

# NDA

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*Is it a ship? Is it a plane? No, it's Frank Gehry's amazing Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. Although the exterior is spectacular Hobart's Mona beats it for both the interior and the contents.*

Welcome to this edition of the NDA newsletter.

Have you been blessed with a functioning NBN connection yet? If so, you are one of the lucky ones. Despite having training centres in the CBDs of Tasmania's three largest cities we have yet to obtain a single connection. Same story at home in Launceston. Yet in France I have a cheap fibre connection that provides multiple television channels and a telephone, as well as a high-speed Internet link - and it was installed more than two years ago.



*Looking for the NBN? No, we couldn't find it either...*

I have written on a previous occasion about [the many virtues of the French and French culture](#). One of the virtues listed was the level of courtesy associated with daily life - of greeting people in shops, greeting friends with affection and a tolerant attitude to other drivers rarely found on Australian roads.

Time to set the record straight! If there is a reason the French have a reputation for arrogance it may well result from a lack of awareness of personal space, and while it might only apply to a small percentage of the population, it is pretty stunning when encountered. Here are a couple of examples:

- I'm standing looking in a shop window in Nice. Not wishing to leave an imprint of my nose on the glass or mist it up, I'm standing a comfortable distance back from the window - about the same distance that could conceivably be taken up by a slim French woman with big hair. A moment later I'm staring at the back of her head and her hair is tickling my nose. I resisted the temptation to sneeze.
- I'm walking down the length of a street and there's a guy approaching from across the road at an angle of about 15 degrees, same direction, same speed. If he continues there will be a collision. He affects not to notice. I consider slowing down as he moves across me but, having learnt from Ms Big Hair, settle for an ankle tap followed by a profuse and insincere apology.

Not that it will stop me going back there. I don't have a bucket list but if I did, three things would have been ticked off on the last trip from which I have just returned: riding a stage of the Tour de France, visiting the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and drinking Mouton-Rothschild in the winery's tasting room. You can read about the bike tour and some other

adventures [here](#).

Moving right along, this month we examine **Big History** as an alternative answer to **where you came from** that looks beyond storks, birds and improbable flying insects; give you the run down on the **iPhone 6** and offer all you Excel fans out there an Excel-lent opportunity to improve your skills with a **two-for-one offer on Excel Advanced courses** in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport.

With warm regards

Nigel Davies  
Director, NDA

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### **Vale Jeremy Ball**

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Jeremy Ball died in a road accident on 15 September. He was married to Karina Stojansek, NDA's General Manager, and was a frequent and welcome visitor to our Launceston training centre and to our end-of-year get-togethers. He was also well known to many of our clients through his substantial contributions as Launceston's Deputy Mayor and as a supporter of the Migrant Resource Centre. He was a campaigner for Launceston's heritage buildings, the Cataract Gorge, the Tamar Valley and Blue Tier, an advocate for bikeways and a campaigner on social justice issues.

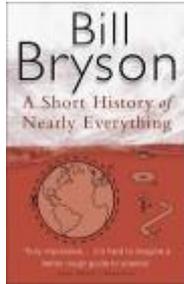
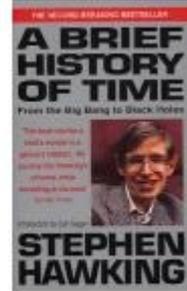


Our thoughts are with Karina, her sons Griffin and Jasper, Jeremy's parents John and Caroline Ball, and his brothers Julian and Jonathan.

