

Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.



Vol 41 No 9

20 September 2026

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5-6	Johns Jots A few answers and a couple of bit I have found . Check AI	Q&A bits	Keith	
7	APCUG Articles	None this edition	Editor	APCUG
9-12	2025 AGM Minutes.		Secretary	

Meeting Timetable

Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

9:30am	Q&A	Keith
11am	AGM and Election of Officers	Keith
!2 noon	Lunch -- GM - Report to the Club	Keith
1:00pm	Advice on Bitlocker and auto encryption in Windows Home.	Keith

If you have a question that may need a bit of a look up, let me know before the meeting



Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

SIGNIFICANT BITS

the Journal of
BRISBUG PC USER GROUP INC.
*A Computer Club for users of
PC-type computers*
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CLUB NOTICES

Notice is given for the
Club's AGM to be held on the
20th of September

All positions are open for
nomination

CLUB INFORMATION LINES

Info Line (07) 3353 3121

The Members' Web Page

Meeting Days

20 September 2026
18 October 2026
15 November 2026
20 December 2026

Magazine

Editor

Chris Haydock

Proof-reader

John Tacey

Please use e-mail if possible

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Hi All,

Welcome to our AGM to be held at the September Meeting. All positions will be declared vacant and subject to nomination from the floor. The meeting will present the financial results for the 2025 -2026 Financial Year.

An election will be held for the committee and filling of the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer.

My thanks to Garry as our Secretary and Eric as our Treasurer, for holding the roles and maintaining our Club. While we are a smaller club, they have ensured we continue to meet and be a source for learning about our computers and other devices.

John Tacey has continued with the Q&A and John's Jots, he has missed a few months due to health issues and we look forward to his return. Chris Haydock continues to keep the Magazine going sourcing topics of interest. My thanks to them, and on behalf of the Club.

Fred Stratford has kept us on track with learning about Linux with some very detailed presentations and advice as we continue the journey.

All for now.

Cheers

Keith

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Reports

Presentation and Education

9:30am: Q&A

11am AGM and Election of Officers.

Following meeting

Talk about Bitlocker and the auto encryption for users of Windows Home.

Lunch and Club Report following.

12:30pm: Linux Workshop.

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 11 members attended.

Presidents Report for the AGM.

Treasurer's Report

August 2026

Opening Balance at 1/8/26	1925.65
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Income

New Member	0.0
------------	-----

Total Income	0.0
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Expenses

Total Expenses	0.00
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Month's loss or gain	0.00
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Balance at 31/8/26	1925.65
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Eric Maronese

Treasurer

President's Report for 2025-2026

Brisbug PC User Club

President report for 2025 - 2026

We have had a good year with average of 10 member in attendance; we also gained 2 new member joining the Club through the year.

Through the year, along with a range of Q&A question assisting members with their specific issues. I feel we achieved an 80% success along with advice on options that to be tried to fix the issue.

We have sorely missed John Tracey as he has been away on sick leave, and his guidance and the following John Jots for the magazine. We look forward to his return.

We have continued with the learning of Linux and the ways it can replace Windows especially on older machines that Windows 11 no longer will support. Good machines that are still very usable. We are fortunate having Fred Stratford with us leading us through the processes to make the change. We will continue with Windows 11 of course, as members will still be using it.

My thanks to Gary and Eric for being our Secretary and Treasurer for the year, and their support in keeping the Club running. My thanks to Chris Haydock for keeping the magazine ticking along and finding some items of interest.

I have enjoyed being in the club and continue learning about Windows and Linux, along with the other IT Device issues that arise from members questions.

I thank all members for your contributions to a friendly and helpful club.

I trust you have all found the answers to your needs and questions, and have enjoyed the friendship of the Club.

Now to the next year.

Regards Keith



Q&A – August Meeting

John has not been able to travel yet as you still have my poor effort in moving through the Q&A.

John's you are missed.

Strange Mail Received.

Ian had an issue with a strange email being directed to his mail. While addressed correctly he did not know the sender or how he got to Ian's mail.

Not sufficient details to really advice but it raised the need for vigilance and checking the emails coming in and checking strange ones for a reply address that went to an unknown address.

Generally it raised issue of one of the many scams seeking to make contact and suspicious intent.

