

News & Views

Brisbane Seniors Online Newsletter

AUGUST 2020

David Petchell

EDITORIAL

Another Two Fingers iPad-Pages Production.

Thank you to those that contributed this month. If you would like to submit something for publication, email it to the Editor's address below. The deadline for submissions is the last Friday morning of the month. Please DO NOT send Microsoft Word documents. Also submissions maybe edited, or not published for space or policy reasons.

To view the original version of published photos click/tap the photographer's name (bottom of photo). Other links in News & Views are shown in red.

This month's coronavirus links:

[John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Centre](#)
[Serious brain disorders in people with mild coronavirus](#)
[How to make a mask from a sock](#)

Simon

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Brisbane Seniors Online

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With the easing of restrictions by the Government to allow meetings to take place, the Committee has decided to reopen the Gabba office. The office will be opened on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 3pm. Meetings can take place, however there are limitations to the number of persons that may be in the meeting room and kitchen at any one time. Members are asked to respect these guidelines as a way to ensuring we all stay safe. The volunteers on duty in the office have been asked to ensure that the distances are maintained.

The Committee has also agreed that lessons may resume between the mentor and learner. This is with the proviso that both parties are in agreement to resume their training, and the requirement to socially distance remains in place. Face masks should be considered to help reduce the transmission of the virus.

We are aware that it is frustrating for many that they can not get out and about, and attend to the things that we used to do so freely a number of months ago. However, it is important that we do the right thing and abide by the restrictions until the virus is properly managed. Too many stories are starting to appear of people failing to abide by the guidelines, and the consequences for others because of their failings. Common sense and decency are needed to ensure a successful outcome.

Stay safe, and happy computing.

Colin T Waugh

pres@bsol.asn.au

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

BSOL learners who renew their membership are entitled to continued support from their mentor by phone, email, and remote access if their mentor provides this service.

BSOL mentors usually provide one-on-one mentor support sessions to renewed learners because this is often the easiest way to fix an issue.

All BSOL members can participate in BSOL's Linux, Apple, and Digital Photography special interest groups.

Learners who renew their annual membership can request six further lessons to learn how to use a new program, app or device. Contact your mentor or Hub coordinator for further information. Email addresses and phone numbers for BSOL Hub Coordinators are listed at the end of the newsletter.

Kevin Brown

hubliaison@bsol.asn.au



Pat Noad

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow that reflects on the water. Several boats are silhouetted against the sunset, and a pier or dock structure is visible in the foreground. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Well, we were the trailblazers – we physically met at our Gabba Training Rooms on Tuesday 14 July. It is worth mentioning that several of our members wisely chose not to attend because they were not well.

After a good deal of action with sanitising spray in every space we used, and liberal doses of hand sanitiser, seven of us settled down (at a distance of course) to catch up, review our shots on the topic of 'Keeping Sane', and to consider how we might deal with the rest of 2020.

Editor Simon advises that the new format of the BSOL newsletter allows more photos to be included, so we chose one from every member who had submitted some for consideration. Then we chose two 'Shots of the Month' instead of one.

We agreed that our theme for the next edition will be 'Guilty Pleasures'. Marg de Wilde suggested we submit these photos to the 'Cluster' platform, which she will manage for us and review online.

We agreed it is impossible to predict how 2020 will play out. All being well we will aim for an excursion in August (11th), and another in September (8th); in October (13th) Stan will lead a session on portrait photography and lighting. Some or all of these plans may have to change!

Dick updated us on his publicity efforts. Then after many more squirts of sanitiser, we called it a day.

Anyone interested in checking out the Digital Photography Group can email me at the address below.

Pat Noad

digital@bsol.asn.au

PUBLICITY REPORT

Some great news on the publicity and advertising side. I have secured \$10,000 of free advertising on 4BC radio. This will involve 50 pre-recorded community service announcements played at various times of the day over a 3-week period. Thank you to the new owners of the radio network Nine. I have postponed commencement of these announcements to when BSOL are fully operational so we achieve the greatest benefit.

