

June 2007

OTCC Chamber Chat

IN BRIEF

- Welcome to the June newsletter. It is great to be able to report that the new Chamber Website is up and running. See www.orfordtriabunnacc.com.au The site was designed by Ben Wells from B+W who was also the designer of our Troy D Divesite website.
- The Troy D Artificial Reef & Divesite address remains the same. See www.troyd.com.au
- Sally Murfett has been appointed the Marketing Officer for our organisation. Sally will be updating our member database and details over the coming two months and also approaching new prospective members. Sally can be contacted at sally@ruralconnections.com.au
- President John Hall is off on three months leave, off to the top end. Dale Pearce will be at the helm in Johns absence.
- Interesting to see the ship the Taruman advertised for tender in the Mercury (Saturday June 9). The Taruman is a seized ship – was seized with an illegal catch of Patagonian tooth fish. The Chamber at one stage was informally looking at the possibility of sinking the Taruman and the Troy D on the same day in the same place in Mercury Passage which would have been a spectacular world first, but planning did not come off. It will be interesting see what happens to the boat.
- The latest state budget has been handed down. There does not appear to be any new capital works for our area; although monies for the completion of McClaines Bridge has been included.
- Mr Ron Sanderson from Brighton Council has been appointed Acting General Manager of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council on a one day a week basis.
- The Dive for cash initiative for divers of the Troy D has commenced. The initiative being promoted by the Orford Triabunna Chamber of Commerce will see a lucky diver being awarded \$1,000 in cash. All divers that dive the Troy D through one of the approved licensed charter operators will automatically be included in a draw which shall be drawn on 31 March 2008. The more dives you have, the more chance to collect.

- The Chamber has been busy advocating a resolution to matters that shall allow the local GP Dr Naidoo to continue on his much appreciated community medical work. Council has been negotiating with DHHS but an agreement has not been forthcoming. Please email the Health Minister and express your concerns otherwise we will lose our Doctor. Email lara.giddings@dhhs.tas.gov.au.
- Congratulations go to our northern neighbors Swansea on a great win in the National Tidy Towns competition. The various Swansea community groups have been working hard in the area and a community morning tea will be held on Sat 2 June at 11.00 am at the town hall to celebrate the win. Also the official opening of the new Swansea jetty takes place on the same day at 12.30 pm. Congratulations to Kyle Hodgson, Martin Crawford and all the community volunteers.

WINE OFFER

To celebrate the new website, the Chamber is offering a small quantity of superb quality Freycinet Vineyard wine to its members at discounted prices.

You must hurry as stocks are limited. To place your orders contact Chris Peterson chris@orfordtriabunnacc.com.au

Limited Wine Available:

- Cabernet Merlot
- Chardonnay
- Pinot Noir

For further tasting notes go to the website:

www.freycinetvineyard.com.au

NEW BUSINESSES

Boom times have been upon us of late. After many years of little activity some new businesses have been commencing in the last month or so and with some more to commence. The Gateway Café Orford commenced trading in May and Taylor Made Storage Solutions has commenced at Triabunna and Keith Pybus is to start his eco tour boat business on 1 July operating out of Triabunna Marina. As well a new laundry mat has opened in Triabunna. The Village Barn restoration in Triabunna is another project in the making. In other news a garden is being proposed for Riverside Drive at Orford and the Council have applied for funding to replace the Triabunna Wharf and upgrade

facilities. With The Triabunna bridge works continuing and the proposed marina going through the planning process, exciting times lay ahead.

The other major project, Solis, has commenced construction of its dams with the bulk earthworks for the golf course pretty well complete. The first round of golf is scheduled for 2009.

DO YOU NEED TO REPLACE YOUR COMPUTER?

PCs and laptops have come a long way in the past few years. And while technology is vastly improving, prices are also coming down. If you're having problems deciding whether to upgrade or not, consider the following points.

1. Your PC is four years old

If you cannot afford to have your PC break down or sit in the repair shop for a week, budget to replace your PC every three or four years. This replacement schedule does not guarantee that you never have a problem, but it could protect you from experiencing major component failures. Replacing your PC every four years also provides an opportunity to easily upgrade to improved software – such as Windows Vista and Office 2007– because PC makers will preload the programs on your new machine.

2. You cannot run the software you want

New software programs demand more from computers and an older computer may not meet the optimal hardware requirements. For instance, if security is a top priority in you, you may want to run the Windows Vista operating system, which includes enhanced security among its many impressive features. These include:

Better data protection

Ensure that your computer settings, files, and entire hard disk drives are backed up automatically - without the need for additional outside IT support.

