



What's been happening at Lincoln Computer Centre lately?

Welcome to the May 2002 edition of our newsletter, which is full of useful information about what's been happening over the past month or so.



Super Fast Internet Connections

You've no doubt seen or heard about Broadband Internet, which is a term used to describe a variety of high speed internet connections including satellite, cable and ADSL. ADSL is an Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line, which means not a lot to most of us but it is *fast!* We have an ADSL connection in our showroom for you to try; just connecting in the first place is a pleasure compared with waiting for an ordinary modem to bleep and burp and squawk its way to your internet service provider, but wait until you see how **fast** it accesses web sites!

Photos are displayed in the blink of an eye, and you can listen to audio or watch video streams which are smooth. Prices start from around \$49.95 per month for a connection which is five times faster than your average modem, and the best news of all is you can run it on your existing phone line without interrupting whatever else you do with that phone line. So you can be talking on the telephone at the same time you are accessing the internet on a single phone line! Come in and have a look, you will be as impressed as we are. For Port Lincoln residents this is a great development, as usual the further you are from the major centres the longer you have to wait for new technologies, but things are moving fast!

Xbox Has Landed

That's right, we've got the new Microsoft game console in stock now.

We cleverly waited for Microsoft to slash the price as a result of the hot competition in the games console marketplace and you can now purchase the Xbox for only **\$399.00**.

We also have a good range of **Xbox games** and accessories in stock.

Call in and have a look at Xbox now.



Domain Name Scams. If you have an internet domain name, then you would have paid around \$140.00 to register it for two years, and each two years you must pay a similar amount to keep it registered, in much the same way as a normal business name works.

However, there are a number of companies active in Australia who are approaching domain name holders and encouraging them to renew their domain name at an inflated price. It is hard to tell the good guys from the bad guys, so if you get an invoice or renewal offer feel free to fax it to us on 8682 6679 and we will verify it's authenticity.

Find out when your domain name is due for renewal and contact the original provider of your domain name or browse to www.melbourneit.com.au and they will put you on the right track, or give us a call on 8682 1666



Windows XP; has Microsoft finally got it right? We think so!

If you have purchased a new computer from us recently, you will be familiar with Windows XP which is the latest operating system from Microsoft and a huge improvement over Windows 98 which has been the standard choice for the past four years. For a home computer, Windows XP is ideal and offers heaps of features relating to music and image management and it also offers a very stable software platform.

If you have a recent model computer running Windows 98, you can upgrade to Windows XP, but make sure you have secure backups of your valuable data files first. Or you can get us to do it for you. Just give us a call on 8682 1666

Photo Printing. Canon has released the new S520 photo printer which offers amazing photo quality for only \$449.00. If you have a digital camera, this is the printer to buy, as it will produce borderless prints up to A4 in size.



The S520 has individual ink tanks, and therefore offers excellent value for money when it comes to running costs. Drop in and check out the sample photos we have printed.

Notebook Heaven. OK, so it's a bold statement given how fast computers change, but we do have an excellent laptop model from Toshiba for under \$3,000.00 which offers just about everything which opens and shuts.

The Satellite 1800 model has a fast processor, a 14.1" colour screen with 128 megabytes of RAM and a 20 gigabyte hard disk. It has a DVD-ROM drive you can play DVD movies on and a floppy disk drive and both are built-in. It runs Windows XP Professional and has a built-in modem and network card.



Best of all, it has a new Touch Pad pointing device which is heaps better than the funny little rubber thing in the middle of the keyboard which has annoyed Toshiba notebook computer owners forever.

We have them in stock, come in and have a look.

Backup, Backup, Backup. Yep, here I go again, harping on about data backups! Consider what would happen to your data if your computer goes up in smoke, out the window or makes a horrible clunking noise and stops working! It doesn't happen very often, but that is cold comfort if it happens to you. Analyse what you are doing with your computer and make sure you have multiple backups of your critical data, preferably with at least one copy off-site.

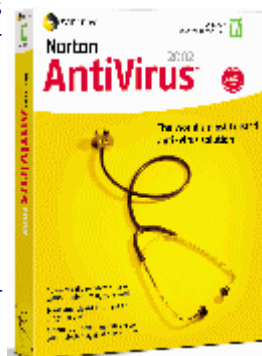
If you would like a data risk assessment and a backup recommendation, please give us a call.

Computer Viruses are driving everyone nuts. These days, if you have an email address you are 100% likely to be sent a computer virus at some point, so if you are on the net you need to have some form of virus protection. If you have older virus software which needs to be updated manually, you should do the updates at least once each month, if not once a week. Or you should update your virus software to a product which does the updates for you automatically.

Norton AntiVirus 2002 is highly recommended in this regard as it has a LiveUpdate feature which automatically checks for virus updates each time you connect to the internet. It sells for \$99.95 and is supplied with every new computer we install.

If you have a computer network, a 5-pack is a great option and reduces the cost per computer to around \$60.00.

Check out your virus scanning software at the earliest opportunity and make sure your computer is protected.



Virus Hoaxes. Speaking of computer viruses as we were, there are some bright sparks in the world who think it amusing to pretend there are viruses which cannot be detected by the latest virus scanning software (possible but unlikely) and frighten the heck out of new computer users who are encouraged to contact all of their friends and warn them before it's too late(!) For example, if you have ever been asked to remove the *sulfnbk.exe* file from your computer system files then you have been the victim of one of the best hoaxes.

Hoaxes work well on new computer users, and whilst they don't cause any harm (usually) they do waste a lot of time. If someone tells you about a new, hard to detect, virus or you get a curious email, browse to securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/vinfodb.html and search for the keywords in the message.

For example, if you search for *sulfnbk.exe* you will be presented with information about the *sulfnbk.exe* hoax. If you are unsure as to whether or not you have a virus, have been sent a virus or sent someone a virus, please give us a call on 8682 1666



Microsoft
Windows Update

If you have a computer, you probably have a Microsoft Windows operating system. If you have an internet connection, Microsoft encourages you to keep your copy of Windows up to date by connecting to the internet and downloading the latest updates on regular updates. Some of the updates are regarded as critical, as they often solve security issues which have been uncovered, but most of the time they simply improve the reliability of your operating system and therefore your computer. Just click on your Start button and choose Windows Update, follow the prompts, and as always if you get stuck, just give us a call on 8682 1666

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