I have applied for five grants from the Lord Mayor's Community fund for paid advertising in seven Brisbane publications. With the demise of the Quest community newspapers and Seniors Brisbane, there are limited publications still in print across Greater Brisbane. Most also have digital versions of their publications. With the reduction in printed publications, some existing companies with printed editions are expanding their distribution and circulation to a wider area across Brisbane.

Posters and brochures have been sent to the five libraries in the Moreton area and the three in the Redlands area that are within the Brisbane Seniors Online coverage.

At the July committee meeting (held via Zoom), it was agreed that Brisbane Seniors Online re-join ASCCA. An application to re-join is currently being made. ASCCA now have a Brisbane based member of the Board Samantha Isaacs which should allow BSOL to gain greater local support and input into this Sydney based organisation. Also it will allow BSOL to participate in the annual digital photographic competition, in the past when we were an ASCCA member BSOL was very successful in winning several awards.

I have been speaking with Scott Green, Consumer and Sector Engagement Manager from Lifetec at Newmarket and hope to work with them in a collaborative way to promote BSOL and Lifetec. This was previously done when we participated in Ageing Expos and other activities. Lifetec play a significant role in assistive technology which extends to computer operation.



Once again, word of mouth in promoting Brisbane Seniors Online is a very cost-effective method of recruiting. The BSOL Facebook site has been reenergised and has generated some significant interest which I hope will generate some new learners and volunteer mentors for BSOL. Please promote the benefits amongst people you know.

Several speaking engagements with community groups that were postponed due to the health crisis have now rebooked in the coming weeks. I am happy to speak to community groups about what BSOL does across the Greater Brisbane area. There is no cost involved.

Dick Bennett
publicity@bsol.asn.au



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Management Committee met via Zoom on Tuesday 21st July with only four members present. There were two apologies but due to technical difficulties two additional members were not in attendance.

The Treasurer reported that the 20/21 Budget has been prepared and will be ratified at the August meeting. Revenue is down as might be predicted. MYOB will be terminated before next month.

Les Webb has taken over from Peter Henttonen as Office Coordinator.

As of 21st July the BSOL office has re-opened on a restricted basis – Tuesday and Thursday 10 am until 3 pm and Friday 10 am until 2 pm. The office will be closed on Wednesday but the phones will be monitored.

Membership stands at 658, two down on last month.

The MIS is close to finalised with major bills being paid to C9 for completion of the project.

Dick Bennett has been able to secure 50 free 30 second Community Service announcements on 4BC for one month to commence in the near future.

The MC is also looking into who might replace Val French as our Patron.

The MC wishes to thank Simon Mooney for taking over as editor of the BSOL Newsletter and noted a favourable response to the "new-look" publication.

Ethna Brown
sec@bsol.asn.au

MENTOR SUPPORT GROUP

This month's meeting was again held using [Zoom](#). Until the Social Distancing rules are relaxed, the consensus is Zoom is the best way.

Brian opened the meeting with an introduction to the general format of the meeting, noting it is open to any issues concerning mentoring and all operating systems.

Dick announced he was unable to open his email while his VPN was enabled. No fixes were offered

An attendee told us of the issues he was having with the internet within his retirement village. All the communications have been outsourced to private enterprise. His internet was ADSL and relatively expensive. To go to higher speeds was prohibitively expensive. The solution was to not use the connectivity supplied by the village, but to purchase an internet plan from a mobile provider. There was comment by others that this was often done. It had the added advantage that you could take your modem with you when travelling. It was further suggested that you choose the provider with the tower closest to your home. The location of cell towers can be found on the [Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association's Radio Frequency National Site Archive Mobile Site Safety website](#).

There was general discussion on the value of remote mentoring and the best tools to use. [Anydesk](#) was mentioned. There is a social aspect of visits which remote mentoring doesn't give members. Hand sanitiser and Social Distancing are now de rigueur.

Dick commented that we have lost a number of long term members recently. There was some discussion as to why this might be. Dick suggested that we offer an exit survey.

An attendee commented that it is possible to use a smart phone or a digital camera as a webcam.

Discussion moved on to smart TVs, soundbars, and headphones. Headphones can be used for the benefit of the hearing impaired (and those around them). Some TVs allow the main speakers to be used while headphones are connected, others not.



