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Business Skills
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Danny Macaskill combining mountain biking with mountaineering on the Cuillin Ridge, Skye

Welcome to the November issue of NDA's newsletter.

Does this picture make you want to find a comfortable chair as close as possible to the ground and sit down? Mr Macaskill has featured in this newsletter before and this month we bring you his latest YouTube offering.

While you are sitting in that chair you might want to listen to some music. There have never been more options than there are now: options for the source of your music (Internet, iPod / phone, CD), transmission mode (wire, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi) and listening device (earbud, earphone, headphone, speakers). We have surveyed the market in an attempt to match your needs with what's available and present some recommendations below.

Is it something in the air or something in the water? Whatever it is there must be too much dis and not enough gruntle in Tasmania right now, as our [Conflict Resolution](#) courses are going gangbusters. Also featured this month are some new developments in our IT and Project Management courses.

As always, we have some special stand-by offers on courses coming up in

November. Please call on 1300 765 736 if we can assist.

With warm regards

Nigel Davies
Director, NDA

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Audio on the go

We received several comments about last month's article on Bluetooth speakers – it seems that many of you out there are looking for portable music solutions that don't sacrifice too much in quality. So here is NDA's thumbnail guide to audio on the go.

Want to carry your music with you?

For the introvert. Buy a set of earbuds or earphones - yes, there is a difference.

Earbuds sit at the entrance of the ear, but don't penetrate the ear canal. There is sound leakage from the outside world (good if you are in traffic), the fit is not very secure (bad if you are running or riding) and the sound quality is generally not great. Apple's earbuds included with iPhones and iPods are an example of this type.



Earphones use a rubber or silicon tip to fit completely inside the ear. The tight fit means that there is much less sound leakage and the fit is more secure. High-quality earphones are usually more expensive than earbuds.



[This website](#) has some good information on earbuds and earphones. If you want to listen to music while exercising then a [secure-fitting and sweat-resistant](#) pair are the preferred solution.

For the extrovert. If you don't mind walking around looking like a Starwars extra then a set of headphones might suit you. You can pay up to \$5,000+ but most of us are happy to settle for much less. Some additional

considerations for earbud, earphone and headphone solutions include standard vs noise-cancelling (important if you fly a lot), Bluetooth vs wired (important if you tangle easily), and mic vs no mic (to take phone calls).

These noise-cancelling, Bluetooth headphones from [Plantronics](#) rate well in recent reviews. They are less expensive than the [Quiet Comfort](#) range from market-leader Bose, with the added advantage of no wires. They look a bit kludgy though.



Kludgy is not a word you would apply to these beautiful, retro-styled [Aedle](#) 'phones but the \$500 price tag may be a turn-off.

Earbuds, earphones and headphones all give you full stereo separation.

A third option. Buy a Bluetooth speaker (and [here are a few choices](#)). This should come with a 4 – 8 hour re-chargeable battery and enough oomph to annoy the neighbours. If it's big enough it might have a carry strap. Michelle from Pinot Now bought this hot little yellow number from [Kakkoi](#) for \$89.90. No wide-field stereo separation with this solution, though.



Want music throughout the house?

Option 1. Carry a Bluetooth speaker from room to room. The music will leave the room when you do, though – a bit selfish unless you are the sole occupant.

Option 2. One of the hot technologies at the moment is Wi-Fi music streaming. The best known manufacturer - and



probably the highest quality - is [Sonos](#). This used to be the millionaire's solution until drastic price cuts due to competition from Bose ([Soundtouch](#)), Samsung ([Sound Hub](#)) and others made the brand more accessible.

Sonos and competitors give you the option of, say, having a pair of quality speakers in the main listening room and dual or single speakers in other rooms, including the kitchen, bedroom(s) and bathroom. Wi-Fi music streaming systems have the following qualities:

- They stream music over your home Wi-Fi and don't need connecting wires.
- The music is played on one or more sets of single (mono) or paired (stereo) wireless speakers. The speakers have inbuilt amplifiers and require only a power point for operation.
- The music source may be your phone, iPod, computer or Internet radio. Most systems come with several additional Internet sources such as Spotify and Pandora.
- The sound quality is better than Bluetooth as there is no compression and the speakers are usually of a higher quality.
- An app on your phone controls the music source, which speaker(s) are active and the volume.

You can create a single-room, single-speaker Sonos system for \$299, achieve stereo separation by purchasing two speakers for twice that amount and add additional rooms for increments of \$299.

