CTC NABIAC GETTING ANIMATED!

Nabiac's community technology centre, CTC@Nabiac is planning a course on *A Taste of Computer Animation* in February 2007.

The course, to be conducted by Jarryd Kidd will consist of 4 weeks of 3D Modelling and Illustration, followed by 4 weeks of Animation and will be held in the well-resourced training room at the Nabiac centre.

Because the training centre consists of individual computers it is possible for each attendee to receive one-on-one training in this fascinating and interesting subject.

Centre Manager, Marie Power stated, *"This is an exciting initiative that will provide young people with an awareness of some of the skills required within the Computer Animation Film production industry as well as a fun and interesting course learning valuable information"*

Create 3D Images:

4weeks—commencing Thursday 26 April to 17 May— *Cost $60*

Animate Images:

4 weeks— commencing 24 May to 14 June

Cost $60

Whilst computer and keyboard skills are desirable they are not essential.

Bookings are necessary and a phone call to the Centre will confirm your place in this exciting course.

Ring on 02 6554 1876 during office hours

Marie Power

CTC Manager

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *What Computer should I Buy?*
- *Seniors Group*
- *Broadband for all*
- *Volunteer of the Month*
- *Cybersafe FREE classes*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

OUR NEWSLETTER

This is the first edition of our *Nabiac Bytes* and we are excited to be able to present it to you.

It is our intention to produce this quarterly and keep all of our members and the community abreast with the latest technology news as it affects our community..

Any newsletter is only as good as its contributions and we welcome your input to this publication.

Any photos, information or just general news stories are welcomed .

We will be launching our newsletter on the 1st March, so check out the mail-box or any of the shops around Nabiac.

Give us some feedback!

SENIORS GROUP

Our Seniors group has been such a success story that we are now running two sessions each week!

The Tuesday morning meeting was the first established group and is run by our popular technology guru, **Tim Gething**. Starting at 9.30 am and running to 11.30 pm. The session features hands-on experience with all facets of computers, from beginners to advanced users.

The demand for this group proved to be so strong that a Saturday morning group has been formed and is run by our Manager, **Marie Power** 9.30 to 11.30 each Saturday.

Each course provides an overview of subjects such as email management, use of MS Word, spreadsheets using Excel, protecting your PC and much more.

The most important benefit of these courses, however, is the ability to ask the tutor specific questions relating to your own problems and in turn receive detailed instructions on the solving of these problems.

The sessions are great fun and provide a friendly experience as well as learning a lot of valuable information about computers.

Cost: $5.00 for two hours includes morning tea

Don't forget Seniors Week on 13,14 & 15 March!!

WHAT COMPUTER SHOULD I BUY?

"IF YOU DON'T WANT/NEED SOMETHING PORTABLE, BUY A DESKTOP = YOU GET MORE FOR YOUR MONEY."

Buying a computer is a somewhat daunting task. This article covers some of the basics. Even if you don't understand the jargon, this will give you questions to ask the sales person.

Who to buy from?

There are a number of good local computer shops. (The CTC buys its stuff from Coastal Computing in Taree.) You can also buy from one of the online providers like Dell. These will be cheaper, but you have to put the system together yourself, and you can't go beat up the local salesman when you have problems.

Laptop or Desktop?

If you don't want/need something portable, buy a desktop – you get more for your money.

What to tell the sales person?

If you go to your local shop, or talk to the Dell phone line, or surf the Dell web site, it pays to say what you want. If you say that you want to just do email, surf the web, and a little bit of word processing/spread sheeting, then say so. Tell them exactly what you want to do as there are a lot of different systems offered but generally all of them are aimed at different users.

Component sizes:

Disks

These are so big these days that even the minimum *(*40GB on laptops, 80GB on desktops) is quite sufficient. [40GB will hold some 40,000 photos]

Memory

512MB or more if you can afford it. *(If you are offered the new Windows Vista operating system, go for the 1GB).* Adding memory is the cheapest performance improver. (*Also these days the integrated graphics systems [used on low-end systems] make use of the main memory, and will use 64 or 128MB of your main memory.)*

Video

For most use, integrated graphics is perfectly OK. Unless you are into playing games, you don't need a separate graphics card.

Communications

Find out what sort of internet connectivity is available in your area. If it's only the plain old telephone service then you will need a modem

Cont'd

If you live in town or near your local exchange, ADSL broadband should be available.

If it isn't then there are a number of Satellite broadband services. For most of us in this area, the Regional Broadband Connect scheme subsidises the cost of broadband. Either talk to your computer shop or one or more of the Internet Access Providers (e.g. Telstra, Optus, TSN, Westnet, Activ8, Midcoast, etc).

Screen

The biggest you can afford. One of the advantages of desktops is that the screens can be bigger. Given the prices of LCD monitors these days, get one of these (17 or 19 inch) – they draw less power and use less desk space than the CRT screens.

