

News & Views

Brisbane Seniors Online Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2020

Margaret Dewilde

EDITORIAL

Nineteen new members this past month, welcome everyone.

Thank you to all contributors; more great photos from the DPG. To view the original, click/tap the photographer's name in the corner of photo.

Email your non-Microsoft Word submissions to the Editor. Submissions maybe edited, or not published for space or policy reasons.

Links in News & Views are shown in red; this month's coronavirus articles are below.

[Earliest We'll Be "Back to Normal" Is the End of 2021](#)

[Overlooked Variable Is the Key to the Pandemic](#)

[Face masks: what the data say](#)

[A room, a bar, a classroom: coronavirus spreading in the air](#)

[FAQ: Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 Aerosol Transmission](#)

[Charming Local Covid-19 Social Distancing Signs](#)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my first report as President since my election at the recent AGM. I wish to thank our retiring President Colin Waugh whom served one year in what can only be described as a unique time. Colin joined BSOL by responding to an advertisement for BSOL President in Volunteering Qld. Joining an organisation as an outsider and immediately becoming President is a brave act. Fortunately I will still be able to draw on Colin's expertise as he will continue to help out with the website.

I will also be able to draw on my experience when serving as Vice President to past President Penny Douglas, and I am sure I will receive help and advice from other long time members. Our organisation is only as good as its members; fortunately we have had, and still have, many good members.

The Annual General Meeting was held the 22nd October. It was a Zoom meeting, with 20 members attending. The elected office bearers for 2021 are:

President: Ron Horst

Secretary: Ethna Brown

Treasurer: Jonathan Smith

Committee (Hub Liaison): Kevin Brown

Committee (Publicity): Dick Bennett

Committee (Office Manager): Les Webb

Other than Les, all of these positions are re-elections. Thank you to Ethna, Jonathan, Kevin, and Dick for standing again, and welcome Les.

Our membership administrator, Sue Green, will still perform that vital role, but has stepped down from the Management Committee. Thank you Sue for your valuable contribution over a number of years.

The alert amongst you may have noticed that we do not have a Vice President. This role is not an onerous commitment. The Management Committee meets once each month for maybe an hour and a half. BSOL largely runs itself, with the real work being an arrangement between Mentor and Learner. Most of the time Committee business is pretty routine. I encourage anyone interested in the role to contact me on 0417 538 723 or by email.

Finally, the President's email address has changed (refer below).

RON HORST

president@bsol.asn.au

LINUX INTEREST GROUP

Six members logged on for the 10am Zoom on the month's first Friday. The discussion covered a range of topics, many not directly associated with the Linux.

The meeting finished with a test of the free **JITSI** platform to compare it to Zoom. Apart from a slight degradation in video quality, all agreed it performed much the same; when the BSOL office is connected to the NBN we will consider conducting our meetings using it.

Some interesting topics discussed were:

- A general discussion on browsers including **Firefox shutting down Send and Notes**.
- **Edge for Linux** has been released; it's been in development for some time.
- **Snaps**; Linux packages containing all program dependencies that can be installed/run across all Linux versions.
- **Configuring network routers**.
- Is **Microsoft Windows development heading down the Linux path**?
- **Lenovo** and **Dell** both offer devices with Linux pre-installed.
- **System 76** in the USA build a range of Desktops/Laptops that only run Linux.
- What is the best application to make **bootable USB sticks**?

Members interesting in joining in can contact myself.

GARY ALCORN

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DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Excursion leader David Petchell reports: 'Our October meeting was an excursion visiting Fish Lane at South Brisbane. Seven members of our photography group went along. Fish Lane is renowned for its wall and public art which was commissioned by the Brisbane City Council over the past two decades. The artists are well known and their sketches represent the lane's past. The lane was originally known as Soda Water Lane in the 1800s and was later renamed to Fish Lane in the early 1900s. It was a bustling rough-and-tumble area servicing the docks. It remained forgotten for a long time until the Council set about renovating the area into a lively precinct with many restaurants and bars. The area has seen many high-rise developments take place catering for urban housing.'

Thanks to David for organising this very successful outing. You can see some of the shots taken by attending members. Other photos are our theme of the month, October was Finding the Drama, and then of course there is one shot of the month. Our judge this month is DPG member Marilyn Hooper.

Our final excursion for the year will be in November. Hopefully we will be able to meet in December in the BSOL Training Room to collect ourselves after this very disrupted year, before we find a Xmas lunch somewhere Covid-safe! New members are welcome..

