

# MAGOO IT NEWS

## HELPING SENIORS WITH TECHNOLOGY



**The Magoo IT Family** – Kay, Jess and Tony. Can you guess where the photo was taken?

**Magoo IT** have been helping people with technology since 2013 and Tony (Mr Magoo) has been in the game for near on 30 years.

Tony has been working on, running, managing and developing IT Help Desks for most of his working life. He has worked in small business, corporate and Government organisations, both in Australia and internationally. Tony currently holds Police and Department of Defence clearances.

Not only is Tony experienced in virtually all areas of IT, from programming, to risk management, to application

support and development, he is also a 'jack of all trades' who has turned his hand to mechanics, home & commercial renovation, electronics, and is even a talented vocalist and performer.

With a passion for adult education, Tony is challenged by the idea that encouraging seniors to embrace technology could improve their lives.

Technology is and always will be a moving target. You cannot expect to learn it all, but you can reasonably expect to make use of things that are relevant to you and your circumstances.

## NEXT MONTH AT CITY OF BAYSWATER



Magoo IT have been facilitating eLearning sessions at the City of Bayswater Libraries since 2013. Next month we will cover "The Internet". Discover the Internet, how to access it and the many search options available.

Register your seat at **Eventbrite** or contact your friendly library staff at any of the City of Bayswater Libraries. **Maylands:** 9208 2450 **Bayswater:** 9272 0951 **Morley:** 9272 0980

<b>THE INTERNET</b>	DECEMBER 13th - 2pm to 4pm	MAYLANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY
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## TONY'S APP OF THE MONTH - FOOD

**Food Glorious Food** - Each month we will focus on a different App category so stay tuned for some cool options.



iPad/iPhone   
**Epicurious**

One of the best food apps ever! New content updated daily with recipes, videos and more. Search by meal, course, dish type, diet, cuisine, ingredient, occasion and cooking technique. Store your own recipes and create shopping lists. Also includes a protein cooking timer. Rare steak anyone?



Android   
**Dinner Spinner**

Create your own personalised feed. Select a dish type, main ingredient and cooking time and spin the wheel to see the choices. You can also filter your search results on ingredient, diet and cooking time.



Windows   
**Recipe Keeper**

Does anything good ever come from the Microsoft Store? Well, yes, but the selection is nothing like those available in the Apple and Android stores. Nevertheless, there are still some great apps including this one and it's cross platform.





# YOUR CONTRIBUTION



Help us keep this content relevant. Have you found a cool app for your smart device? Let us know what it is and we can look at featuring it and your comments in a future article.

## QUICK TIPS

Scan documents directly from your Android device using Google Drive. Open the Google Drive app and select the + in the bottom right corner. In the menu that pops up select Scan, then take a photo of the page using your chosen camera app. You can then adjust the filters and crop the page content until you're happy before saving to the cloud.

## CHOOSING A TABLET

**Choosing a tablet** is not quite as bad as choosing a phone, but there are still plenty of options to keep you on your toes. Before we dive in, let me ask: are you sure you want one? Do you already have a small tablet? By that I mean a smart phone? A smart phone can be quite enough if you're a casual user of this type of technology. I use my phone most of the day, I know, I shouldn't, but I do. Quite simply, I use it for everything, least of which is making phone calls. It is my personal assistant, calendar, time tracker, alarm, entertainer, social advisor, news scout, information repository, camera, shopping hub, navigational aid, music player, torch and sometimes, just sometimes, I use it as a phone. With this powerhouse in my pocket wherever I go, I don't use my tablet quite as much.

**Bigger is better.** It's often said that size isn't everything and smart device screen size is no exception. If I'm at home lounging around, a larger screen that can sit on my lap is a much better experience. The extra screen real estate is much more engaging and way easier on my ageing eyes. Another size bonus is that some apps take advantage of the extra space by providing more detail or options that are not available on smaller screens. Reading magazines, playing games, watching movies and sifting through photos can be much more immersive and fun.