## Big History

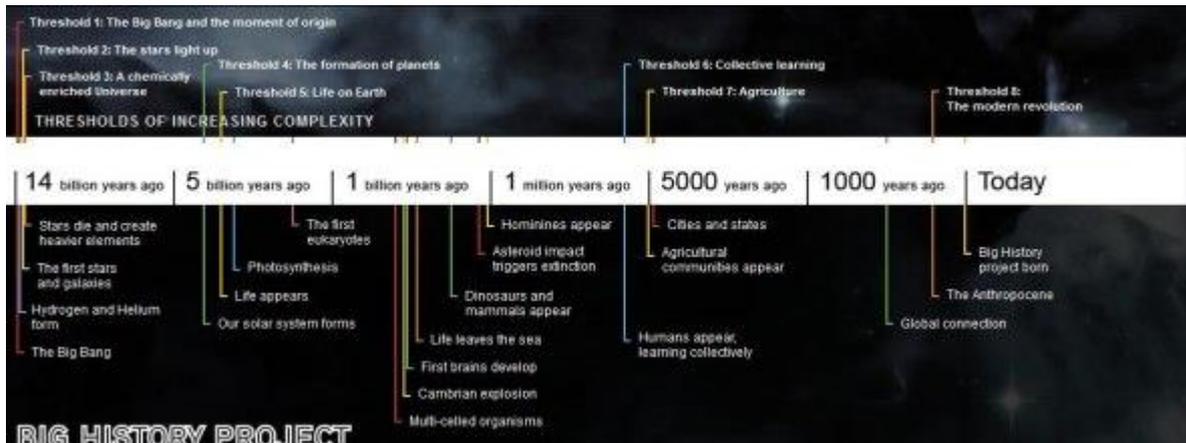
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Have you read Steven Hawking's [A Brief History of Time](#)? Despite its impenetrable content this became a best seller when it was released in 1988. I may be one of the few purchasers who actually read it.\*



Another good read is [A Short History of Nearly Everything](#) by Bill Bryson. Despite his background as a travel writer, Bill produced a book that covers most things you might want to know about the sciences. He also produced another beauty about the English language called [Mother Tongue](#), even if he did help perpetuate a few myths such as [the number of words Eskimos have for snow](#).

Anyway, what I am getting around to is that another Bill - Bill Gates of Microsoft fame - has focused some of his philanthropic activities on popularising *Big History*, which examines history from the Big Bang to the present through a multi-disciplinary approach. If that sounds boring then please [watch this 18 minute video](#) which explains the concept.



*Big History: a Bill Gates project to revitalise the teaching of science in schools*

Gates has funded the development and adoption of *Big History* as part of the syllabus in thousands of high schools in the USA and Australia:

- If you are a teacher or student you can access the entire set of *Big History* course material online and free of charge [here](#).
- The rest of us can access a condensed version of five by one-hour sessions [here](#).

Why is this important? Well, at a time when our country is pulling money out of the CSIRO's budget, dismissing scientific evidence of global

warming and favouring dogma over documentation - why is it not important?

The concept of *Big History* was created by Australia's own Bill Christian, a lecturer at Macquarie University.

\* One of the interesting spin-offs from e-readers is that they make it possible to record every detail of people's reading habits, such as how often they open a book, how many pages they read at a sitting, how fast they read - and whether or not they finish a book. For example, only 4% of people who purchased Hillary Clinton's autobiography actually finished reading it. Apparently 40% of Americans believe that the history of literature began in 2007 when Amazon sold the first Kindle, and Amazon fundamentalists hold it as an article of faith that Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos actually wrote all the worlds e-books over a period of six days...

## iPhone 6

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It's always a good feeling to switch to a new phone. All the icons and functions you are familiar with have a gloss of newness over them, and neat little differences from the previous version keep emerging. The iPhone 6 was no exception. In keeping with previous practices of updating every second model release, I moved from a 4S to the Six, skipping the iPhone 5.

Do you remember the age of 'bricks', when the first mobile phones had the size and weight of a Staffordshire Blue? In that era it was all about making phones smaller. Now they are getting bigger again. I resisted the temptation to choose the leviathan Six Plus because I wanted a phone that could fit into a pocket. The Six fits quite happily but I reckon if I tried to sit down with a Six Plus in a tight jeans pocket it would either snap in half or stab me (and as I write this, reports are already coming in of [bent iPhones](#)).



