



# News & Views



from the Tower

## President's greetings and thanks

It's hard to believe we are just about at the end of another busy year for BSOL!

### BSOL office holiday closure

The office will be closed over the holiday break from 17 December 2018 to 14 January 2019. We will be monitoring our telephone answering machine and post office box, and membership applications will be processed once or twice during this period.

### BSOL volunteers invited

All our volunteers are invited to join us for drinks and a light lunch at our Christmas party on Friday 14 December from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. To assist us with catering, please ensure you book through the online store.



### Big thanks!

On behalf of the Management Committee, I thank our many volunteers for their contributions over the past year.

I also wish all our members and their families a merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

—Penny Douglas, BSOL President

Hi folks—Josephine Brown here, one of your BSOL News & Views editors. It's now time for me to move on, and I thank you for your support of me and this fine newsletter since I started, a couple of years ago.

Now I'd like to introduce Lee Ellwood, your new editor. Lee is also a member of Editors Queensland, so I leave you in good hands. Her contact details for stories and submissions: [lee@ellwords.com.au](mailto:lee@ellwords.com.au).

## December 2018

Editors of the month:  
Josephine Brown, Lee Ellwood

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**Moving?**  
**Please tell us your**  
**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!**

### BSOL December 2018 happenings

For complete details of these events, refer to the Events Calendar on the BSOL website, or click [https://www.bsol.asn.au/pages/events\\_calendar](https://www.bsol.asn.au/pages/events_calendar)

Fri	7	Linux Group
Tue	11	Digital Photography Group
Thu	13	Apple Group
Fri	14	Volunteers Christmas party
Mon	17	Office closed until 14 January

### BSOL January 2019 happenings

Mon	14	Office reopens
Tue	15	Mentor Support Group
Tue	15	Management Committee
Thu	17	Apple Group

## Have you thought about OCR?

No, it is not a new medical procedure. OCR is the acronym for Optical Character Recognition (or Reader), a process that had its origins in the late 1960s in the publishing industry, where a need arose to use previously printed work in the digital-orientated production workflow. It was time-consuming to re-type the original work, so it became essential to find a way to automate it.

The early OCR machines were usually programmed to handle one specific font (typeface) at a time and their cost ran into hundreds of thousands of dollars. Today, free OCR software is available on the web or comes bundled with many programs such as those supplied with scanners and multi-function printers.

How might this interest you and why would you use this facility on your computer?

For example, you have a typed family history that you would like to update or include in something you are currently writing. The first step would be to scan the original memo to turn it into an image file, but in this state it is not possible to edit or re-purpose the text.

This is where the OCR function is employed. The scanned image is pasted into the OCR program, which will then do its best to convert the words in the image into an editable text document.

The OCR program that I recommend for Windows is FreeOCR, which produces excellent results. I have tried other programs that come with scanners or are plug-ins to image-processing software, such as Irfanview, but I have not found one that works quite as well.

There is software available for Macs and apps for smartphones, in addition to professional-grade programs that are available at a cost and will produce another level of accuracy in the translation.

The wide range of fonts available these days is a challenge for all OCR programs, and of course free software will not perform as well as professional ones. Also, some fonts in documents lend themselves better to OCR interpretation than others.

However, if you are happy to live with the occasional character misinterpretation from the original, FreeOCR is a powerful tool to have on your PC.

—Gary Alcorn

### Addendum from editor:

However, be aware when downloading FreeOCR that on the home page, you might find a “download now” button that you THINK is the OCR program, but after downloading you’ll find out it’s something else, such as the driver updater, which takes you to a “pay now” screen.

To avoid this, select the download button at the top of the screen, next to the home button, and follow the instructions.



*The Digital Photography Group, AKA the Gabba Gang, takes a rest during the November walkabout in Woolloongabba.*

*From left to right: Marilyn Hooper, Marg Dewilde, Alison Muirhead, Mavis Brady, Richard Roxborough, Molly Thwaites, Kath Grace, David Petchell.*

—Richard Roxborough



## BSOL Management Committee November report

The Management Committee met on Tuesday 20 November with six members present.

The Treasurer reported that net revenue from learner subscriptions to October was \$1,620 below that at the same time last year, and \$380 below this year's budget.

Penny Douglas reported that the advertising campaign with 4BC, now finished, had been disappointing and that, similarly, advertising in the *Seniors Magazine* had not been fruitful. She noted that word-of-mouth is still our most effective means of advertising.

In Hub news, the Hub Liaison Officer, Kevin Brown, reported that he is now Acting Coordinator of North Central Hub after Peter Paroz's resignation. If anyone is interested in taking on this position, please contact Kevin on 0466 369 995.

And if anyone has Apple learners waiting for a mentor, Kevin also reported that an Apple mentor has now joined Central Hub. He noted that Central Hub has a shortage of Windows learners, and suggested that hubs with unmatched Windows learners who are prepared to come into BSOL HQ for lessons should be referred to Central Hub for a mentor.

Paul Boulton has been working on a new website using WordPress software, and his presentation to the Management Committee was received favourably.

Paul has also developed the Mailchimp site for bulk emails, and this has been tested by Penny Douglas and Ben Munford. HCs and Admin staff will be trained in the use of this software as required.

Ron Horst, who is on holidays at the moment, submitted a report on C9's progress with developing the new MIS database. An interim release of the software for testing has not been forthcoming, and now will probably not be available until early next year.

Membership at the end of October was 885, down 36 from the previous month.

The minutes of the 2018 AGM are now on the website.

The 2018 Christmas party will be held on Friday 14 December at BSOL HQ from 11.30 am until 2.30 pm. Please book through the store on the BSOL website.

