

Preparing for Mother Day at the Grenfell Internet Centre

Mother's Day is on 10th May. The Grenfell Internet Centre in the Community Hub Building will be open on Monday 11th. At 9 am on Monday morning, it is still the afternoon and evening of Mothers' Day in north, south and central America. If you would like to learn how to make very cheap international calls with Skype, Mother's Day may be the perfect excuse.

Skype is a free communication program which allows telephone calls to be made over the internet. Skype is a great way to keep in touch with your family and friends overseas as it is cheaper than normal phone calls. Skype even allows video call between users anywhere in the world.

The program can be downloaded from www.skype.com. It has 3 different subscriptions that you can choose. The free subscription allows you to make free calls to other Skype users. The 'Pay as you Go' option allows you to make calls locally, nationally or internationally at cheaper than normal rates. It functions by purchasing credit which you use until it runs out at which point you purchase more credit. There is a monthly subscription, where you can choose either unlimited calls in Australia to any land line or unlimited calls in Australia and overseas to any landline. Using the pay as you go or the monthly subscription you can save lots of money compared with a normal phone call.

If somebody wants to call from Skype to your landline phone it will ring like normal. To receive a Skype call to your own Skype you will need to have your computer turned on and be logged into Skype. When the call comes, the computer speakers will make a ringing noise and then you click on answer.

Skype is a useful tool for business owners as you can give out your Skype user name so that when customers ring you it is a free call. This will then mean you have the customer's Skype name and will be able to call them for free.

To use Skype you need to have windows 2000, XP or Vista. Your computer will need at least a 1GHz processor, 256mb of ram, speakers or headphone and a microphone. If you are going to make video calls you will need a webcam. You will need a broadband internet connection and it is recommended that you have at least a speed of 384kbps for video calls. You can purchase a Skype phone that plugs into your USB ports to make it similar to a phone call. This gives you more privacy than using speakers as only you can hear what the other person says.

There are some drawbacks to using Skype, if you internet speed is not fast enough, the call will be full of static and you will not be able to understand the other person. In Australia you cannot call mobile or emergency numbers using Skype.

There are other services the Internet Centre provides which would be ideal Mothers Day gifts. We can edit photographs to remove people or objects and we can enlarge photos to approximately 12x8 inches. We are able to edit digital images as well as prints.

Why not order you mother flowers or a gift and have them delivered to her house anywhere in the world. There are several quality international florists such as Interflora www.interflora.com.au and they offer gifts like chocolates and wine in addition to flowers. A great local florist who delivers to Grenfell is Vadia. Vadia also offers chocolates and gift baskets. You can book and pay at their website www.vardia.com.au all you need in a credit card and internet access. Josh will help identify and navigating reputable website if you need assistance with this.

If you don't have a credit card or much money to spend, why not make mum a personalised card? There are several sites that allow you to create Mothers Day cards. <http://holidays.kaboose.com/mothers-day/> is a craft site that gives ideas on how to make Mothers Day cards. The following site allows you to send free electronic Mother's Day cards to your mum's email address <http://www.101mothersday.net/>

To organise your mother a personal Mother Day gift or to use Skype for up to an hour per day at standard internet prices, drop in and see Josh at the Grenfell Internet Centre in the Community Hub Building or by phoning 6343 1720.