

MAGOO IT NEWS

TECHNOLOGY SHOULD MAKE LIFE EASIER



Tony - Ready for action.

There are so many new things appearing in the tech world on an almost daily basis. There is so much out there it can be overwhelming even just contemplating what you could make use of. Unfortunately, by not investigating the new things, you end up missing out on something potentially life changing. Consider using live video chat between extended family members overseas from a phone in your pocket during a birthday party or other family get togethers.

How about automating some everyday tasks to help you remember things or help you out if you're physically challenged in some way. Do you know how to program your TV, can you access Netflix, do you know what Chromecast is, have you heard of Spotify? Some of these things are so cool, you'll wonder how you ever lived without them.

"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."

Magoo IT can help you make sense of technology and explain how best to use it, both in and around your home.

Keep up to date with news and interests which can be fed to you daily through technology.

Take a deep breath and dive in! It'll be fun, I promise 😊

NEXT FEBRUARY AT CITY OF BAYSWATER



Magoo IT have been facilitating eLearning sessions at the City of Bayswater Libraries since 2013. Re-starting our program in February next year, we will look at ways to train your brain. Discover how easy it can be to keep your mind sharp using the many techniques and programs 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

BRAIN TRAINING	FEBRUARY 11th - 2pm to 4pm	BAYSWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY
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TONY'S APP OF THE MONTH - PHOTOS

Photos and Photo Editing - Each month we will focus on a different App category so stay tuned for some cool options.



iPad/iPhone



Snapseed

One of the best and most comprehensive free photo editing programs out there. If you're serious about photo editing on a mobile device then Snapseed wins hands down. Available for IOS and Android (sorry Microsoft). Support for RAW formats & easy sharing to other apps and social media.



Android



Adobe Photoshop Express

A great simplified and free version of Photoshop that you can use on the go. Well designed and easy to use, this app is cross platform. Support for JPG only, so pros will be disappointed. Still, a pretty good option for most everyday users.



Windows



Windows Photos

This standard Windows 10 app is great for importing, viewing and editing photos. You can create albums, automatic slide shows and share quickly and easily. Support for RAW formats is also available from the Microsoft Store.



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YOUR CONTRIBUTION



Kay from Morley has suggested Google Calendar as one of her favorite apps. Take control of your schedule in a fun and clever way. Don't forget those important dates and events. Plus share your appointments with family and friends in real time. <https://www.google.com/calendar/about/>

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

iPhone and iPad users can breathe a sigh of relief if you've inadvertently deleted something while typing or some other such thing. "Shake to Undo" – yes shake your phone or tablet in frustration a couple of times and IOS will pop-up the undo menu and allow you to fix things quick smart. Don't shake too hard or drop your device though 😊

CHOOSING A MOBILE PHONE

Choosing a phone is simply the most difficult technological decision anyone will ever have to make. No, really, it is! I'm a geek, always have been, always will be. Shame I know, but I've come to terms with it. Back in 2009, I started my exploration into smart phones with an iPhone. Not to belittle that initial decision years ago, but I struggled long and hard between iPhone and Android. Well, there were a spattering of other options including Windows phone, but enough said about that. My iPhone was a 3GS (cough cough). It was great then, but wow is it a dinosaur now. Back then, Android was still trying to define itself whereas Apple had already done that, so rather than being on the bleeding edge (like a good geek should be) I went with Apple. It was a good experience overall and as the years and models ticked over, I was very happy shelling out money to get the latest iPhone right up until the iPhone 7 came out. My other geek friends that went down the Android path, were often gloating about the latest new features and how Apple was so far behind. When I broke my iPhone 6 screen for

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A Great Christmas Gift Idea!

stumbled across Chinese phones. Well, talk about hidden treasure: Xiaomi, OnePlus, Huawei, Oppo, Honor, Vivo, ZTE and more. My first challenge was trying to pronounce them, then once I could say the names without sounding like a newbie, I began trying to figure out which one was better. As with most tech things, someone comes up with a new idea then introduces it to the masses. If it's any good, everyone else copies it and that is certainly true in the mobile phone industry. Fine by me. Hopefully we end up with better, more robust products and great innovative features.