Smart TVs update their apps. Some automatically, some have on request. Some more often than others. For one attendee, the TV soundbar and the mobile phone had replaced the home stereo system. Another attendee have connected his TV to his home stereo system. This had created a rats nest of wiring, and necessitated his writing an instruction manual so that the remainder of the family was able to turn the TV on.

We finished the meeting with a discussion on time formats in Excel spreadsheets and the Strava bicycling app.

This month's meeting was recorded. You can review the [meeting here](#).

Mark

LIFETEC FOR BSOL MEMBERS

LifeTec is a not for profit organisation based at Newmarket and Townsville that helps with assistive technology. As you get older, staying independent and living in your own home may become more challenging. Sometimes making changes to your home or using assistive technology can allow you to stay safe at home and enable you to keep doing the things you love. LifeTec is there to help you live your potential.

A range of assistive technology options are available to enable people with low vision to:

- Be safe and independent at home
- Read newspapers, books and magazines
- Enjoy and participate in recreational activities
- Communicate with loved ones
- Navigate the community
- Recognise faces of people you know
- Continue to have access to computers and devices
- Use computers

Aids can range in complexity from simple daily living aids such as magnifiers to facial recognition and navigational devices. LifeTec informational services are available free of charge.

Funding packages for eligible people are available for the provision of services and equipment as well as home modifications.

LifeTec can be contacted on 1300 543 383 or view their website lifetec.org.au

Dick Bennett



Margaret Dewilde

THE VIRTUAL SHOEBOX

Note: this article describes a manual method for managing photos on the Microsoft Windows platform. iPhone, iPad, and Mac owners have Apple's photo editing, syncing, and management app, Photos, built into their devices - Ed.

When I was very young, my Grandmother kept a lot of sepia and black and white photographs in an old shoe box. Periodically the box would be brought out



for the pictures to be handed around, admired and discussed. Then they'd all be stuffed back in the by now broken shoe box, a process that created many a dog-eared corner, creases and finally, bits missing. Over the years, many of the photos were damaged beyond recognition or lost along with the names of those who appeared in them.

Fast forward a few decades and a couple of generations.

Nearly all of my photos are now in digital format. Many were taken using a succession of digital cameras and more recently a mobile phone. Earlier photos were scanned from prints, slides, and even negatives. Now the computer is home to something in excess of 60,000 images.

It's pretty easy to throw picture files at your computer which will happily store them. However, it can be a different matter to find the one picture you need – when you need it. "Where did I put that photo I took of the man with the llama when we were on holiday in Chile?" The virtual shoebox that exists on some

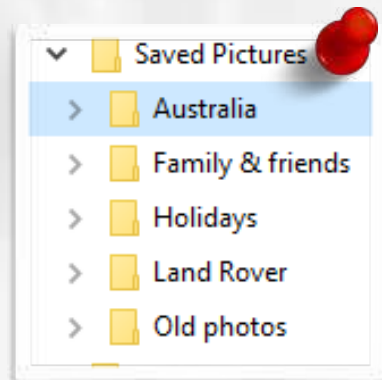
people's computers can make it difficult indeed to find the pictures we want.

So what's the answer? Put simply, it's a decent folder structure. Forget trying to give each picture file a different name. That's far too big a job. Here's an approach that works for me, and others too.

If your computer is running Windows, you'll find that Microsoft has already created some folders for you. There's one for documents, another for pictures and yet more for movies, music and other things. So rule number one – put pictures in the pictures folder, not in the documents folder or anywhere else. That established, we can create a simple folder structure to store everything.

For what it's worth, here's mine. Just five main folders:

- Australia
- Family & Friends
- Holidays
- Land Rover
- Old Photos



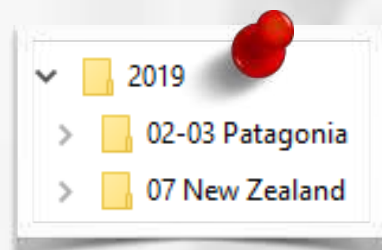
Take 'Holidays' as an example. There's a folder for each year and within those, a folder by month for the holiday. If you

use this method, don't forget to use two digits for each month or the shown sequence will be wrong (1 will be followed by 11, followed by 2, which is confusing).