Option 3. [Apple Airplay](#). Apple's streaming solution is equivalent to the Wi-Fi streaming systems listed above, but can also stream video to multiple TVs, and mirror whatever appears on your iPhone or iPad screen to any connected TV. Like most Apple systems it is a closed solution that works only with Apple equipment or compatible equipment manufactured under license.

NDA Qualifications update

Certificate IV and Diploma in Information Technology

NDA's [Certificate IV in IT](#) qualification has taken off since we introduced optional hands-on training sessions. Clients visit NDA at regular intervals and receive practical tuition and support in the Microsoft products they use at the workplace.

Our clients in this qualification are a mix of people from the Department of Education, private industry and people seeking a change in career.

Mark Jablonski is an example of the latter category. Mark is an administrative employee with the State Government and completed a Certificate IV in IT as the first step in a planned career change:

I found my traineeship with NDA to be a positive and rewarding experience. Julianne's flexibility in accommodating my existing knowledge into my certification was fantastic, and Kaleb's availability when working at NDA was outstanding; he has a real knack for explaining complex concepts in easy terms.

To be able to complete an IT qualification so quickly, particularly when not currently working in that environment, is a testament to NDA and their expertise.

Thank you all very much for this experience. I hope I have more opportunities to work with you in the future.
Mark Jablonski

In early 2015 we will introduce a similar program of hands-on training sessions for clients studying for a [Diploma in Information Technology Systems Administration](#) with NDA. The training will be offered in Hobart and Launceston using the latest version of Microsoft Server 2012.

Certificate IV and Diploma in Project Management

We provide training in project management to clients who work in a variety of fields throughout the State: in irrigation, health, aboriginal support programs, local government, logistics, telecommunications and coatings to name just a few. Some attend just the training courses, but many others opt to complete a [Certificate IV](#) or [Diploma in Project Management](#):

Thank you for the feedback and your assistance throughout my studies. It has been a fantastic unit to study and my knowledge of project management has improved significantly.

The course was very well structured and I will be passing on great feedback to anyone else interested in taking on any studies or courses through NDA.

Kind regards
Damien

This month on YouTube + Cuillin Ridge

I'm not really into animal videos but [Chevres en equilibre](#) – goats balancing on sheet metal – might make you laugh.

A few issues back we featured cyclist extraordinaire Danny Macaskill [extreme commuting](#) from Edinburgh to the Isle of Skye. Well he's at it again. This time he returns to Skye, takes a boat across Loch Coruisk

and [bikes the Cuillin Ridge](#) in spectacular fashion.

There is a backstory to this. For many years I had wanted to climb the Cioch – an unusual rock feature projecting from the main Cuillin ridge – and a couple of years ago a campervan trip to Scotland presented the opportunity.

Not having any climbing gear, I phoned several local mountain guides but they were all fully booked. Except for one. And there was a reason for this, as I was to discover. I met the guide, we'll call him McDangle, the next morning and set off in the rain up the corrie to the base of the cliff, which was wreathed in cloud and streaming with water.

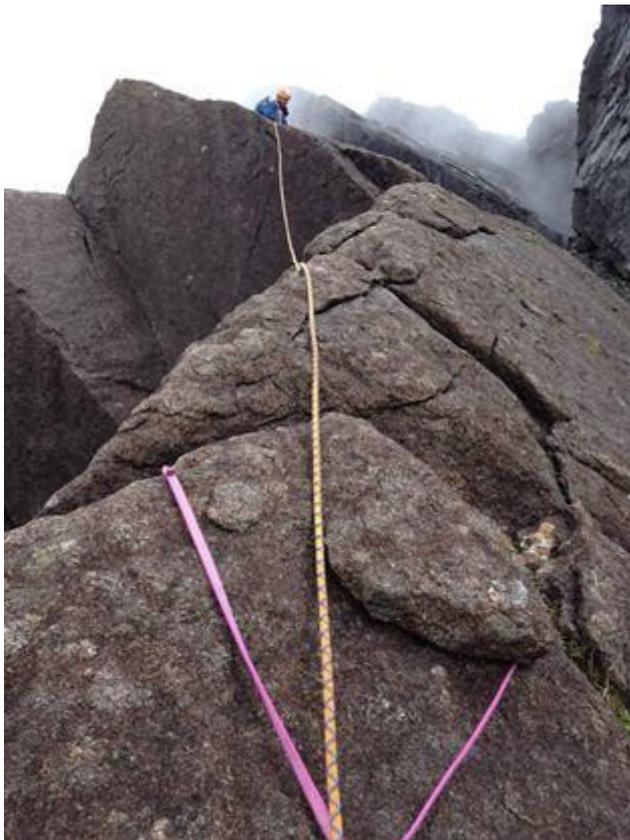


Looking a little apprehensive at the base of the climb. The Cioch is the lump against the skyline - it is an enormous feature and several hundred feet up the cliff.

