessarily endorse the views expressed in this newsletter. No person should act on the basis of views contained in this newsletter without first obtaining specific professional advice. BSOL does not guarantee, and accepts no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any material or views contained in this newsletter. From time to time, the BSOL newsletter may carry some paid

advertising. This does not constitute an automatic endorsement by BSOL of the products being advertised.