So, there is a place in my life for a tablet, how about you? If you think a tablet is for you, then the next step is to decide on an ecosystem. By that I simply mean: **Apple, Android or Microsoft...**

I should mention that Google and Amazon make tablets too, but they are just another type of Android and really just toys compared to the big boys. Each have their advantages and

depending on your use-case, there may be a clear choice, but I'm going to bite the bullet right up front and say that iPad is the best – full stop. Although Samsung and Microsoft have done great work playing catch up over the years, the iPad just looks, feels and performs better than any other tablet I've ever picked up. I'm not saying this as an Apple fanboy as my current phone is an Android, I also have a Lenovo Android tablet, a Microsoft tablet and an iPad Air2. I did have an iPhone for many years and was very happy. At the time, Android options were many, but clunky and overall underwhelming, but I made the change to Android last year when it was time to upgrade. The price of iPhones had become unrealistic when compared to the more mature Android options available. In case you're interested, I replaced my iPhone 6 with a Xiaomi A2 for \$300, but I digress.

**Apple is expensive** I hear you say, so why recommend an iPad? Well, yes the latest iPhones are expensive and yes so are the latest iPad Pros, but the iPad 2019 (7<sup>th</sup> gen) is pretty good value in my book especially when you compare it to the similar Samsung Android offerings around the same price.



### TRAINING

**Would you like your own personal training?**

Choose from a multitude of topics including:

- iPad
- music
- email
- online shopping
- brain training
- NBN
- the internet
- viruses & malware
- podcasts
- photos
- eBooks
- Windows 10
- audiobooks
- and more...



or you pick the topic and we will create a session for you and your group. **Prices starting from just \$100.** Contact Tony or Kay for availability and check out our web page for more details.

Personal Tuition	1 on 1 training
Small Groups	Invite a few friends Share the training Share the fun Share the cost
Events	Presentation Dinners Special Functions



**A Great Christmas Gift Idea!**





The **Microsoft offerings** are not really in the same space as they are another entirely different beast. It's a bit challenging to get your head around but think of Microsoft tablets as touchscreen laptops that function as full fat computers. They can run full Windows Programs like MS Office, Adobe Creative Suite and you can also run "Apps" that you can get from the Microsoft Store. In contrast, iPads and Android tablets are exclusively App based, so you don't get the whole

computer-like experience. If you don't have a computer then you won't care, but veteran Windows users will struggle to like the whole App experience – even the Windows ones.

**Make an informed decision.** Give some thought to what you might use this new piece of tech for and look at what apps are available for each of the ecosystems. Ask around to get some ideas and pop along to any tablet classes on offer to see what the presenters have to say. I hear

that Magoo IT do some great sessions through the City of Bayswater Libraries. 😊

**Get the best deal.** Check out the Lasoo website for the latest specials. This month Officeworks are selling the Samsung Tablet A 10.1" 32GB for \$319; iPad 7<sup>th</sup> Gen for \$525. JB Hifi have the Microsoft Surface Go 64GB for \$399. I would consider these guys as entry level tablets that will give you a realistic tablet experience without breaking the bank.



## MAGOO IT HELP AND SUPPORT



📞 For all you PC, Laptop, Mobile Phone and other technology support.

**We come to you.**



Initial visit – first half hour is free!

- ❶ Get some things fixed on the spot
- ❷ Ask any tech questions you may have
- ❸ Have me put together a plan to help you further if you feel you need it



Call **0413 389 581** to book an appointment.



## ARE YOU ON THE NBN YET? (PART 1)



I was just checking out the National Broadband Network rollout map for my local area (which includes Morley) in the City of Bayswater and it looks like they've pretty much finished. I have recently been receiving the odd email, phone call and flyer suggesting I should hook up quick smart. Well, that's not such an easy thing to do especially since we have been using the current system for years and I'm happy with it. There were a few things to figure out and a bit of research to do before I changed anything.

So, I had some broad questions:

1. Do I have to move to the NBN and if so by when?
2. How much will it cost? – including setup, any new equipment and monthly fees.
3. How do I choose the right plan?
4. Can I keep my current provider and email addresses?
5. Do I still need a landline to connect?
6. What about phones in other rooms?
7. Will it affect medical alert devices?
8. Will my monitored alarm still work?

