

# BYTES & PIECES.

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## FIRST MEETING AT NEW VENUE

Just a reminder that the next meeting will be the first held at our new venue, the G A Wood Hall, behind Scots Memorial Church. For a map and instructions on how to get there, please see [Meeting Details](#) on the website. Les Courcha has been invited back and has promised to show us more on how to convert LPs to CDs. 8.00 pm on Tuesday, 11 May 2004. See you there.

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## BROADBAND FOR THE PRICE OF DIALUP?

Telstra have been heavily advertising their revised broadband pricing and saying that for some customers \$29.95 is about the same as dialup. But are you one of those customers? Is Telstra's offering the best value, or even good value? And just what is broadband anyway?

For the answers, see our new [Feature Article](#) on the website. It could save you a heap of money.

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## XNVIEW DELUXE 2

As long-time readers will know, I like XnView as a graphics viewer. It has the ability to make slide shows; decipher around 380 different formats; adjust colour, brightness, contrast and gamma; and add various effects. And version 1.xx has always been free.

Now Xzeos Software has released an updated version of XnView Deluxe. According to their website:

### The Best Points of version 2

- New engine for a very quick visualization of the thumbnail images
- New user interface with Many Wizards of Creation, Retouch, Acquisitions, Impression, Conversion
- Acquisition by automatic detection of Digital Camera (MediaDetector)
- Quick photo retouch integrated, powerful and simple to use
- Categories Management enabling to classify a photo in x categories or albums, without duplicating
- Retouch Search Function : on Exif and Iptc infos, Schedule mode, etc ...
- Slides Shows Creation to the AVI, PDF and FLASH formats
- Slides Shows Burnings to the VCD/SVCD playback for a visualization on TV (by your home DVD reader)

- Powerful impressions functions : thumbnail images, preset sizes, photos collection, legends ...
- More than 380 recognized files formats

The English may be a little mangled, but pop over to [http://www.xzeos.net/index\\_xnview\\_uk](http://www.xzeos.net/index_xnview_uk) and you will see that XnView Deluxe 2 really is graphics software that matches the better known ACDSee for less cost. A trial version is available for download from Xzeos' website.

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## SASSER WORM

Many worms require the recipient to open a file on their computer. Sasser is different, it can spread straight from the Internet exploiting a Windows 2000 and XP vulnerability.

How do you prevent it from affecting your computer? You do two things. Firstly, you make sure you have an active firewall. XP comes with its own bundled firewall. To turn this on, go to Start/Settings/Network Connections/[*Your modem connection*] and click Properties. Then select the Advanced tab and place a tick in *Protect my computer and network ...*. Click OK and you're done. If you do not have XP, or you prefer to use a separate firewall program, install Zone Alarm or one of the other free firewalls and make sure that it is active.

Then head over to [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) and download the security update KB835732. You might as well add the other security patches that you haven't installed, because once a vulnerability is publicised worm writers quickly try to exploit it and those, who have not installed the patches, fall victim.

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## FOUR LAUGHS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

As part of the revamp of the website we have been able to make the Daily Cartoons for a given day in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 available at a click on the Daily Cartoon button. Below the Daily Cartoon button is a Bravenet Daily Cartoon button, which gives webmasters details of the Bravenet service that provides the cartoons.

I recommend that you use a browser that blocks pop-ups, or add pop-up blocking to Internet Explorer. The Bravenet-provided Daily Cartoon and Guest Map are the only areas of our website that generate pop-ups (pop-unders actually) and both areas are also supported with banner advertising.

[http://hobartpcgroup.org.au/files/this%20website/daily\\_cartoon.htm](http://hobartpcgroup.org.au/files/this%20website/daily_cartoon.htm)

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## GOOD BUY

I've installed a couple of Canon multifunction centres lately. The MPC190 selling for less than \$199 and its more upmarket cousin the MP360 at around \$299 are both excellent value, although their small ink cartridges may make them a touch expensive to run, if you do a lot of printing. Lexmark, Hewlett-Packard, Brother and Epson all have good value multifunction centres available that let you scan, print, fax (usually via the computer's modem) and photocopy (often independently of the computer). Worth considering when updating your printer and/or scanner. Shop around for the best value.

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