Keep your guard up as we now have a wave of AI assisted scams that are very hard to pick as not original mail.

Ms Office auto updating files.

There was a issue with an older version of word being updated and changing access.

No specific answer; but discussion was had on the fact the when opening a word file created in say Word 2016 and opened in a later version you will be offered to update it to the later version when saving the file.

I have that happen often and generally just let it make the change. I have had no issues in doing that.

With changes you may want to not accept the update as it adjusts to the different features and I feel a possibility it may not work fully is returned to a computer with the older version??.

Encryption of Files.

I advised members that I ran into an issue with Windows Home version when it automatic enables Windows Bit Locker Encryption.

My experience arose from moving a hard drive to another machine and finding failures mentioning bit locker and wanting a key to continue access the drive in the new computer.

Struggling with the issue swapping disks around lead me to looking at bit locker.

Sure enough, my computer had both C drive and a second disk D drive encrypted.

There are a few ways to check.

This was the pop up when trying to create another disk from the disk clone.

BitLocker recovery

Enter the recovery key for this drive:

Use the number keys or function keys F1-F10 (use F10 for 0).

Recovery key ID (to identify your key): C6F00AC7-D7AC-4DF1-A02B-E633790C0568

Here's how to find your key:

- Try your Microsoft account at: aka.ms/myrecoverykey
- For more information go to: aka.ms/recoverykeyfaq

The number shown is the ID for the Recovery key you need it is not the recovery key.

If you have the 48 numeric key, type it into the entry line. Good Luck Keith

Find that every time you start your Windows 11 that it has loaded Edge?

Microsoft has reset Windows 11 through a latest set of updates to open even if you have it disabled and Firefox or another browser set as default.

Thanks Microsoft, I kept finding Edge open every time I booted up the computer; did some checks with Firefox settings and there it was Firefox was set as the default browser. Checked windows settings and again Firefox was set as the default. Then checked Task Manager and the start-up list and again Edge was set as disabled.

Ran the why through a search and there it was Microsoft had set an update to change the programme to start Edge. It did not change the Default setting but just started Edge anyway.

Makes you wonder what other hidden commands it has running?

From Firefox AI

Steps to Prevent Edge from Opening

To stop Microsoft Edge from starting automatically, follow these steps:

- Check Startup Programs:
- Open Task Manager.
- Go to the Startup tab.
- Ensure that Microsoft Edge is not set to launch automatically. If it is, select it and click Disable.

Adjust Windows Settings:

- Go to Settings > Accounts > Sign-in options.
- Look for any settings related to app start up and ensure Edge is not enabled.

Review Default Browser Settings:

- Navigate to Settings > Apps > Default apps.
- Confirm that Firefox, is set as the default for all relevant protocols.

By following these steps, you should be able to prevent Microsoft Edge from opening automatically at start-up.

Give it a try, but it did not work for me as they were all set that way.

A further suggestion is;

- Open Edge and go to Settings;
- Click System and Performance;
- Disable the "quick start" and "Efficiency mode" options;
- Disable Edge on start up;
- Access the Task Manager;
- Click Start up and disable Edge from start up;

Restart the PC and check if Edge still starts with Windows.



I did a later check as it still started and found in Settings > Accounts > default Apps; there were further file types that still have Ms Edge as the app to open them.

So went through them all and changed to Firefox.

BUT; there were some file types that did not offer a change to Firefox.

Just do the lot and see if it does the job. Keith

Windows 11 24H2 Home and Pro Support Ends Oct. 13: What Users Should Do.

Deadline alert: Windows 11 24H2 Home/Pro support ends Oct. 13, 2026. Upgrade to 25H2 to keep monthly security updates—mixed fleets face split lifecycles and compliance risk. See which devices need immediate action and how to prepare.

Check that your computer has updated to 25H2.

Is AI Tracking you and profiling you?

I use it a few times to get an overview of a topic, But found the other day that in reply to one enquires it responded about knowing from my previously enquires that I had said something. What was that! I then used Fire fox AI to ask does AI track an profile users.

