



News & Views



from the Tower

President's message



Happy New Year, and I hope you all had a great Christmas and an enjoyable break. I used the time off to tackle organising and scanning my old photos. Just sorting them into some kind of chronological order took some doing and I am about halfway through the actual scanning.

Peter Glen, one of our long-term mentors from North Central Hub, injured his back during the break and has been in hospital. We wish Peter a speedy recovery.

The BSOL Management Committee held its first meeting for the year on Tuesday, 15 January. A planning meeting will be held in February to determine priorities and strategies for tackling the challenges we face over the coming year.

After four years as Treasurer, John Marsh has decided to retire. We have been very lucky to have had John in this role and I have appreciated the work he has undertaken as Treasurer, as well as the support he has provided me and the Management Committee over this period. We wish John all the very best for the future.

I am pleased to welcome Ivan Kirk, who has agreed to join the Management Committee as Treasurer. Ivan has experience working on boards, and a background in management and financial management.

Penny Douglas

February 2019

Editor: Lee Ellwood
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BSOL February 2019 happenings

For complete details of these events, refer to the Events Calendar on the BSOL website, or click https://www.bsol.asn.au/es/events_calendar

Fri	1	Linux Group
Mon	11	East Hub Senior Learners Clinic
Tue	12	Digital Photography Special Interest Group
Thu	14	Apple Special Interest Group
Tue	19	Management Committee
Tue	19	Mentor Support Group
Wed	20	BSOL Banyo Library Meeting
Thu	21	Western Suburbs Clinic for Seniors
Thu	28	Management Committee Planning Day

BSOL Management Committee January report

The first Management Committee meeting for 2019 was held on Tuesday, 15 January. Six members were present and the Committee welcomed Ivan Kirk as a guest.

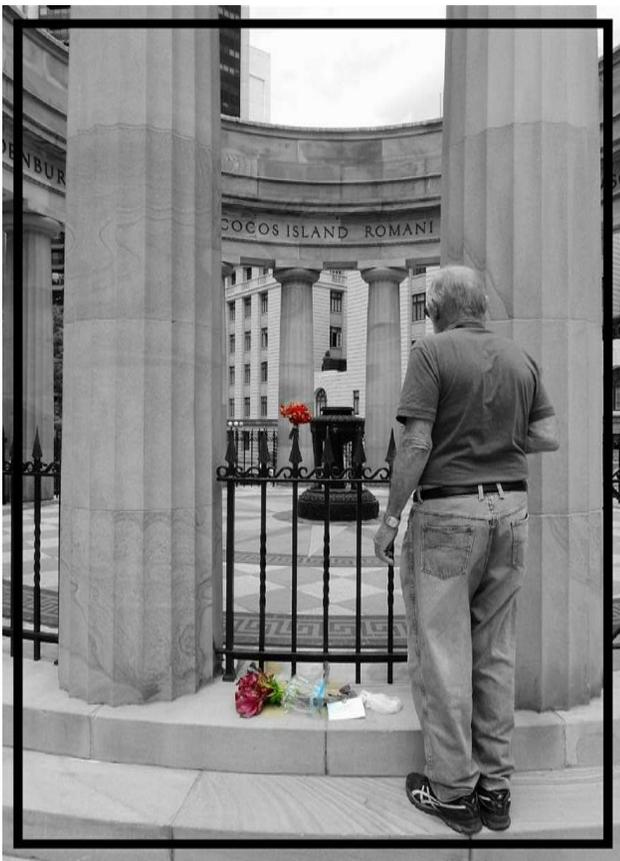
Treasurer John Marsh advised that revenue from learner subscriptions continues to be lower than last year by \$2,260. Expenditure for the Christmas party was within budget, with a total of \$411 being spent. We received a grant of \$230 from the Brisbane City Council, which meant a net cost to BSOL of \$181.

Penny advised that 4BC had offered to play our advertisements over the December and January period when they had free space at no cost to BSOL. This offer was accepted.

The Committee agreed to a new date for the Planning Day due to Paul's unavailability during March. The session will now be held on Thursday, 28 February.

John advised the Committee by letter of his resignation effective 15 January. The Committee thanked John for his valuable contribution to BSOL over the past four years and declared a casual vacancy. The Management Committee moved that a formal letter of appointment be forwarded to Ivan Kirk for his consideration. Ivan has since accepted this offer and has been appointed as the new Treasurer.

*Penny Douglas
on behalf of Ethna Brown, Secretary*



Social comment: 100 years

*Margaret Ewing,
Digital Photography Group*

Become a BSOL blogger!

Did you know that BSOL has its own blog where members can ask questions and offer comments in relation to technical matters and anything else to do with BSOL activities?