If a lot of photos were taken on the holiday then further folders for each day or a group of days, may be necessary.

I usually add a couple of words to describe the photos that are in the folders. In this example it's the places visited and the name of a boat.

Now, to find that picture of the man with the llama, it's fairly easy to work out the year then to



- ▼ 02-03 Patagonia
 - Feb 25 - 27 Buenos Aires
 - Feb 27 - Mar 03 Bariloche
 - Mar 02 - 04 El Calafate
 - Mar 04 - 07 Torres Del Paine
 - Mar 07 - 09 Punta Arenas
 - > Mar 09 - 13 Stella Australis
 - > Mar 13 - 17 Tierra del Fuego

navigate to the holiday. The picture will be in there. The trick is to not have so many pictures in any given folder that it takes too long to search for the one you want.

There's a bonus too. All cameras and phones automatically assign a number to each photo taken. However, some reach a maximum then start again (and you can't have two files with the same name in the same folder). With lots of folders, this situation is very unlikely to occur, even if your camera or phone does produce two pictures with the same file name.

With photos now stored safely, a backup would be a good idea. I wrote about how to do that a few months back so you'll have to look through your back copies of News & Views to find it.

That sepia photograph above was taken at my maternal grandparents wedding in 1913.

Mike Timms

THE WRITING ON THE BACK

Note: this article describes a manual method for managing photos on the Microsoft Windows platform. iPhone, iPad, and Mac owners have Apple's photo editing, syncing, and management app, Photos, built into their devices - Ed.

The backs of some of those old photographs can often reveal something about the image. Names of people, places, dates, even feelings and aspirations can be noted. Years ago, photos were often used as postcards and these can reveal more information from the postmark, stamp and written content. It's all very interesting stuff that can lead to speculation, or research if you're into genealogy.

If the information is written on the back of an old photo, quite clearly it stays with that photo. It's even easy when digitising the image. Simply take an image of the back of the photo and keep with the image of the front, together with appropriate file names (picxx front and picxx back will do).



Mike Timms

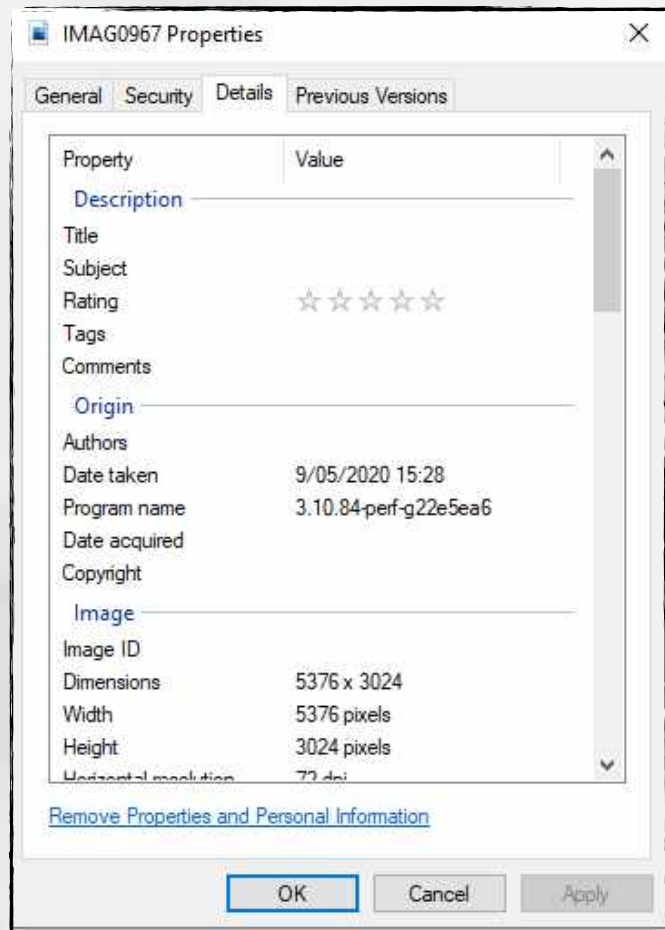
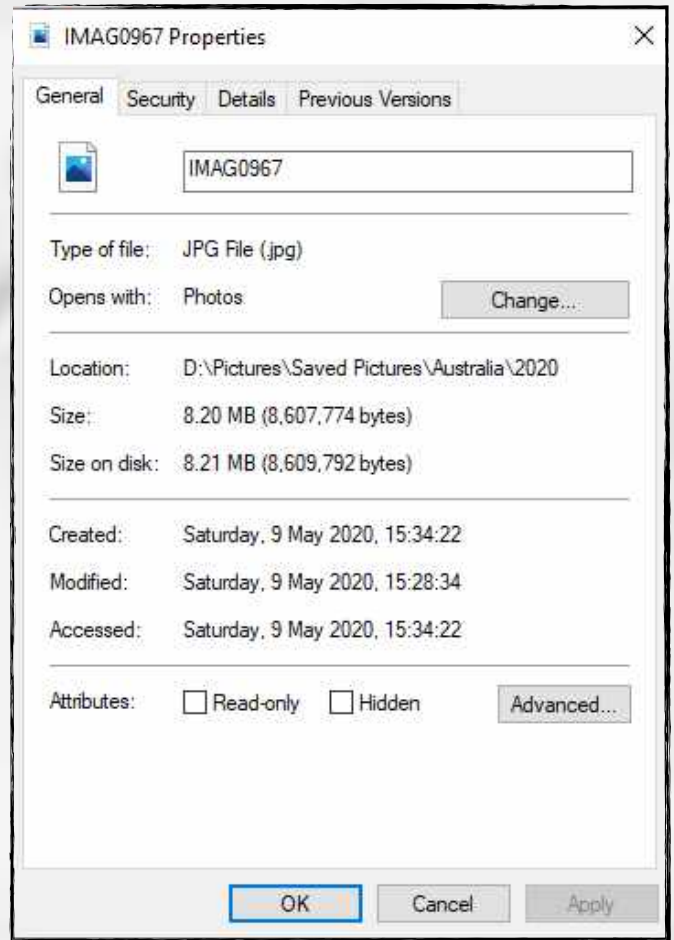
But what of digital photos? OK, they can be printed and notes written on the back but that's hardly twenty-first century is it?