This is the Answer

AI Tracking and Data Retention

How AI Systems Track You

Many AI systems actively track and retain your search queries and interests. This tracking is used to create detailed profiles that help personalize your experience and target advertising. The following are key aspects of how AI systems monitor your activity:

- Search Queries: Every search you perform is logged, allowing AI to analyze your interests and preferences.
- Behavioral Analysis: AI observes your interactions, such as clicks, scroll speed, and even what you pause on, to predict future behavior.
- Social Media Monitoring: AI tracks your likes, comments, and even what you hover over, building a comprehensive profile of your online behavior.

Data Collection Methods

AI collects data through various means, including:

Data Type	Description
Account Creation	Information like names, emails, and birthdays.
Purchases	Transaction history and payment information.
Uploads	Photos and documents shared on social media.
Voice Interactions	Conversations with AI assistants like Siri or Alexa.
Surveys and Forms	Responses to questionnaires and surveys.

Implications of Tracking

The data collected can be used for various purposes, including:

- Personalization: Tailoring content and advertisements to your preferences.
- Dynamic Pricing: Adjusting prices based on your perceived willingness to pay.
- Behavioural Influence: AI algorithms may manipulate what you see to keep you engaged.

Understanding these tracking mechanisms is crucial for managing your online privacy and making informed choices about your digital interactions.

Take Care Keith

APCUG ARTICLES

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None this month

As we have stopped the membership of APCUG we will run out soon on item we had from the time we were members.

Minutes of

Brisbug PC User Group Inc

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at

Mitchelton Library, 37 Heliopolis Parade, Mitchelton QLD 4053

21 September 2025

President's Opening Remarks

The President, Keith Catts opened the meeting at 10:55 pm, and welcomed all those present.

Attendance

Attendance was as per the attendance register, 12 members attending. A Quorum was present.

Apologies:- Gary Woodforth

Minutes of the Previous meetings:

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024; advised that those minutes had been published in the October 2024 and September 2025 edition of the Club's magazine.

It Moved by Eric Maronese and Seconded by Ian Arney: that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 15 September 2024, as published in the Club's magazine in October 2024 & September 2025, be taken as read and confirmed as a true record of the meeting. Carried.

Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Correspondence

Correspondence Inwards:

Office of Fair Trading Annual Return form for 2025 received.

Correspondence Outwards:

Application to the Mitchelton Library for use of the room for 2026 emailed to the library.

President's Report

Keith Catts advised that his report was published in the magazine and he confirmed another successful year at the library. Keith thanked members for their support during the year.

The report is repeated here.

President's Report for 2024-2025

Another year has passed and the club has 14 members with 10 to 13 members attending at each meeting.

I have placed a report in the September magazine. We have had a good year and had a previous member re-join, and started a workshop looking at Linux as a solution to MS, which was making older hardware obsolete.

We were grateful for the use of the Mitchelton Library meeting room with its excellent facilities, and look forward to receiving continued use.

I wish to give my thanks to the members of the committee, Gary as Secretary and Ross as Treasurer, for their continued service to the club in keeping it active. This year Ross will not be continuing and a special thanks to him for his years undertaking that role.

Also my thanks to John Tacey for his continued leading of the Q&A sessions and the time and effort he puts in for “John’s Jots” in the magazine, a lot of useful information and links to further detail on the information he provides. Thanks to Chris Haydock for continuing with editing the magazine. Chris is not with us today as her husband has a medical issue that is causing great concern.

Both these are valuable contacts with members.

Our thanks to Fred Stratford who has taken on the job of leading us in the exploration of Linux. He has provided deep background to the question and shared his presentations with members. This will continue through the new year.

I personally look forward to our meetings for what I can pick up and where I can give assistance on some computer issues.

AI is now embedded and offers benefits and unknown risks as it infiltrates into every aspect of our lives.

I hope you as members enjoy the meetings and from time to time find new ways to use the computer and other devices or to increase your knowledge and skills.

Join me in the coming year for a continuing examination of the changes in technology and its impacts.

Treasurer’s Report (Report Attached)

Ross Skyring presented the Treasurer’s report for the year of 2024/2025.

The Financial Statement setting out the financial activities for the previous year and will form part of the Annual Return of Association to Office of Fair Trading.

The Club’s finances remains healthy with little expenditure.

The income for the year was \$190.07 consisting of membership fees and 7 cents interest. Expenditure was \$287.70 with the usual costs for canteen, membership for APCUG, some small equipment purchases and internet expenses. We have funds in the bank of \$2047.85.

