

News & Views

Brisbane Seniors Online Newsletter

July
2020



Marilyn Hooper

EDITORIAL

And now for something completely different.

2020 is a year of change and this month one of BSOL's changes is a new News & Views editor, who brings to our Members two different versions of the newsletter; a plaintext email you can read on the smallest screen, and this PDF (made using **Pages** on **iPad**).

Thank you to all contributors. To view the larger original version of photos click/tap the photographer's name (bottom of photo). Other links in News & Views are shown in **red** except the *In this Issue* links.

Apple has announced some big changes, which you can read about in this month's Fruit Farm News Flash. Other technology news is located throughout the newsletter, with recent news in **Techno Tidbits**.

2020's BIGGEST change is of course SARS-CoV-2. If you are interested in viewing the daily numbers here are links to **Queensland Health**, the **Australian Dept. of Health**, and the **world's statistics**.

Until next month.

Simon
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Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the office is closed until further notice.
Phone calls, email, and mail are being handled remotely.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In opening I wish to take this opportunity to thank a couple of members who have resigned from their volunteer positions within BSOL.

The first is Peter Henttonen who has been our office manager for the past few years. Peter is a quiet and unassuming person, but was always able to get the job done with what seemed like little fuss or ado. Peter leaves us on the 10th of July, to undertake a course in aged care. Peter's position will be undertaken by Les Webb who has been a member of the office staff for some time. This will be a bonus to BSOL as it means a continuity of service.

The second departure is that of Cathy Bay, our News & Views editor. Cathy has been undertaking the editors role since last year. However because of some clashes with her day time employment, and other interests, Cathy has decided to resign. Her efforts over the past months have been greatly appreciated and we wish her well in her future endeavours. This duty is being undertaken by Simon Mooney starting with this issue.

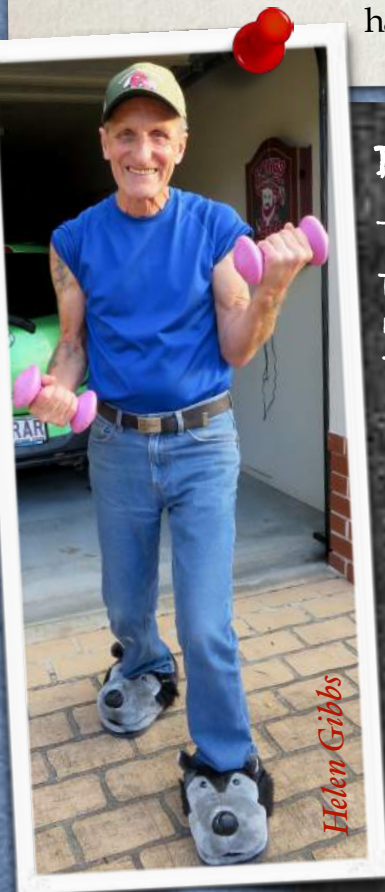
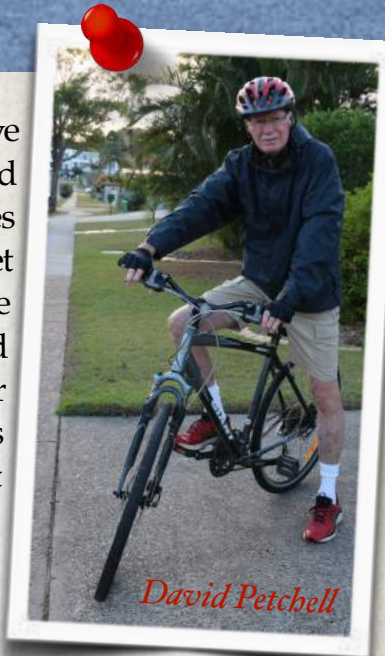
The COVID19 virus is still with us, but the combined efforts of Government and the public has meant that it is being better controlled. Although Queensland has not recorded any new

cases for several days, we must remain vigilant and continue the good practices that have helped us to get where we are now. The committee has discussed changes to our management of the virus and will issue a statement in the next week or so.