CD/DVD

These days the CD drives will generally handle a DVD also. However, the low-end ones will only read a DVD, not write one. Get a drive that will both read and write DVDs. [You may not want to make movies, but for backup purposes, a DVD will hold a lot more data than a CD.]

Printer

Colour inkjet printers are very, very cheap. Remember however that the cost of the ink soon exceeds the purchase price. i.e. they have a low capital cost, but a high run cost.

If you start doing a lot of black & white printing, you may want to buy a small laser printer (which again, are very cheap these days).

CPU

For non-games use, even the low end systems have plenty of grunt. It's not necessary to have the fastest CPU available.

Operating System

Windows XP Home or Pro, or the new Vista.

XP Home is perfectly adequate – and to a very, very great extent, XP Pro contains nothing extra that you need.

Windows Vista is the latest operating system re-leased by Microsoft on 30 Jan 07. It comes in a number of versions. Vista Home Basic is generally sufficient and is equivalent to XP Home. Vista Home Premium adds Media Centre capability if you want a PC that acts as a TV.

Word Processing/etc software

If you want to do serious word processing or spreadsheet calculations, then you will need additional software. The system may come with a basic package like Microsoft Works. More advanced (and expensive) packages are Microsoft Works Suite (which adds Microsoft Word and other things) and the various Microsoft Office packages. If you just need to read other people's Office documents, then Microsoft provides free Word and Excel viewers.

The Open Office package is a free alternative to Microsoft Office.

Security System

The system should come with some sort of Internet Security, Anti-Virus and Anti-Spyware package. Normally these have a 3 month free trial and then you have to pay. If you buy something like ZoneAlarm or Nortons, or …, then it will come with a 1 year subscription.

Once the subscription/free trial runs out, you may want to investigate various free alternatives. (There are a number of 'free for home use' programs which work well but are a little more involved to set up and less automatic in their operation).

If you are still confused then ask your children! They will know what they want.

Contributed by Tim Gething

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BROADBAND FOR ALL

Are you sick of the delays and slow speed of dial-up internet connection in this area?

A grant is made available through the Federal Government's Broadband Connect scheme *(formerly HiBIS)* which has been set up to provide internet services to people living in areas currently not serviced by such schemes. The government has set aside $800m over three years to fund the scheme.

Thanks to the Broadband Connect initiative, government grants of $3,300 are available to people who qualify because their geographic location does not have access to broadband services.

This means that all the equipment and installation costs will be paid for by the Government grant.

For further information contact CTC Nabiac on 6554 1876

NABIAC SHOW

We are all excited about the up-coming Nabiac Show which promises to be the best yet.

March 10th is our *'big day out'* and we are looking forward to the best of Nabiac and surrounding districts to be on show .

Saturday

10 March 2007

The Wallamba District Agricultural and Horticultural Association was founded in 1911 with a view to staging a village show. Clearing of the land for the show then began.

A hall was also considered a necessity for the show and its construction was so well advanced that the first show was held in 1912.

The show is still an institution in the district although exhibits and events have changed enormously.

There will be many activities for the community to participate in this year. **The Great Pie Baking Contest** should be a lot of fun! Don't forget the Demolition Derby!!

The CTC stand will be displaying details of our upcoming activities—come and see!

LIVE LIFE   nSW Seniors Week
11—18 MARCH 2007
nswseniorsweek.com.au

SENIORS WEEK—13, 14 and 15 March FREE classes

The CTC@ Nabiac will hold a variety of free activities for seniors during Public Trustee's TechnoSeniors 2007 on Tuesday13th to Thursday 15th March 2007 from 9:00 am to 5.00 pm.

Seniors can learn for **FREE** all about computers and the resourcefulness of technology using the internet, digital photography, online security, digital projects such as computer arts and crafts or digital storytelling.

You are invited to be a part of this exciting week at Public Trustee's TechnoSeniors 2007

To ensure your place at these popular sessions , contact Marie Power at the CTC@ Nabiac on 6554 1876

Be part of the fun of Seniors Week

SENIORS' WEEK TIMETABLE

Tuesday 13 March, 2007			Wednesday 14 March, 2007			Thursday 15 March, 2007		
9.30 to 12.30	Introduction to design using a computer Printing images on fabric	Jillian	9.30 to 12.30	Introduction to using your Digital Camera	Hoagy	9.30 to 12.30	Tracing your Family History	Pete
1.30 to 4.30	Introduction to Computers CyberSafety	Tim	1.30 to 4.30	Beginners Internet CyberSafety	Tim	1.30 to 4.30	Introduction to Microsoft Word CyberSafety	Marie

SCREEN SAVERS

The CTC has two coin operated PC's in the Nabiac Café Take Away —next door to the Nabiac Hotel.

The PC system is set to display a number of images on sequence, each showing for 6 seconds. These images can be photographs, information notices or advertisements.

To maximize an advertiser's exposure, the CTC will limit the number of advertisement images to 10 per second. This implies that when not otherwise in use the PC will display a given advertisement at least once every two minutes.