OK so the first question should be straightforward to answer. Yes, we must transition to the NBN if we would like to continue using phone and/or internet services within 18 months of the service becoming active to our

premises. Here's a bit of background about our premises. We currently have an ADSL line (Naked DSL) which is provided by Amnet (now iPrimus – which is currently owned by Vocus). Somewhere along the line, Telstra is being paid for line rental as part of my monthly plan. Naked DSL means we don't use a landline to make phone calls, so rely on each of us having a mobile phone. With mobile phone plans these days, you get unlimited calls and texts as part of your monthly fee, so in our case it makes sense to skip the home phone altogether. If you're not a mobile phone user, then retaining your existing home phone (landline) is something you probably want to do. So, with all that in mind,



the first question about moving to the NBN could be yes or no. Since we don't use a landline, we could stay attached to the internet via ADSL for as long as Vocus provides the service which will be 18 months-ish. After that, we will lose our internet connection to the premises. That's not a big deal really, as with our mobile phone plans we have internet connectivity which can be shared to other devices around the house. It's a little tricky to set up initially, but it's a doable option which won't cost us any more than we already pay for the mobiles and we will be saving our monthly fees to Amnet. That could work, but we do watch a fair bit of Netflix and we have several computers surfing the web and doing other internety type things throughout the day and night. So maybe we do need a dedicated always-on type of internet connection, but you might not, so keep this in mind as an option.




**Do you need help?**

Get Advice on:

- Plans, which one for you
- Phones in other rooms
- Alarm monitoring
- Technical problems



**We come to you!**  
**0408 119 935**

Question two is all about the money. We currently pay \$70 per month for an unlimited data plan and are getting speeds around 7Mbps. That is quite slow compared to the majority of NBN plans but it's fast enough to watch a HD movie on Netflix and still do a bit of web surfing. That's about it though. If we try to watch another Netflix movie on another device at the same time, it's pretty much a non-event for everyone. I also work from home and notice the internet speed drop when I hear someone watching a movie in the

other room. So, a speed increase would be a good thing, but how fast do I actually need and how much will it cost. Back in June I facilitated an eLearning session at Maylands Library and laid out the current best value plans after doing a fair bit of research. You can download the notes from my website [www.magooit.com.au](http://www.magooit.com.au) and check out the Past Events Tab.

In my case, I want to retain unlimited data (if possible) and not pay any more than I already pay. I might be a tad unhappy with what I've been paying over the past few years, but I'm sure as eggs going to be more unhappy if I need to pay more.

Having a quick fresh look at:

## whistleOut

I selected the filters:

- Unlimited Data,
- Any Speed,
- Max cost \$70

I removed the sponsored results from the list and see Tangerine at the top for \$54.90 at 21Mbps.



The price is fixed for 6 months then \$64.90 ongoing. This is 3x faster than my current ADSL plan and \$5 cheaper per month. For this price I need to BYO modem or pay \$89.90 upfront for them to supply one. The next speed tier also from Tangerine is **42Mbps** at \$59 going up to \$69.90 after 6 months. This is pretty much the sweet spot for my circumstances. Same price, same data and a whopping 6x faster than my current speed. Incidentally, some providers will give you a modem for free if you sign up for 2 years. Modem cost is not going to break the bank, but early exit fees from a 2 year contract might. I'm going to include a modem for a couple of reasons. They age and often get slower. It can get pretty hot inside a modem and a new one every few years is a fair thing to budget for. The other reason is you will get better support from your provider if you go with their recommendation.

OK, back to my sweet spot. By updating the filters to exclude the slower speed plans and adding No Contract Term and a WiFi Modem, I now see quite a few similar options to Tangerine including: Internode, Spintel, Kogan, Belong, Vodafone, Mate, TPG, Exetel, Southern Phone, Optus and Dodo... Well, scanning through the many results and sorting by cheapest, Tangerine is still at the top with the same prices as before plus \$89.90 for the modem. Not too bad. Looking further down though, I've spotted a company

**mate.**

called Mate offering \$69 per month (no honeymoon rate), same speed and a free modem by using the supplied promotion code. Interesting. Similarly, Ex

**exetel**

etel is flat \$69.99 and a \$79 modem.

Finally, Belong are \$70 per month with a \$60 modem. **BELONG**

Doing the math for 12 months: Tangerine \$857.90; Belong \$900; Mate \$828. The last thing I will do is look at what modems they provide and read up on performance, particularly the WiFi range. Last thing I want is a fast internet with a rubbish WiFi signal.

Luckily there's a great resource I found <https://www.finder.com.au/ftn-nbn-router-comparison> which compares many of the modems available in Australia. I dove into the providers websites to find Mate ship the Netcomm NF18, which gets a pretty good wrap. So, I'll just ready the fine print in case anything else jumps out at me, but I think I'm good to go with Mate. This takes care of questions 1, 2 and touches question 3. We will look at the rest of my shopping list questions in the coming months – after all, I have 18 months to connect!

This Newspaper is also available online at [www.magooit.com.au](http://www.magooit.com.au)



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