The Club holds two accounts with Westpac Bank. Funds were transferred into the Solutions One account. That second account to be closed when the new banking arrangements are done following the elections.

R. Skyring moved that the Financial Report be accepted and passed as a true record of the Club’s financial transactions for the year. Seconded by Beverly Bailey:- Passed and carried.

Financial Statement for Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

Financial year 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025

Profit and Loss statement

INCOME	2025	2024	2023	2022
<i>Member's renewal subs</i>	150.00	140.00	0.00	420.00
<i>New member's subscriptions</i>	40.00	30.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Raffle</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Canteen</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Interest</i>	0.07	0.11	12.00	11.00
<i>Equipment</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	190.07	170.11	0.12	431.00
EXPENSES				0
<i>Bank fees and charges</i>	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Canteen / Xmas</i>	\$84.65	77.75	40.12	26.50
<i>Subscriptions (APCUG)</i>	\$84.00	76.92	78.03	73.14
<i>Equipment</i>	\$39.00	328.42	57.45	120.00
<i>Dept of Fair Trading</i>	\$62.10	60.05	58.60	57.60
<i>Hire of hall</i>	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Internet expenses</i>	\$17.95	15.95	139.86	0.00
<i>Insurance</i>	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Membership expenses</i>	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Printing and stationary</i>	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Raffle</i>	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Other</i>	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	287.70	559.09	374.06	277.24
NET PROFIT/LOSS	-97.63	-388.98	373.94	153.76
AVAILABLE FUNDS				
<i>Opening balance</i>	2145.48	2534.46	2908.4	2,765.52
<i>Net profit/loss</i>	-97.63	-388.98	373.94	142.88

Total cash funds	2047.85	2145.48	2534.46	2,908.40
CASH ASSETS				
<i>Westpac Solutions One account</i>	2047.86	436.72	707.23	1,081.29
<i>Westpac Solutions Cash Reserve Account</i>	\$0.00	1827.29	1827.23	1827.11
	\$2,047.86	2264.01	2534.46	2,908.40
NON CASH ASSETS				
<i>Hardware</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Software</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

NOTE: All Assets are written off with no value. Two items Laptop and Projector remain in use.

NOTES:

Brisbug is a SMALL Association having income and Assets less than \$300,000.

The Office of Fair Trading Queensland does not require an audit for this level of association. The financial statement for the year is to be verified by the President and Treasurer.

Brisbug derives its total income from membership subscriptions and interest on its bank accounts

Brisbug has a bank account with Westpac Bank and holds its funds in a Solutions One account a second cash account has been transferred to the Solution account and will eventually be closed.

Brisbug's assets have been written off as of no value, but it retains the following equipment Dell Laptop and the Epson projector. Old software is retained as proof of license.

There are no liabilities.

Remuneration Disclosure: No remuneration have been made to any member.

Verification of Financial Statement.

The above statement of accounts has been prepared from the records kept by the association and it is declared that the association keeps financial records in a way which properly records the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities. Purchases during the year are consumable items and written off in the year.

Ross advised that there has been no expenditure in July 25 or August 25.

Keith declared all positions vacant and adjourned the meeting for the election of Office Bearers for the next year. John Tacey assumed control of the meeting.

Election of Office Bearers

John advised that there were no formal nominations received.

John then called for the Nominations

President: Keith Catts was Nominated by Eric Maronese, Seconded by Beverley Bailey; Keith accepted the nomination.

No further nominations, John Declared Keith Catts elected as President.

Secretary: Gary Woodforth was nominated by Keith Catts. Seconded by Ian Arney; As Gary was not present Keith advised he had been verbally advised by Gary he would accept nomination.

No further nominations, John Declared Gary Woodforth elected as Secretary.

Treasurer: Eric Maronese indicated he would take the role and was nominated by Keith Catts, Seconded by Bob Adamson, Eric accepted the nomination.

No further nominations, John Declared Eric Maronese elected as Treasurer.

John Tacey thanked the Committee for their work throughout the year. He returned the meeting the incoming President, Keith Catts.

Keith thanked John for officiating for the elections.

Further Business.

There will be no change to the fee structure for next year being \$10.00 for renewal and \$30 for a new member.

Being no further business Keith declared the meeting closed.

Meeting Closed at 11.33