Registration is easy. Simply go to <http://bsol-msc.proboards.com/> and register. It typically takes a day or two for new members to be approved, after which you are free to enter any of the existing discussion threads or to start a new one.

If you're one of the many members who has already registered, don't forget to visit our blog from time to time. We'd like to hear from you.

Brian Korner

**Remember, we're on
Facebook! Find us there.**



Apple Group—December meeting

The Apple Group focuses on pertinent information about All Things Apple for both beginners and experts. Sessions are facilitated by Simon Mooney, who shares his links to topics via Apple AirDrop.

We had a great rollup in December, in light of the festive season.

Some of the topics discussed:

- the iPhone battery replacement program, which was finishing on 31 December
- refurbished products, returns and refunds
- new updates and features for OSX Mojave, iOS and Apple TV
- Apple tutorials available at screencastsonline.com
- the Marriot hotels data breach impacting 500m guests
- redefining the kilogram - digitaltrends.com
- Facebook tracking email contacts - gizmodo.com
- taking screenshots for Mac and iPad - see macstories.net
- turning your iPad into a second display - lunadisplay.com
- a lock screen weather app - see macrumors.com
- calendars - see sixcolors.com

Whether you have little experience with Apple products and services or are an experienced user, you can learn about Mac, iPhone, iPad, iCloud, iTunes and much more. All members are welcome, learners and mentors alike, to broaden our understanding of all things Apple.

Ken Bourne

Editorial team changes

As we reported in the December newsletter, Josephine Brown has stepped down from the position of Newsletter Editor. Josephine is a professional editor and proofreader, and she has become so busy with her day job that, regrettably, she is unable to continue with the newsletter editing.

We are very fortunate to have as her replacement Lee Ellwood. Lee too is a professional proofreader and editor, and brings a lot of relevant expertise to the role. If you attended the BSOL volunteers' Christmas get-together you will very likely have met Lee already.

For the past couple of years, Gowrishankar (Gowri) Mohan has been a great help in editing quite a few editions of our newsletter. At the time, Gowri was doing research at QUT for his PhD, and first made contact with BSOL when he was looking for volunteers to help in his research.

Gowri was studying older people's use of the internet and, in particular, how they navigate complicated websites to find information. His research was aimed at finding out how best to design information-rich websites so that older users can easily find what they are looking for.

A number of BSOL members volunteered as research subjects, and Gowri was so impressed with the response that he in turn wanted to do something to help BSOL and joined the newsletter team. I'm pleased to report that Gowri has now completed his PhD and is back home with his wife and young child in India.

Our thanks go to Josephine and to Gowri for their help with the newsletter, and we are pleased to welcome Lee on board.

Brian Korner

Mentor Support Group—December meeting (or was it November?)

We started the December meeting with some confusion as to which meeting we were actually attending!! Some thought it was a postponed November meeting, whereas Brian seemed to think it was an early December meeting. It turned out that even though there was no meeting scheduled in the calendar for November, Brian and a few others had turned up and had one anyway!

The meeting proper was opened by Steve, who told us of a survey on internet usage in the UK. The survey found that of the 8–10% of the population who were not yet online, 60 per cent were not online as a matter of choice, not because of lack of availability or affordability. They just found no need to be online.

There was general discussion about what was needed to be online. The desirability of social/digital inclusion was mentioned: the government is supplying more and more of its services online only, and banks are expecting customers to be online.

The discussion then moved on to the import these statistics had for BSOL's membership numbers. If the majority of the

people who are not yet online do not want to be online, they are unlikely to ask for our help. How do we maintain or increase our membership numbers? Have we reached 'peak membership'? Should we become more of a social group? Should we offer more specific topic-oriented meetings?

After all this extended D&M, we got back to our usual subjects.

A question was asked about the best way to organise photos. A member of the photography group was suggested as being the most able to offer the best advice.

To end the meeting, we were shown how photos of scenes could be uploaded to Google, which would analyse them and give the location.

The meeting over, we repaired to the German Club for lunch and had a pleasant afternoon. I would like to thank Brian for organising the event.

Mark Carragher



Shot of the month: 'Arties in Melbourne'

Pat Noad, Digital Photography Group

Digital Photography Group—December meeting



Gabba excursion: Red Door

Marilyn Hooper

At the Digital Photography Club's last 2018 meeting in December, we screened our 'social documentary' shots—photos that tell a story about our society. Once again it was hard to identify just three to publish in the newsletter, but here they are. We spent the rest of the meeting working on our program for 2019, which will follow the same format as 2018, with a few excursions, some self-help training sessions and taking photographs to a theme for each meeting.