### Important dates for 2019:

Planning Day: 19 March

AGM: 24 October

Christmas party: 13 December, office closure

—Ethna Brown, Secretary, BSOL



‘Weather: it’s raining, it’s pouring’

—Margareta Dewilde



*'Fine weather with moon'*

—Alison Muirhead

## Mentor Support November 2018 meeting

A smaller gathering than usual, possibly because it was only a fortnight before our final meeting for the year plus Christmas lunch.

We still covered a wide range of discussion topics, including:

- The various options for Windows 10 backups, including File History, Windows 7 System Image and third-party programs such as Acronis and EasUS ToDo. The various features of each were discussed.
- The clean uninstall of programs may require third-party software such as Revo or IOBits. The normal Windows uninstall system often leaves residues of old programs, which can lead to problems later, especially when a program is to be reinstalled.
- After a false launch that caused some users to lose their data, the Windows 10 version 1809 update was withdrawn, temporarily. It is now being relaunched with the problem supposedly fixed. People are still encouraged to create a full backup before installing the update.
- Free programs for compressing and unpacking files. The .rar compressed files can be processed with the free PeaZip app.

- One of our members has found that his more recent photos are not being recognised by Google Photos. Having established that the relevant folders were included in the locations where Google Photos is supposedly looking, other possibilities were discussed. We didn't manage to reach a definitive conclusion as to the cause of the problem.
- Another member experienced adware popping up on his screen. Adwcleaner from Malwarebytes successfully removed the unwanted adware.

As mentioned, the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 4 December, followed by a lunch at the German Club.

—Brian Korner





*Hold it—click! David Petchell was officer-in-charge of the walking shoot in the Woolloongabba area.*

*—Richard Roxborough*

## Digital Photography Group

Our November meeting took the form of a very local excursion. Convener David Petchell writes:

“A group of eight of us met for our November excursion, which entailed walking around Woolloongabba and exploring the heritage trail. We viewed some old and new buildings, with many recent apartment blocks being constructed in the side streets. It is a very liveable area with many restaurants and interesting laneways.

“Logan Road was a thoroughfare to the five-ways and contains many historic buildings. A baby clinic was located there in earlier years, and the building still stands today. Molly was able to provide commentary about the clinic when it operated, as she remembered it. We found an upstairs gallery that had black-and-white

photos of Woolloongabba in earlier times. It brought back memories of the suburb as it was then.

“Following the walk, we adjourned for lunch at the hotel.”

Other members have commented that they just ran out of time! There’s a lot to photograph, both old and new, in the laneways and byways of the Gabba.

The group’s last meeting for the year will be held at 10:30 am in our Gabba Towers rooms, on Tuesday 11 December. We’ll discuss what we might get up to in 2019.

Any member wishing to check us out should first contact [digital@bsol.asn.au](mailto:digital@bsol.asn.au).

*—Pat Noad, for  
the Digital Photography Group*

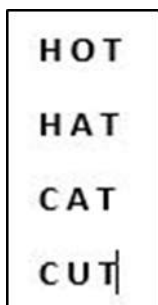


*‘Weather: double delight’*

*—Pat Noad*

## December 2018 Brain Teaser

This type of puzzle is called a **doublet**. The idea is to change one letter at a time to move from the starting word to the end one. For example, to change HOT to CUT:



Similarly, can you change ROCK into GOLD? Remember, you can change only one letter at a time, and the intermediate stages all have to be real words. I was able to do it in four steps. Maybe you can do it in three, in which case you'll get double points. If you need five or more steps then your answer doesn't count. Answers, please to me at [kortravel0@gmail.com](mailto:kortravel0@gmail.com).

I should give up trying to predict which puzzles are hard and which are easy. I thought last month's Brain Teaser was dead easy, but I received only one correct answer. Congratulations to **Frank Shaw**. All the other regular puzzle solvers must have been bamboozled. The sequence of words: Buck, Cod, Dahlia, Rook, Cuckoo, Rail, Haddock, Cub form a palindrome. In other words it reads exactly the same from front to back or back to front. The missing word therefore was **Cub**.

—Brian Korner

## 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.



**PRIMARY BUSINESS ADDRESS**  
Level 1, Gabba Towers  
411 Vulture Street  
Woolloongabba Qld

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**  
PO Box 6006  
Woolloongabba Qld 4102

Phone: 07 3393 2225  
WEBSITE: [www.bsol.asn.au](http://www.bsol.asn.au)  
EMAIL: [admin@bsol.asn.au](mailto:admin@bsol.asn.au)

**Central Hub**—Kevin  
0466 369 995  
[centralhub@bsol.asn.au](mailto:centralhub@bsol.asn.au)

**East Hub**—Ben  
3345 5507 / 0419 571 517  
[easthub@bsol.asn.au](mailto:easthub@bsol.asn.au)

**North Hub**—Carol  
3269 5352  
[northhub@bsol.asn.au](mailto:northhub@bsol.asn.au)

**South Hub**—Judith  
3841 6140 / 0438 509 828  
[southhub@bsol.asn.au](mailto:southhub@bsol.asn.au)

**Inner West Hub**—Lauren  
3202 7154  
[westinnerhub@bsol.asn.au](mailto:westinnerhub@bsol.asn.au)

**West Hub**—Rod  
3376 5956  
[westhub@bsol.asn.au](mailto:westhub@bsol.asn.au)

**Inner North Hub**—Brad  
3298 6848 / 0498 117 560  
[northinhub@bsol.asn.au](mailto:northinhub@bsol.asn.au)

**North Central Hub**—Kevin  
(acting) 0466 369 995  
[northctrlhub@bsol.asn.au](mailto:northctrlhub@bsol.asn.au)

**Redlands Hub**—Paul  
0408 110 893  
[redlandshub@bsol.asn.au](mailto: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.

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