There is a way to add notes to any digital image, and it's very easy to do.

Firstly, locate the image and position the cursor over it. Right click and a long list of options will be displayed. Right at the bottom of that list is the word Properties. Click on it and you'll see something like this in Microsoft Windows.

When a photo is taken with a digital camera or phone, all sorts of information is stored along with it. For example, it's size, the date and time the picture was taken, where on your computer it's stored, security information and a whole load more. If the device that took the picture has GPS built in, even the latitude and longitude will be stored. It's all completely automatic. However, in addition to all this automatic information, Properties can be used to add those details that would once have been written on the back of a photograph.

You'll notice that four tabs are displayed on the Properties dialog; General, Security, Details, and Previous Versions. We're interested in the Details tab.



In the Description section you can add a Title, a Subject, and Comments. You can also rate the picture. Click on the a label and enter the information.

The Comments field is free form and you can add enter any information. It's the equivalent of the notes on the back of a photo.

Tags can be handy when searching for a photo. You can add as many tags as you like. However it's a lot of work tagging every picture.

If you scroll down the list, you'll find a lot of other information; details about the specific image, the make and model of camera, whether flash was used, in some cases even the lens manufacturer. .

Don't forget to click the OK button to save your changes. Not every picture requires notes, but it's useful to know that there is a way of keeping such things.

I wish my Grandfather had added some indication on the back of that postcard about where he was. After much enlargement and scanning, I still can't find him!

AUGUST BRAINTEASER

Here's one to test your powers of logical thinking.

A man wanted into a members-only club so he hid and watched the guard at the door of the club house.

The guard said a number to each member as they approached, and the member responded with a number of their own. If their response was the correct number they were let in.

One member came up to the door, the guard said twelve, the member responded with six and was let in.

Another member came to the door, the guard said six, the member responded with three and was let in.

Believing he had heard enough the man went up to the guard. The guard said ten, the man responded with five but was not let in. What should he have said, and why?

Was last month's puzzle too hard or too easy? I'm really not sure. Only one member sent me an answer, which was correct. Congratulations to Les Webb.