You may be familiar with some of the nice features of iOS 8 and the iPhone 6. Here are the things I have found to be most useful - some introduced on the iPhone 5:

- You can bypass the lock screen with a fingerprint rather than entering a code, and use a fingerprint to authorise purchases from the iTunes store and the App store, rather than having to type a password.
- The battery lasts for about two days of normal use, rather than just one.
- The latest implementation of AirDrop instantly transfers files (think photos, videos, spreadsheets etc.) between your iPhone, iPad or Mac and those of other users.
- The Display Zoom feature lets you opt for larger icons and an

increased text size - great for old eyes.

- There are many camera improvements, including video capture at 240 frames per second for slow motion replay, the ability to take time-lapse photographs and improved photo editing tools.
- Wi-Fi downloads and many other processor-related activities are around twice as fast.

There is a disadvantage with the iPhone 6 though, and it's not a small one. If you have accessories that were purchased for the iPhone 4, they will no longer fit the size of the iPhone 5 or 6, or the new Lightning connector socket either.

Yes, you can purchase a Lightning to 30 pin adapter (seen here) for \$39.00 which may solve the connection issue, but you still have the problem of fitting the new larger phones to accessories that were designed to dock a smaller phone.



While waiting in the store to sign up for the phone I came across [this neat Bluetooth speaker](#) at \$39.99. My wife plays music from her phone while gardening and the plants were beginning to complain about the poor sound quality. The 7 x 7 cm speaker has a reception range of up to 10 metres, sounds a whole lot better than the phone's speaker (no surprises there), is loud enough to entertain the neighbours' Camelias and the battery recharges from a standard iPhone charger.



The compression algorithms used by Bluetooth do [detract from the quality of music reproduction](#) but if you are listening to music that was recorded with a compression algorithm anyway and are happy with a small speaker then it is unlikely to be a problem.

### **Current Government employees eligible for qualification funding**

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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.

<b>Qualification</b>
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](mailto:info@nda.com.au) or call 1300 765 736.

### Forthcoming training courses

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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

[PowerPoint](#) 1 Oct - \$240 **two for the price of one**

[Excel Introductory](#) 6/8 Oct - \$480

[Excel Intermediate](#) 8/9 Oct - \$480

[Excel Advanced](#) 9/10 Oct - \$480 **two for the price of one**

[MYOB Advanced](#) 13 Oct - \$285

[Office Conversion](#) 15 Oct - \$285

[Access Intro](#) 16/17 Oct - \$480

[Image Manipulation](#) 20 Oct - \$195

[Publisher](#) 31 Oct - \$240 **two for the price of one**

#### Hobart Business Skills Courses

[WH&S in the Workplace](#) 1 Oct - \$285

[WH&S in the Workplace](#) 7 Oct - \$285

[Managing Successful Projects](#) 20/21 Oct - \$570

#### Launceston IT Courses

[Introduction to PCs with Windows and Office](#) 2/3 Oct - \$480

[Excel Introductory](#) 6/7 Oct - \$480

[Excel Intermediate](#) 7/8 Oct - \$480

[Excel Advanced](#) 8/10 Oct - \$485 **two for the price of one**

[InDesign Introductory](#) 27 Oct - \$570

[MYOB Setup and Operation](#) 29/30 Oct - \$570

[Publisher](#) 31 Oct - \$240

### **Launceston Business Skills Courses**

[WH&S in the Workplace](#) 7 Oct - \$285

[Business Writing Skills \(Advanced\)](#) 15 Oct - \$285

### **Devonport IT Courses**

[Excel Intermediate](#) 8/9 Oct - \$480

[Excel Advanced](#) 9/13 Oct - \$480 **two for the price of one**

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#### **LAUNCESTON**

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65 St John Street  
Launceston TAS 7250  
Phone: (03) 6334 4910

#### **DEVONPORT**

The Roberts Building,  
23 Stewart St  
Devonport TAS 7310  
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