

Tech Tips for Tax Time

It is coming up to the end of the financial year, so now is a good time for businesses, including farms, to purchase items that you can claim. These items may include equipment such as new computers, printers, fax machines, flash drives and inks. The Grenfell Internet Centre can order in laptops and build computers to your specification. We can order in a variety of ink cartridges including original brands or the generic brand Calidad, which is equal to original brand but at half the price. We can now also provide office furniture such as chairs, desks, filing cabinets and more.

Although blackouts are uncommon in winter, you will remember the disruption caused in summer. Blackouts can be overcome by installing an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). A UPS is a battery that stores power and allows your computer to operate unaffected by the normal electricity supply. During long blackouts when a UPS becomes flat it shuts down your programs properly before turning off the computer. Now is a great time to buy and install a UPS.

The Grenfell Internet Centre can produce customised printing. This includes business cards, with-compliments slips, invitations, menus, flyers for mail drops, brochures and letterheads. We can either print your design or design a document based on your idea. If you have a special function we can print and fold your order of service booklets to save you time at this stressful occasion.

If you run a small business you may be entitled to the 50% investment allowance. This could make purchasing a brand new computer before June 30th 2009, a financially attractive option, as not only will you be able to claim the GST almost straight away but you may be able to reduce your taxable income by 50% of the value of the new computer. If you purchase a new computer later in the calendar year you will still be able to claim the 50% rebate however you won't be able to benefit until the 09/10 financial year. Many

conditions apply to this tax rebate and you should check with your accountant to ensure your specific situation is eligible.

Nowadays you can lodge your tax return online. This is a quick process if your tax return is simple as all of the forms are downloadable from the ATO website. Online lodgement will mean you generally receive your refund cheque within 14 days. If you would like to lodge your tax online drop into the Internet Centre from the 1st of July.

I am now offering one-on-one classes. This can be useful if you have just purchased a new piece of technology and you would like to learn how to use it more effectively. These lessons can be with mobile phones, computers, laptops or printers. One-on-one classes are priced at \$20 per hour.

For those who don't already know the Internet Centre has moved back into our original location next to the library. Freshly renovated and with great heating, it is a good place to use the internet and escape the cold. We now have high speed internet so you can download songs for your iPod or maps for your GPS. Drop in and see me at the Grenfell Internet Centre in the Community Hub Building or by phoning 6343 1720.