You were asked what the following words have in common: Ver**mont**, Stat**ue**sque, Sw**ed**ish, Ar**th**ur's, Af**ri**ca, Sens**at**ion, Mis**un**derstood. Now that I've highlighted some of the letters, the answer is all too obvious.

Email your answers to this month's puzzle to the address below.

Brian Korner

kortravel0@gmail.com

TECHNO TIDBITS

Why Older People Really Eschew Technology

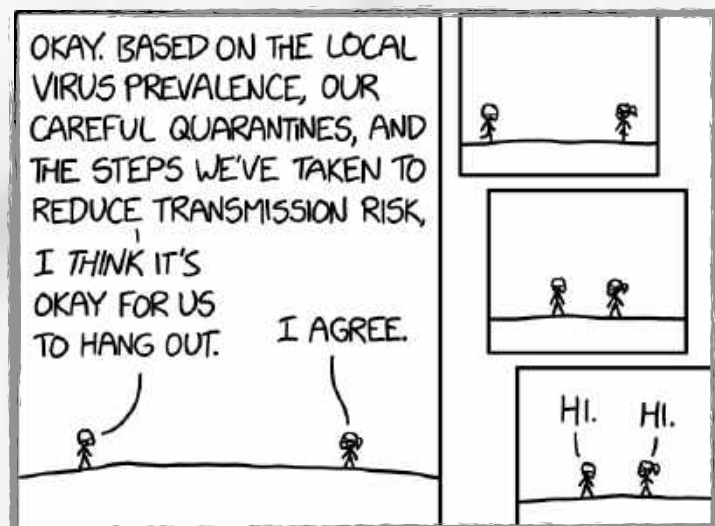
How Have I Been Pwned became the keeper of the internet's biggest data breaches

The MP3 At 25: How A Digital File Dynamited The Music Industry

Ramesses VI Tomb Virtual Tour

MyHeritage Photo Enhancer

I Cut The 'Big Five' Tech Giants From My Life And It Was Hell



Apple GROUP

The BSOL office opened 21st July. I was thinking of holding an Apple Group meeting on the usual second Thursday of the month, August 13th. However with Social Distancing still apart of daily life, the restriction in the number of participants allowed at BSOL, and the **stupidity of people spreading coronavirus** in the state I think it is better Apple Group stays in hiatus for a while longer.

I've updated the Apple Group entries in the **BSOL Events Calendar** to show as cancelled. This label will be removed when I feel it is ok to meet in person again.

Meanwhile here's some Apple news:

Happy 12th Birthday iOS App Store

A visual comparison of macOS Catalina and Big Sur
85+ new macOS Big Sur changes and features

Simon

apple@bsol.asn.au

WHAT THE WAY YOU WRITE LARGE NUMBERS SAYS ABOUT YOU

(USING THE APPROXIMATE CURRENT DISTANCE TO JUPITER IN INCHES AS AN EXAMPLE)

25,259,974,097,204

NORMAL PERSON

25 TRILLION

NORMAL PERSON

25 BILLION

OLD BRITISH PERSON

2.526×10^{13}

SCIENTIST

2.525997×10^{13}

SCIENTIST TRYING TO AVOID ROUNDING UP

2.526e13 or

$2.526 * 10^{13}$

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

25,259,973,541,888

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER WHO FORGOT ABOUT FLOATS

10^{13}

ASTRONOMER

{0,{0},{0,{0}},0,{0},{0},...}

SET THEORIST

1,262,998,704,860

SCORE AND FOUR

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Hub Coordinators

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

Central

Kevin: 0466 369 995

centralhub@bsol.asn.au

North Central

Janet 0419 779 233

northctrlhub@bsol.asn.au

North

Carol: 0421 192 770

northhub@bsol.asn.au

South

Linda: 0418 459 227

southhub@bsol.asn.au

East

Ben: 0419 571 517

easthub@bsol.asn.au

West

Rod: 3376 5956

westhub@bsol.asn.au

Inner North

Brad: 0498 117 560

northinhub@bsol.asn.au

Inner West

Mark: 0401 433 724

westinnerhub@bsol.asn.au

Redlands

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.

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