PAT NOAD
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PUBLICITY REPORT

I was pleased to see that the 54 Community Service Announcements on 4BC went to air and were spread over three weeks; 4-5 times a day Monday to Saturday 12th to the 31st October. These ran before, during, and after Get Online Week. Some of the committee reported hearing them and stated that they sounded very professional. Thank you to 4BC for supporting BSOL and undertaking this free of charge; it's valued commercially at \$10,000.

Brisbane Seniors Online has been successful in obtaining some funding, for advertising in local print media, from several Brisbane Councillors despite severe budgetary constraints within the Council. These included:



Cr Peter Cumming (Wynnum Manly Ward; Wynnum Manly Ward funding allocation)



Cr Fiona Hammond (Marchant Ward; Marchant Ward funding allocation): 'This will support them to get their message out to seniors who need support with online and technological literacy, so that everyone in our community can keep connected and engaged.'

BSOL does great work and I'm glad to have been able to partner with them for another year."



Cr Greg Adermann (Pullenvale Ward; Lord Mayor's Community grant fund): "I commend Brisbane Seniors Online for providing people over 50 with advice on how to obtain the best from their computers, tablets, and smart phones. In the current climate it is particularly important that our seniors are able to communicate effectively and know that support in times of an emergency is readily and easily available."

I have a talk booked for Wynnum Manly Probus 5th November at Wynnum Bowls Club. It is anticipated that between 50-70 members will be in attendance.

I have visited over 20 mobile and computer repair shops, and Two Cartridge World shops, about promoting BSOL. Brochures and posters were distributed for display.

A BSOL promotional advertisement is listed on Gumtree under the training category.

I have contacted Neighbourhood Watch, VIEW, National Seniors, and COTA seeking promotion of BSOL and availability to undertake talks at any meetings or conferences. Nicole Johnson (Tennyson) has put email out to community groups about available BSOL speakers for talks. I welcome the opportunity to speak to community groups and not-for-profit organisations about Brisbane Seniors Online's services. These talks are free, so if you are a member of a community group please suggest to the committee they engage a BSOL speaker to present at a meeting. I also welcome assistance in getting brochures and posters distributed around the BSOL coverage area. If members are able assist with this please request supplies to be posted to you from BSOL HQ.

DICK BENNETT
publicity@bsol.asn.au

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Management Committee met via Zoom on Tuesday 20th October with six members present.

The Treasurer reported that we are behind budget for both the month and the quarter, the pandemic environment has not helped our bottom line. There is however some positive news on the publicity front: Dick Bennett has managed to receive several small grants from local Councillors for both advertising and the purchase of office equipment. Dick has also received three weeks of free advertising on radio station 4BC that we hope will prove fruitful. His application for a \$5000 grant from the Brisbane City Council, for advertising across Brisbane, has also been accepted.

Our **Facebook** page has been resurrected under the direction of Steve Dixon and several new Mentors have joined the organisation through this channel.

On the IT front BSOL will be moving on to the NBN in the very near future. A decision has been made to switch from Telstra to TPG.

BSOL also now has a fully subscribed Zoom account.

There has been a small increase in the overall membership from 613 to 616 in the last month. 19 new members; 16 members have chosen not to renew.

The ongoing Covid situation remains under review with BSOL following government guidelines regarding mentoring and meetings.

ETHNA BROWN
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NETFLIX SCAM

One of BSOL's new members was scammed when looking for assistance from Netflix; her mentor has provided the following.

When searching the internet for "Netflix phone number", amongst the results are fake Netflix websites. Many have American phone numbers but **this site** has an Australian 1 800 number. The red flag here is it isn't actually **Netflix's website** and it has poor grammar and spelling.

A quick phone number search using **Reverse Australia** lists many comments of scammers gaining access to people's person information via Netflix accounts.

For the new BSOL member it was quite devastating because

they rang the number and the responder said they would get one of their techs to call them back. They then said they needed to pay a joining fee, through **Paypal**, and that they would do that for them if they could give him their bank details. The next red flag is being asked for your personal information, especially your bank details.

Luckily, when they went to JB HiFi and recounted their story to the sales assistant, they were told to go to their bank immediately.

Other red flags that shouldn't be ignored:

Incorrect URL

Scammers use modified URLs so what appears to be the real website, isn't. Look for alterations in the URL, such as hyphens or any other added characters.

No Postal Address

If you are visiting an e-commerce webpage, be sure to check their postal address on the website. Real businesses, selling real products, will display a physical contact address on their websites. Be cautious of any site that doesn't list the company's physical address or contact information.