There is something a little unsettling about employing an 'expert' in a potentially dangerous environment. Mentally you transfer responsibility and switch off to a certain extent. On this occasion we were about 100 feet off the ground and climbing on wet, exposed rock before I switched on and suggested to McDangle that maybe it would be a good idea if he took the rope out of his rucksack and we tied on.



He did, we did and we continued up the cliff.



We reached a ledge at the base of the Cioch. McDaring dropped a sling around a spike and ran out 80 feet of rope without a belay. Now I'm thinking to myself, if he faints, is hit by a falling stone or slips, I can either try to hold a 160 foot fall on a wet rope with my bare hands - losing skin and flesh in the process - or let go of the rope and watch him fall to his

death.

When I joined him on top of the Cioch we had a conversation about this and he replied that, yes, his wife had mentioned something similar on previous occasions.



We had a cold and wet lunch then McDrenched led us back down through a series of waterfalls.

At the campsite that evening the old warden asked what I had done that day. "Climbed the Cioch with McDangle" I replied, straightening my spine.

"Och aye", he said, "well at least you're back in one piece."

Current Government employees eligible for qualification funding

Good news! **All current Government employees (State, Commonwealth and Local Government) are now eligible for State 'User Choice' funding for existing workers** (subject to eligibility determined by an Australian Apprenticeship Centre). The following table shows which NDA qualifications are supported - in most cases the funding covers the entire fee.

Qualification
Cert II in Business

Cert III in Business
Cert III in Business Administration
Cert IV in HR Management
Cert II in IT, Digital Media and Technology
Cert III in IT, Digital Media and Technology
Cert IV in IT
Cert IV in IT Support
Cert IV in IT Networking
Cert II in Tourism
Cert III in Tourism

You can view the outlines for these qualifications [here](#).

What to do next

This is a great opportunity to upgrade your CV with a new qualification - and if you study with NDA the qualification fee includes attendance at all relevant NDA IT and management courses at no additional cost.

We recommend that you **follow up quickly while this funding is available**. If you would like more information, please email info@nda.com.au or call 1300 765 736.

Forthcoming training courses

The following courses will shortly be presented by NDA - some at significant discounts on standard rates. To obtain the discount, please phone Janelle on 1300 765 736 and mention this email when making bookings. Clients with existing bookings for discounted courses may not change them, but additional people may be added at the discounted rate.

Hobart IT Courses

[Excel Introductory](#) 3/5 Nov - \$480

[Excel Intermediate](#) 5/6 Nov - \$480

[Excel Advanced](#) 6/7 Nov - \$480

[MS Project](#) 12/13 Nov - \$480

[Word Introductory](#) 17/19 Nov - \$480 **two for the price of one**

[Word Intermediate](#) 19/20 Nov - \$480

[Word Advanced](#) 20/21 Nov - \$480

[Intro to PCs with Windows and Office](#) 26/27 Nov - \$480

Hobart Business Skills Courses

[Managing Successful Projects](#) 3/4 Nov - \$570 **course full**

[Conflict Resolution](#) 5 Nov - \$285 **course full**

[Conducting Successful Meetings](#) 18 Nov - \$285
[Conflict Resolution](#) 21 Nov - \$285

Launceston IT Courses

[Excel Introductory](#) 4/5 Nov - \$480
[Excel Intermediate](#) 5/6 Nov - \$480
[Excel Advanced](#) 6/7 Nov - \$485
[MYOB Payroll](#) 10 Nov - \$285
[PowerPoint](#) 17 Nov - \$240 **two for the price of one**
[Word Introductory](#) 18/19 Nov - \$480
[Word Intermediate](#) 19/20 Nov - \$480
[Word Advanced](#) 20/21 Nov - \$480
[Introduction to PCs with Windows and Office](#) 26/27 Nov - \$480

Launceston Business Skills Courses

[Conflict Resolution](#) 5 Nov - \$285
[Conducting Successful Meetings](#) 18 Nov - \$285

Devonport IT Courses

[Excel Introductory](#) 4/5 Nov - \$480
[Excel Intermediate](#) 5/6 Nov - \$480
[Excel Advanced](#) 6/7 Nov - \$485 **two for the price of one**
[Word Introductory](#) 17/19 Nov - \$480 **two for the price of one**
[Word Intermediate](#) 19/20 Nov - \$480

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