The virus is going to see a lot of changes take place that won't be reversed when the pandemic status is lifted. Many businesses have folded, and will not reopen. Others will re-open but in different formats. All local newspapers in Greater Brisbane will only be available in a digital format. The Brisbane version of the Seniors newspaper is also in the same category. This has meant a re-think in the methods we use for advertising. Dick Bennett is already working on ideas for this and has received some positive feedback.

I hope everyone remains well. Enjoy this newsletter, and I look forward to catching up with members in the near future.

Colin Waugh
pres@bsol.asn.au



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The group has not been able to meet since February. We did, however, set themes for each month and requested our members provide some photographs for the newsletter. You may remember our recent themes: 'Keeping Isolated'; 'Keeping Busy'; and for this edition, 'Keeping Fit'. We've also sent in a 'shot of the month' for each edition.

Now that restrictions on outdoor gatherings have been lifted, we are considering meeting in a park on the date of our July meeting to catch up, find a coffee, and treat it as an excursion to take some photos in the area. If this doesn't happen you can look forward to a few shots on the theme of 'Keeping Sane' in the August newsletter. We hope we will be able to continue our activities through excursions such as this one until the BSOL premises can reopen.

Interested in coming along to an informal outdoor session, email digital@bsol.asn.au.

Pat Noad

PUBLICITY REPORT

With the coronavirus health crisis and the inability for Brisbane Seniors Online to undertake home tuition due to the restrictions imposed, advertising and publicity has been minimal over the last few months.

However, once the crisis has passed, I am ready with some previously successful strategies to promote our services amongst the Greater Brisbane community. There are a few ways that existing members can assist in this regard. They are the promotion of Brisbane Seniors Online by word of mouth amongst friends, family and neighbours. If you have benefitted from what Brisbane Seniors Online has to offer, why not promote it to others so they can also benefit. Learners as well as volunteer mentors, including those confident to teach Apple devices, are most welcome. Also, promotion at community and social groups including offers of a Brisbane Seniors Online speaker at their meetings. This costs nothing and is effective and reduces some of the cost of expensive paid advertising. Also display of promotional material including posters and brochures at meeting venues and community noticeboards where this is allowed.

With the demise of the community newspapers, alternative strategies need to be developed to effectively promote Brisbane Seniors Online by other means. Very few free publications remain in printed form.

Several advertising grants have been applied for, however one through the RACQ has been unsuccessful. Another, originally due to be decided in March, has not been assessed yet with the coronavirus crisis delaying processing.

Brisbane Seniors Online is still looking for a Patron and suggestions are sought. Ideally someone in the media or who has media contacts; is a resident of the Greater Brisbane area, and available to carry out the duties of the role as required. A well know Patron gives great credibility to Brisbane Seniors Online as a professional training organisation for seniors and the over 50. They are also able to generate exposure to the media and the promoting of Brisbane Seniors Online throughout the community.

Dick Bennett
publicity@bsol.asn.au



Pat Noad

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Management Committee met via Zoom on Tuesday 16th June with seven members and one guest present.

In his President's report, Colin indicated that BSOL's position on COVID-19 will reflect changes as advised by the Government. Groups such as Hub Coordinators, Mentors, and Special Interest Groups can now meet so long as they observe social distancing rules. However, library meeting rooms are still not open for public meetings. It is up to individual Mentors whether or not they feel that they can resume teaching their learners at home. Remote teaching and phone help of course are still options. The Committee will look at resuming normal meetings in August of this year.

The Office continues to be run remotely by Peter Henttonen with help from Les, Marie, and Sue Green. Peter has tendered his resignation as of 10th July as he is taking up further studies. The Committee wishes to thank Peter for stepping into the breach during these unusual times.

Treasurer Jonathan Smith, noted that BSOL has been given rent relief by the State Government for the months of June and July.