You can also search Google or use Google maps to find the exact location of the company stated in that website. If the contact address provided on the website doesn't match the company's exact location, then it may be a fake or fraudulent website.

LINDA DANIEL
southhub@bsol.asn.au

MENTOR SUPPORT GROUP

With a number of our regulars absent this month the meeting was a fairly quiet one. Much of the discussion seemed to centre round email matters. Safe PST Backup was highly recommended by one of our members as an excellent piece of free software. As the name suggests it backs up the Microsoft Outlook .pst files which contain ones email messages, calendars, and contacts. It can be set to do so incrementally and automatically, which could prove most useful in the event of a computer crash.

One of our members is experiencing trouble with Gmail messages disappearing from view after 30 days. Various solutions were suggested, though we weren't able to come up with a definitive answer.

The bulk email program which BSOL uses in conjunction with the Management Information System (MIS) still contains a number of bugs, so we talked about some of the improvements which still need to be made and the faults which need to be fixed.

BRIAN KORNER



David Petchell

PLANNING YOUR DIGITAL LEGACY

(PART 3: DIGITALLY RECORDING YOUR PHYSICAL ASSETS)

The final chapter in the series of Planning your Digital Legacy was prompted by a friend who asked how to best make a digital record of her valuables.

As we pass the baton to the next generation, we need to be aware that tastes and styles change and the things we possess and look upon as having value, or have collected over our lifetime, may be of little interest to our children (or grandchildren).

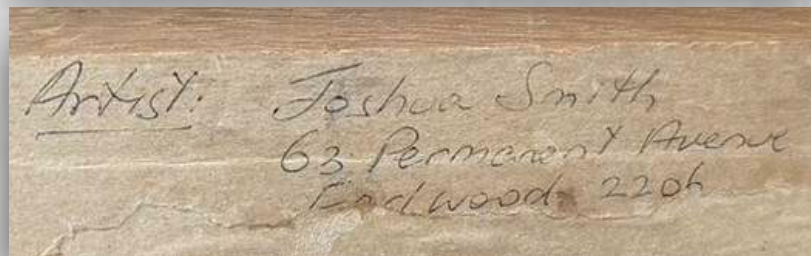
The simple way to document the valuable possessions is to create an electronic document using a word processor or spreadsheet, take a digital photo of the item and add a description.

With artworks take a photo of the signature and anything that may be written on the back, including auction house stickers, as these may assist if your beneficiaries send everything off to an auction house. Scan any old auction catalogues or correspondence associated with any collectable, as these are important in determining the provenance of the item; having credible provenance can make a considerable difference in the value.

The description of the item could be similar to the description on any valuation certificate that you might have received over the years, and by way of example, your digital record of a treasured piece of artwork might look like this:

Painting Number 1:

Artist:	Joshua Smith (1905 – 1995)
Medium:	Oil on Masonite
Title:	Still Life with Ewer (Untitled)
Size:	51 x 60.75
Signature:	Signed Lower Right
Purchase Date:	13 November 1999
Purchase Price:	\$2,000



Purchased From: Masterpiece Fine Art Pty. Ltd., 63 Sandy Bay Rd, Hobart

2020 Value (est): \$??

Condition: Good

Comments: Joshua Smith was a fellow artist and friend of William Dobell, and became a household name as a result of Dobell's portrait of him being the subject of huge controversy when it was awarded the Archibald Prize in 1943. Joshua Smith went on to win the Archibald Prize in 1944, but the controversy damaged his career and his mental health.

Continue this process of documentation for all your other notable objects and collectables.

If you are not confident with creating an electronic document, you can annotate the digital photo. Annotating a photo varies with your device and its photo app, but many people may be more confident with photos than with word processing.

If your collection has an insurable monetary value, it is advisable to have a registered valuer visit and document the collection for insurance purposes. This generally involves a fee but you will be left with your collection well documented and valued.

If your collection is not of great commercial value, get a rough idea of the value by searching for similar items on online classified sites eg eBay, Gumtree.

Gold and silver objects have historically followed the daily gold and silver prices. Unfortunately there is no additional value attributed to the workmanship. Weigh your gold necklace on your kitchen scales, convert to ounces by dividing the grams by 28, and for 24 carat gold that will convert to the approximate value of current gold price. For 9 carat gold expect a little less than half the value by weight.

Artwork values can fluctuate a lot, depending upon popularity. There are a number of websites that keep records of art auction sales, but these are generally only accessible by subscription eg [artrecord.com](https://www.artrecord.com) where a one month subscription costs \$35.