The advertiser can supply their own image (as a bitmap or jpeg file), or the CTC can prepare an image from the advertiser's instructions and/or sketch.

The advertiser can also provide a revised image as often as desired, but setup fees is charged to install each image.

This is an excellent advertising medium that will support your existing marketing and support your town.

For further details on pricing and set up contact the CTC on 02 6554 1876.

CYBER SAFETY—FREE CLASSES

Cyber Safety Workshops

CTC@Nabiac are conducting 3 Workshops on computer and internet safety.

Community Technology Centres ensure the safety of their users. Our centre keeps up to date virus, spam and spybot software. We have child protection software such as **Net Nanny** also protecting children who use the computers.

The CTC is proud to ensure children and families enjoy all the benefits of the Internet in a safe and rewarding way. CTC staff are put through *Working With Children*'s checks as are volunteers working with direct access to children.
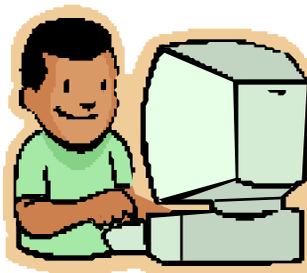
These workshops cover such items as :

Avoiding Nasties, Phishing, Cyber Stalking, Chat rooms and Bullying, stranger Danger on the Internet

Workshop 1 – 14 March 2007 – Seniors

Workshop 2 – 17 April 2007 – Youth

Workshop 3 – 22 May 2007 – Parents

Contact the CTC on 6554 1876

YOUTH WEEK—16—20 APRIL

CTC conducts Youth Week every year and this year promises to outstanding with new initia-

This year in **Nabiac** we are offering **FREE** 1 hour **LAN gaming parties** for groups of up to 8 players with the option to extend the game for $10 per half-hour.

Call the CTC to book your time slot or find out what's

CTC DAY—29 March 2007

Due to the overwhelming success of last year's CTC Day, we have set the *29th March* aside for this popular Day.

This year Madura Tea has sponsored the event so the **T** in **CTC** actually becomes a **Community TEA Chat** with a tea tasting!

Drop in to your CTC@Nabiac and join us for a chat and afternoon tea!

We will be showcasing how to set up and **Chat online**, demonstrating the **MySpace** site—the latest craze by our young people. Come and see what they are up to while they are "*studying*"!!

ACCESS NSW GOVT INFORMATION FOR FREE AT CTC@NABIAC

Are you looking for information about the NSW government services? Your local Community Technology Centre *CTC@Nabiac* provides free access to the NSW government portal.

The NSW Government web site www.nsw.gov.au, is the one-stop entry point where you can find information on a variety of government services, pay bills to government departments, or access your HSC results online, all for free.

The government website offers lots of information. Access NSW government websites **FREE** on the @access computer at your

- License driving tests and road rules
- Anti-Bullying Programs in Schools
- Bushfire Information
- Water restrictions
- Industrial Relations information
- Resources for Business
- Tourism information

- NSW Job Search research
- Environmental issues
- Health and poison information
- Law and Justice information
- Check the NSW Lotteries results
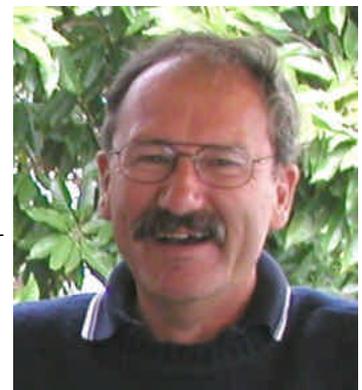- Get your kids to play safely

You will be amazed what information is available on the website and what you will learn about the NSW government. For more information, contact or visit your local Community Technology Centre at

CTC@Nabiac at 02 6554 1876

OUR VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH - TIM GETHING

Marie Power, the Manager at CTC@Nabiac describes Tim Gething as brilliant, fantastic, bubbly, helpful and she couldn't run the centre without him.

Tim became the CTC@Nabiac's "Technical Co-ordinator" when he started volunteering at the centre. Not only does he look after all the equipment, he teaches the Getting Started, Internet and Protecting Yourself courses. Tim also looks after the handy-man jobs and wears another hat as Treasurer.

Tim spent 27 years working for a small specialist computer vendor. In 2001 he retired and moved from Sydney to Dyers Crossing (10Km inland from Nabiac). In early 2004 he was chatting to the local garage proprietor saying they the only things wrong with living in the country were that there were no good Indian restaurants, and that data communications were poor - dial-up instead of the cable modem. Tim recalls, "Paul said that he couldn't fix the Indian restaurant, but if I was interested in high speed communications, I should get involved with the local CTC. I said what's a CTC? and we went from there. Because of my technical background, I was able to manage the equipment acquisition process. I wanted to Volunteer at the centre to give something back to the community. If you move into a rural area, getting involved in volunteer activities is a very good way of both contributing to the community and getting to know the community," Tim also believes that getting involved in the CTC keeps him active. "Retiring and sitting at home would be deadly boring," he said.