Membership currently stands at 660, two down from last month.

The Committee voted to continue the budgeted grant of \$500 per Hub to be spent as the Hub Coordinator sees fit.

Dick Bennett has been working hard on the publicity front applying for grants such as the GCBF and the Committee is looking at how such grant money may be spent e.g. a replacement for the now obsolete flatbed office scanner. He is also looking at Radio and Facebook options for advertising our services.

The Management Information System is very near completion with final testing to be done in the next few weeks.

The Committee notes the resignation of Newsletter editor Cathy Bay and wishes to thank Cathy for her service over the last 12 months.

We are also looking into the matter of a Patron for the organisation and suggestions for this position would be welcome.

Ethna Brown
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WHAT WAS THE
INTERNET LIKE IN
THE OLDEN DAYS,
FOR A DEVELOPER?

OH, THINGS
WERE VERY
DIFFERENT.



THE CLOUD WAS A LOT
SMALLER. IT WAS CALLED
A "MAINFRAME" AND IT
WAS NEAR SACRAMENTO.
IT WAS ON THE STATE
LANDLINE, SO THE WHOLE
INDUSTRY PAUSED WHEN
THE GOVERNOR HAD TO
MAKE A PHONE CALL.



Margareta Dewilde

MENTOR SUPPORT GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

We had a big rollup for this month's meeting with around 23 attendees. It was good to see so many new faces. The meeting started with an introduction to Zoom, the format of the meetings and some general discussion on video conferencing apps. The open source application **Jitsi** was mentioned.

We had an update on the current status of the COVID-19 lockdown. The office continues to be run remotely. Management meetings are held using Zoom. It was suggested that the Library meetings could restart as long as the social distancing requirements are met. There was discussion on it being possible to recommence visits to people's homes and still meet the social distancing requirements. **ScreenTask**, an app that enables screen sharing on a local network, was mentioned.

Anti virus/malware was discussed. An attendee commented that **Malwarebytes** was running correctly. This was the free version. This segued to discussion of the need of any anti malware software beyond the free **Windows Defender**, the comparative value of free versus paid for software, and whether anything at all is needed for **macOS**.

It was recommended that the manufacturers own uninstall routine be used when removing antivirus software. Using the **Windows uninstall** can sometimes leave remnants that cause problems.

An attendee was unable to view mp4 files directly in **Gmail**. They needed to be downloaded first.

The limitations of using an internet providers email address were raised. They can sometimes be difficult to access from overseas and changing the service provider is troublesome because of the difficulties in changing email addresses. Gary has provided **this tip** on this problem.

Comments were asked for the value of **Glary Utilities**. The consensus was positive.

There was a question on advertising for new members. Dick told us of the difficulties advertising with the closure of so many local newspapers. It was confirmed after a question that **BSOL's Facebook** page is still available though not often updated.

An attendees computer was randomly shutting down. It was suggested to: run a memory test; check the system log; reinstall **Microsoft Windows** as a final attempt.

This month's meeting was recorded. If you find this synopsis a little too terse, you can **review the meeting here**.

Mark

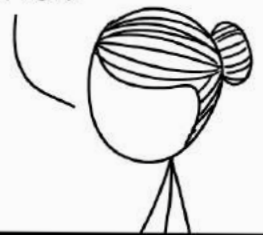
THERE WAS NO MEMORY PROTECTION. IF YOU WANTED TO WRITE TO AN ADDRESS, YOU WOULD CALL AROUND TO ASK WHETHER ANYONE ELSE WAS USING IT. OFTEN BILL GATES WOULD SAY HE WAS, EVEN WHEN HE WASN'T. THAT'S HOW MICROSOFT GOT ITS EARLY Foothold.



"GIT" WAS ORIGINALLY A VAN THAT CIRCLED AROUND GATHERING DATA TAPES TO COPY AND DISTRIBUTE. WE ALL TOOK TURNS DRIVING IT. WHEN YOU SAW IT COMING YOU'D BLOW AN AIR HORN TO REQUEST THAT IT PULL OVER.