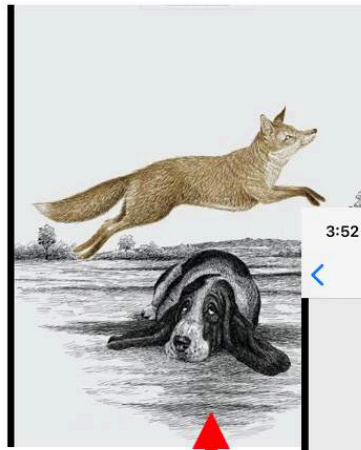
iPhone/iPad users with iOS 14

For those who have an iPhone and/or iPad that supports iOS14, the ability to add a caption to a photo has been made a lot simpler; follow these steps:

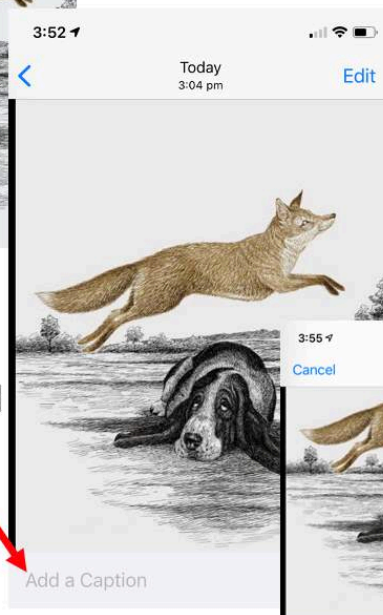
1. Open the photo you want to describe
2. Using a light touch, swipe up slowly until the text box Add a Caption appears
3. A single tap in this box will display the keyboard



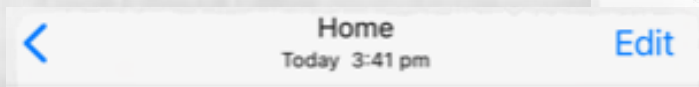
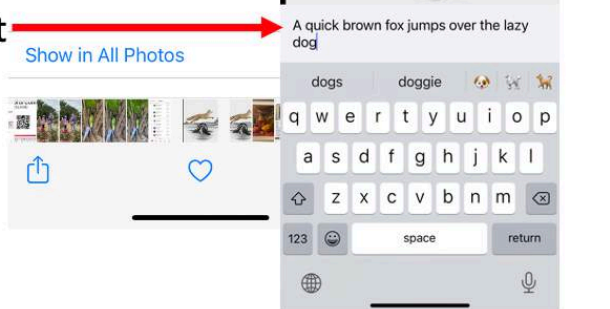
4. Type your description. I can find no space restrictions on what can be entered into this caption box, you can write quite a long story. Links can be included if you copy and paste from other documents, but it does not copy any embedded photos.
5. Also you can dictate the caption by pressing the microphone button.



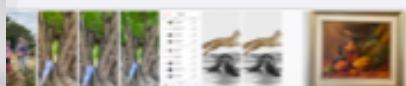
Open picture
And "Swipe Up"
lightly to show "Add
A Caption" box



Type your text
And press
"Done" (Top
Right)



Artist: Joshua Smith (1905 – 1995)
Medium: Oil on Masonite
Title: Still Life with Ewer (Untitled)
Size: 51 x 60.75
Signature: Signed Lower Right
Purchase Date: 13 November 1999
Purchase Price: \$2,000
Purchased From: Masterpiece Fine Art Pty. Ltd., 63 Sandy Bay Rd, Hobart
2020 Value (est): \$5,000
Condition: Good



If you forward this photo to others, eg via Mail or **AirDrop**, the caption is included in the photo metadata and can be viewed if the receiving person adds the photo into their Photos library. This is quite seamless across Apple devices using the Photos app, but different results may occur with non Apple devices.

STEVE DIXON

ELAINE JOHANSON

A huge milestone for Member Elaine Johanson, who turned 99 during October.

Elaine is member #103, and joined BSOL in 2001. She actively Mentored until 2014, having taught 35 Learners. These days she maintains her involvement as an Associate Member. What a great achievement.

HELEN GIBBS

NOVEMBER BRAINTEASER

This month's Brain Teaser requires a bit of logic, but I'll let you decide whether it's hard or easy. A man is trapped in a room. The room has only two possible exits: two doors. Through the first door there is a room constructed from magnifying glass. The blazing hot sun instantly fries anything or anyone that enters. Through the second door there is a fire-breathing dragon. How does the man escape?

Email your answers to my address below.