Advanced search

Quickly find what you're looking for - documents, files, programs, pictures, music, even e-mail messages, and more - on your PC, across your network, or in your e-mail.

Smart small business tools

Manage all your customer information in one place and reach out to your customers with professional business and marketing communications.

Mobility features for workers on the go

Securely connect, communicate, and network with your family and friends - whether you're at home, on the road or at work. However, Windows Vista requires more memory and a faster processor than previous versions of Windows. To help you figure out if your current computer can run Windows Vista, Microsoft also provides an online service that evaluates your PC system to see if it meets its system requirements.

3. Your PC is slowing down

Many things can cause a computer to run slowly, which can erode productivity over time. By removing unnecessary programs that load at start up, deleting old files from your hard disk, scanning for viruses and spyware, and tweaking other operating system settings, you might improve your computer's performance to a level you can live with.

However, it may also be the case that the programs you now run simply push the limits of the processing capabilities of your system. Insufficient memory, slow hard drive speeds, and an ancient CPU may prevent your system from keeping up with demands you place on it, particularly when you use multiple applications at the same time. If you have the time and skills, you could upgrade some of these components. But if you compare the overall cost of upgrading to what a new machine might cost, investing in a new PC is often the smarter option.

4. Your PC makes unusual noises

Computers typically make some noise. Cooling fans, CD-ROM drives and hard drives can all make a low hum or soft whirring when they operate. These sounds are not a cause for concern. If you start to hear clicking noises, loud humming or thumping noises, your hard drive is likely going bad. Back up your data and consider whether you want to replace the hard drive or, if other things are not working well, the entire computer.

5. You're running a growing business is growing and prices are cheap

This reason does not apply to a replacement decision. It is more of a buying strategy. If you expect to add new employees in the near future because your business is expanding, then you might purchase PCs in advance if prices are especially good and you have the cash or credit available.

A PRODUCTIVE WORKPLACE

An interesting article from the internet by Kathy English

A well thought-out home office marries the efficiency of a business office with the comforts of home.

That means you ideally want a space that is both functional and inspirational, a place that's as efficient as a corporate cubicle and as inviting as your family room.

The key to creating an at-home work haven is to think seriously about your particular needs before you sit down at your computer to begin a new project. "The biggest consideration is location," says designer Cheryll Gillespie. "It's essential that you have an area that is going to be devoted to doing business and it really should have a door that closes."

Organisational consultant Janet Hennick of JRH Creative Consultants predictably says the most important factor is organisation. "You must have a place for everything and then do the work of keeping things in their place."

Here are some key considerations in establishing a productive and inviting home office.

The location

The best solution is a room devoted to your home office and that often means a spare bedroom. Other locations include your basement, an attic or a garage. Gillespie advises clients to consider whether a dining room might better serve as a home office. "If you only use your dining room once every couple of months, does it not make more sense to convert this under-used space to a home office that may be used every day?"

The set-up

The right furniture and equipment can enhance your efficiency and make your office a place you enjoy spending time in. Basic requirements usually include a computer workstation, an ergonomically correct desk chair and both ambient and task lighting. An ideal work space puts everything you need within a comfortable arm's reach.

Gillespie suggests investing in a comfortable reading chair so you can move away from your computer when it's time to catch up on your reading. "If the furniture is not comfortable, then you won't enjoy working there."

The decor

Make your home office a room you truly love walking into. "If it's ugly, why would you want to work there?" says Hennick. "I love country and my office has a lovely, old-fashioned roll-top desk and filing cabinets that I found at a country auction."

Gillespie says you should think seriously about a colour scheme and the role colour plays in mood and motivation. She likes green walls in home offices because "green is the colour of money," but also suggests red or purple walls for creating a vibrant energy flow in your work space.

She also advises surrounding yourself with objects that inspire you — candles, a vase for fresh flowers, pretty throw cushions, a colourful area rug and lots of family photos and mementos. "Always include photos on your desk and around the office to remind yourself of all the reasons you work so hard."

The organisation

The most inspiring office will resemble a disaster area if you don't organise right from the start. "Even a few items out of place in a small space can decrease your productivity and make your room look unkempt," says Gillespie.

Hennick says you must designate a place for everything and then determine what equipment you need to store or display essentials to your tasks. Basics items include bulletin boards, an inbox and an efficient filing system.

Both Hennick and Gillespie suggest you use lots of baskets and other inexpensive containers to keep piles of paper and "stuff" from cluttering your office.

Gillespie advises checking out bathroom and kitchen stores for innovative containers that will help you stay organised.