THAT'S WHERE "PULL REQUEST" CAME FROM.

OH, NEAT!



BEFORE TERMINALS, WE ALL USED PUNCH CARDS, WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED TO CONTROL LOOMS. EARLY MAINFRAMES WOULD PRODUCE A SWEATER EACH TIME YOU RAN YOUR CODE. EVENTUALLY WE GOT THEM TO STOP. WE HAD ENOUGH SWEATERS.



xkcd.com

In the April issue of the newsletter there were a couple of articles discussing remote support of learners by mentors. One of the applications discussed was **Anydesk**.

So, my suggestion is that a mentor installs Anydesk on their laptop and when they arrive at the learner's home that they assist the learner to also install the application on their device. The mentor can then set up their laptop in the same room, but at a "safe" distance from the learner and after connecting to the local network, can both guide and demonstrate topics under discussion.

Gary Alcorn

Five Linux enthusiasts met up via Zoom for the June meeting. As usual the topics were wide ranging and not entirely confined to the Linux system. Mal spent some time talking about the new BSOL **Nextcloud** server which is running on the **Ubuntu** server in the office. This was followed by a discussion on the **ZFS** filing system utilised in Ubuntu 20.04 and a demonstration of the open source **Clonezilla** utility to clone a whole or part of a hard drive.

Pete had utilised a utility on his phone called **DroidCam** which enabled to utilise the camera in the phone for his image in the Zoom meeting running on his desktop computer. The higher quality of the phone camera resulted in a much better image presented in the Zoom meeting.

Gary Alcorn
gaz@bigpond.com

Here's a nice easy one, so I hope to get plenty of correct answers this month. What do the following seven words have in common?

As usual **email** your answers to me.

Congratulations to Gary Alcorn, Robert Cousin, Lee Rogers, Frank Shaw and Les Webb all of whom solved the puzzle.

Brian Korner
kortravel0@gmail.com

Breakthrough pocket computer

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
| 9 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 7 | 3 | ? | ? | 2 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 1 | ? | ? | 6 | 9 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 7 |

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT A SMART TV?

BSOL members are all likely to be familiar with a typical home setup of the past 30-40 years where the TV has a DVD player or an old VCR (in case you want to watch video tapes) connected to it. Now it is almost impossible to have a VCR or DVD player serviced, and if they can be, the repair cost could be prohibitive.

Smart tvs can access the internet and run apps just like a smartphone. They enable this via either a WiFi or ethernet cable connection to your home network, allowing access to hundreds of online media content providers. Significant video and audio content is available through the Australian free-to-air tv networks streaming services **ABC iView**, **SBS On Demand**, **7plus**, **9Now**, **10play**, as well as **YouTube**.

More content can be had via paid video subscription services **Netflix**, **Stan**, **Amazon Prime**, **Disney+**, and **Apple TV+**, or music streaming services **Spotify**, **Apple Music**, **YouTube Music**, **Google Play Music**, or **Amazon Music**. Sports fans have a similar range of subscription streaming options. Costs of these streaming services range \$6-\$15/mth, and it is increasingly common to see selected streaming services offered as an inclusion in your monthly internet service.

For some years dumb TVs could be made smart by the connection of a smart box like an **Apple TV box** (\$209 - \$279), or a **Chromecast** (\$60). These add-on boxes provide connections to most of the streaming services; access data stored on your computer, such as photos or music; and mirroring of a smartphone to the television's display.

There are hundreds of smart tvs on the market, the selection process is overwhelming. For example, a quick search of a popular retailer lists 189 smart tvs ranging in price from \$149 to \$71,995 (yes you can spend \$72,000 a TV!!). They perform nearly all the functions that were previously provided via externally connected boxes. However, research which brand/model suits your needs.