Last month's puzzle was altogether too easy. I received two correct entries – from Ethna Brown and Robert Cousin – but I do hope there were more than three BSOL members who were smart enough to solve the puzzle even if they didn't email me with their answers. Shoes was the odd one out. It is the only pair among all those listed which can be physically separated into two items.

Regards

BRIAN KORNER
kortravel0@gmail.com



TECHNO TIDBITS

Not All 5G Is Created Equal

Zoom Rolling Out End-to-End Encryption

Introducing Google Workspace

Plan Your Route Privately: DuckDuckGo Now Has Driving & Walking Directions

LG Rollable OLED TV

Government warns of remote attack against Windows PCs editing iPhone video

Let's Talk: Scams

Six Reasons You Should Delete WhatsApp

Homeland Security collars a suspected arsonist after asking Google for ...

Google's Supreme Court faceoff with Oracle was a disaster

My message to the Western World – your civilisation is killing life on Earth

Crows possess higher intelligence

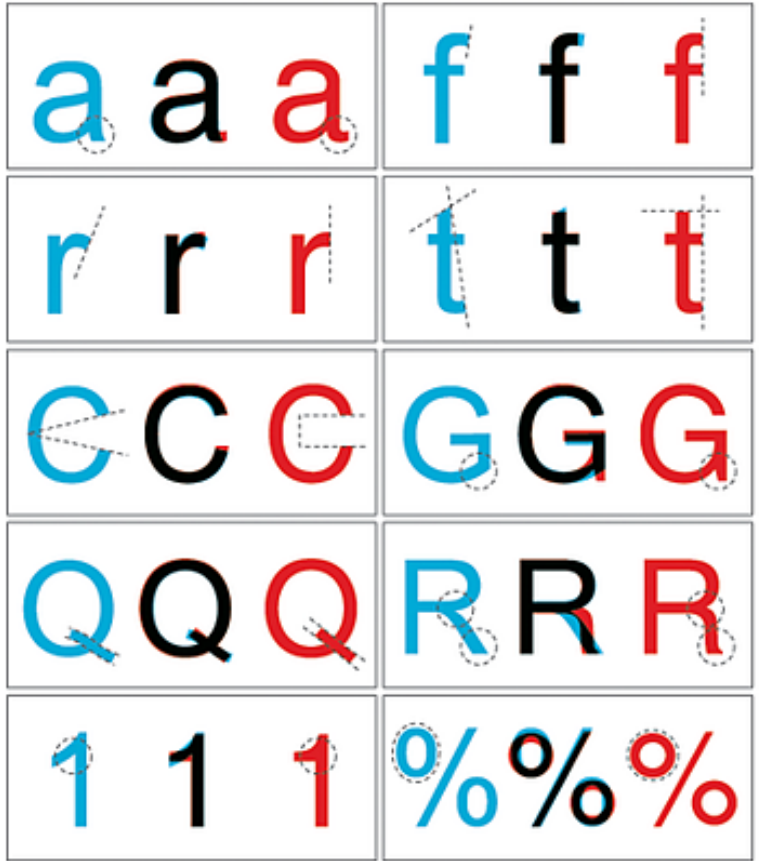
Time Traveler by Merriam-Webster

Drone Photo Awards

2020 Photomicrography Competition

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Arial & Helvetica



Arial vs. Helvetica, can you spot the difference?



Galina Rasmussen



Unfortunately **business restrictions** have not changed so **Apple Group** is still on hiatus, but **indoor gatherings** have increased to 40.

Apple news: **iPhone 12**, **iPhone 12 Pro**, and **HomePod mini** were **announced**.

Other news items:

iPhone 12: All The Camera News

Photos for Mac: turn snaps into blankets, puzzles

Apple TV+ subscriptions extended to February

iOS and iPadOS 14: The MacStories Review

Ultimate iPad productivity guide

iOS 14.1, iPadOS 14.1, HomePodOS 14.1, tvOS 14.0.2

How Apple Is Organized for Innovation

mmWave vs. Sub-6GHz 5G iPhones

iPhone 12 and 12 Pro Teardown

Setup a second shared Apple ID for the App Store

Apple Maps lists your location incorrectly?



iOS 14: Home Screen tips and tricks for iPhone

Hands-on: top 10 iOS 14 features for iPhone

iOS 14 Hidden Features

Guy Walks Into an Apple Store

AirPods Pro Service Program

Q4 2020 results

Introducing HomePod mini

Meet iPhone 12

This is iPhone 12 Pro

SIMON

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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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North

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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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