Then we adjourned to the German Club across the road for our Christmas lunch. That's when the day became seriously surreal. A youngish man offered to take a photo of the group, telling us he was a police photographer, and he certainly demonstrated some expertise. After he left we began to pack up, only to find that a member's handbag was missing!

We turned the German Club upside down to no avail; then we reported the loss to management, who dug into their CCTV and found said policeman(?) on camera walking out the door with the handbag. This person had only that day joined the German Club, so they had his details and rang his mobile. He admitted to having the handbag and said he would bring it back! We waited. And waited. Eventually he turned up with the bag, announcing 'I'm not a thief, I'm a policeman!' Nothing had apparently been taken from the bag.

You figure!

Our first meeting for 2019 will be held on Tuesday 12 February at 10.30am, in Gabba Towers. We'll firm up our 2019 program and Margaret Ewing will explain how use software to create a triptych. Anyone wishing to attend to check us out should first contact digital@bsol.asn.au.

Pat Noad

Write something for us! (Please?)

We're looking for contributors! Would you like to write an occasional article for *BSOL News and Views*?

The articles we publish are generally under 350 words. They should have some relation to the worlds of seniors and computing, and could come from both mentors and learners. If you have a picture or two to accompany the article, then so much the better. Remember, we're looking for original material, not recycled articles copied and pasted from the web.

If you're interested in submitting an article for possible publication, please send it to news@bsol.asn.au



Volunteers' Christmas Party

A fine time was had by those who attended our 2018 Volunteer Christmas party. For some it was their first look at our new office and training area, and most were impressed with the space and layout. The kitchen area was a real bonus, especially with the extra fridge, which meant no having to provide ice and an esky to keep the drinks cold. Here are a few of the photos taken from the day.

Penny Douglas

Photos courtesy of East Mentor Roger Arnaud



Mentor Support Group—January meeting

Brian opened our first meeting of the year with a continuation of his 'Lenny' teaser. He promised that all would become clear before the meeting was over, but first he asked for issues from the attendees.

- The first topic was from Brian himself. He commented that the meeting was everyone's forum and that it is open to anyone to make a presentation if they wished.
- Julie has an iMac that is overheating and asked if anyone had heard of ultrasonic cleaning. The attendees were not sure; Professor Google said yes, but only of the components and not the laptop itself. An Apple certified dealer was recommended; or perhaps it is time to think about a new iMac. Ken said he had resolved overheating issues with his Mac by doing a fresh reinstall of the OS; Apple Support walked him through the reinstall process.
- Brian had heard of 'underwater server farms'. Professor Google said it was true.
- Query: how can photos be transferred from a Samsung phone to a PC? Answer: use Cloud-based apps such as Dropbox or Google Photos.
- Ken was unable to boot to a live Linux USB, even though it was at the top of the boot sequence in the BIOS. Changing from UEFI to Legacy boot mode was suggested.
- SSDs give a huge boost to the speed of a PC, and their prices continue to drop.
- Windows 10 notifications can be turned off by right-clicking the notification when it appears and selecting the appropriate option.
- A learner's start menu had 'disappeared'. It was discovered that his desktop was inadvertently in tablet mode; changing back to desktop mode fixed the problem. Tablet mode is accessed via the 'notification' icon on the taskbar or via Settings > System > Tablet mode.
- An app used for recording telephone conversations has been removed from the Google Store. There was a comment that this recording app is legal in Queensland.
- The possible use of Apple AirPods for eavesdropping was mentioned. Their automatic activation remotely from a phone means the phone can be left in one place while the listener is unseen elsewhere.

And Lenny the tease??? Please enjoy at your leisure!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWrkDOt_lfM

Mark Carragher

MOVING?

**Please tell us your
new email address!**

**Log on to the members' area of the BSOL website,
look for My Details,
then Change My Contact Details.**



February 2019 Brain Teaser

I must admit, this month's puzzle had me stumped for quite a while. Look at the following sequence of words.

BEDROOMS, ROMANTIC, ANSWERED, WEAKENED.

Now, which one of the following words is the next in the sequence, and why?

KEYBOARD, ABDICATE, CATACOMB, KILOBYTE.

Answers to me at kortravel0@gmail.com

It seems such a long time ago, but back in December I asked you to change ROCK into GOLD by changing one letter at a time, and

each time forming a proper word. There are a number of possible solutions. The one that I came up with was ROCK, ROOK, ROOD, GOOD, GOLD. Congratulations to Brian Bond, Frank Shaw and Les Webb for submitting correct answers.

Now, to the overall winners for 2018. This time it was a tie between **Brian Bond** and **Les Webb**, both of whom answered nine Brain Teaser puzzles during the year. Congratulations to both of them.

Brian Komer

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.



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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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