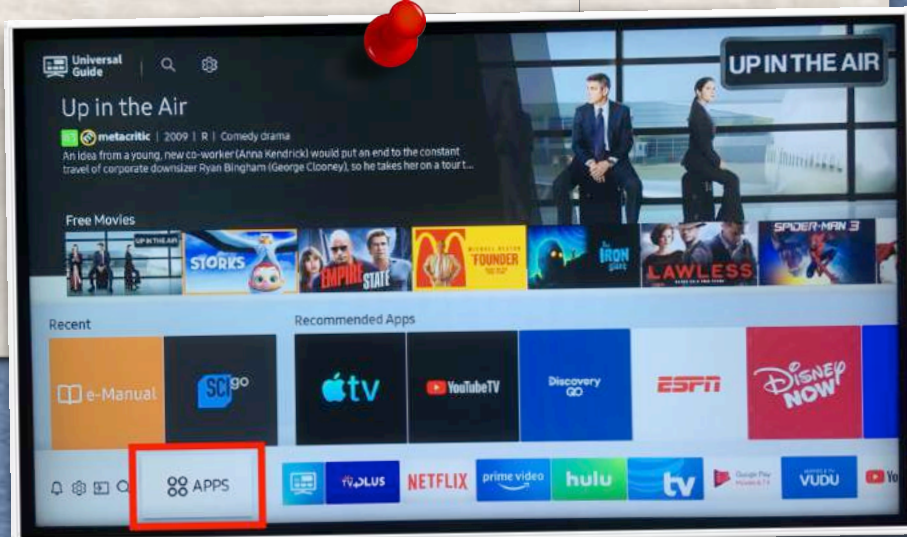
My own recent search started as I was having difficulty hearing the diction in some tv programs, particularly UK and US drama shows. Our existing tv has poor sound quality and is located in an open plan kitchen/living room where background noise is an issue. Connected to a stereo and external speakers, an **Apple TV box used for mirroring iPhones** and **ABC iView/SBS On Demand** catch-up viewing. I found using noise cancelling headphones improved the listening experience.

My new tv purchase needed to include the **Apple TV app**. This is a recent cooperative development between **Apple and television manufacturers** such as **LG**, **Samsung**, **Sony**, and **Vizio**. Another criteria was Bluetooth connectivity for **AirPods Pro**.

With **Foxtel** connected to a second tv, my new smart tv, using the **Foxtel app**, provides me access to my Foxtel channels. These channels are streamed over my internet service, thus using my data allowance. Whereas a **Foxtel IQ box** delivers its content via a cable tv subscription, and hence does not use internet data.

Final result; there is less clutter with my smart tv. One remote control where I previously used three; I can mirror my mobile device screens; and listen to sound using the tv speakers or my wireless headphones or both.

Steve Dixon



FRUIT FARM NEWS FLASH

Apple has just wrapped up its **2020 Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC20)** where, along with announcing **updates to all their operating systems**, their biggest announcement was the **Mac's transition away from Intel** to their own ARM based Apple Silicon; the first of which is due to arrive late this year.

Not to be over-shadowed by the Mac's big hardware change Apple also announced that after 19 years of macOS X, its latest version now goes to 11, **macOS 11 Big Sur**, with a new look, and of course, **loads of new features**.

The **keynote address** is on Apple's website, as is a less than two minute **summary**. For those that like to dive deep, the platforms the **State of the Union** is also online.

Does your Apple device support the latest OS release? Check your **iPhone**, or **iPad**, or **Mac** for compatibility.

Finally a video of **iOS 14 250+ top features/changes**.

Simon



Hub Coordinators

There are nine hubs within the Brisbane area. Unless the matter is urgent, please contact your hub coordinator via email.

Central

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centralhub@bsol.asn.au

North Central

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North

Carol: 0421 192 770
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South

Linda: 0418 459 227
southhub@bsol.asn.au

East

Ben: 0419 571 517
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West

Rod: 3376 5956
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Inner West

Mark: 0401 433 724
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Redlands

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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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