I decided to look at the budget to mid-range end of the Android market and compare them to the top end Apple and Samsung products. It wasn't long before I was reading about Xiaomi and Oppo alongside discussions about Apple and Samsung.

One of the things that steered me away from Android in the early days was that each manufacturer seemed to customize Android in some way in order to make it their own. These variations made it difficult to learn and teach Android generally, as an operating system.

Thankfully,
Xiaomi

the 3rd time, I decided to revisit the Android offerings. Samsung was the obvious choice and for good reason. They make a premium product and are the closest rival to Apple, but I wondered what else was around at a cheaper price. After a bit of googling, I

started the ball rolling with a new initiative named Android One. Great idea guys. Let's give people a vanilla – out of the box Android experience and let the end users mess with it (if they want to). This is symphonic music to geek ears.

I researched the heck out of everything coming out of China and India before settling on the Xiaomi Mi A2 Lite. What a cracker of a phone. All the usual stuff with 64GB storage, fingerprint and face recognition, headphone jack and a 2 day battery life all for the very respectable sum of \$290 AUD. I decided that \$300 will be my new max spend for a mobile phone. Shortly after, I purchased 2 more Xiaomi's – (wife and daughter) but spent a tad more on the non-lite version. Better cameras, larger screen and a few other little things. So, I bought three new phones for less than the price of just one iPhone or Samsung... and I think they are not only comparable, but better in many respects.

I chose to purchase my phones online from Catch of the Day. They are a well-known Australian store, good after sales service, super quick shipping and an overall good shopping experience. There are many cheaper places online to buy China Phones but consider paying a few dollars more for peace of mind if case you need warranty repair.

In 2019, there are so many options for smart phones so to help you make a call, here are some prudent things to consider:

Decide on a budget. If you want the best of the best, expect to pay close to \$2000 for the top iPhone or Samsung.

The lower end models will set you back close to \$1000 mark and the budget range around \$500. Samsung have several model ranges including the **Galaxy Note, S and Fold** in the premium arena, with **Galaxy A and M** in the mid-range arena. Apple only makes premium products, so the only way to get a cheaper phone is to buy previous models which tend to hang around for a few years in the Apple store.

Size is everything (well almost). Bigger is better for an overall more immersive and aesthetic experience, but also more difficult to store in your pocket, transport and navigate (with one hand). If you really want something small, you will need to hunt around.

What other tech do you have? If you have a Macbook, iMac, Apple TV or other things Apple, you may find an iPhone to be the neatest option for a phone. Apple gear just works! It plays nice alongside other Apple things and the Apple watch is quite brilliant.

If you are not an existing Apple user and have Windows computers, Chromecast on your TV and a Google Home speaker or two, then Android might fit better in your life.

How important are photos? The more premium the phone, generally the better-quality photos it will take. Spend some time considering this and perhaps Google "best budget camera phones" to see what's on offer. Check out the Google Pixel 3A and Samsung A50 in the budget range.

Making the purchase. If you're happy buying things online, then the world is

your oyster. You can pretty much buy anything from anywhere, just make sure you check that the phone model you like is compatible with the Australian mobile phone network. Whisleout.com.au has a good section on Australian Network Frequencies which is worth a look and this website **Will My Phone Work in Australia** is pretty cool too. <https://www.kimo-vil.com/en/frequency-checker/AU>

While I'm on the subject of networks, 5G will be upon us starting in 2020, but phone manufacturers are still figuring out what models to release. The premium players will have an offering out now, but it's still early days for everyone else.

If you'd like to see some of the China Phones in the flesh, JB Hifi carry Oppo, Xiaomi, Vivo, Huawei, HTC and Realme alongside Apple, Samsung, Nokia and LG. So, you can pop in and do a side by side comparison and decide for yourself which is the better option. Keep in mind though, buying online will generally be cheaper. For example: You can buy the Xiaomi Mi A3 128GB phone from JB Hifi for \$499 but pay only \$379 online with Dick Smith and \$279 from Catch of the Day.

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ARE YOU ON THE NBN YET? (PART 2)



Welcome back to my NBN feature. Last month we started tackling my shopping list of

questions and we made it to question 4. Question 3 will need to be revisited at the end, as we build a profile for the best plan, but more on that later. So, a quick reminder of the questions:

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?

may still be able to retain your existing email addresses (for a fee). Typically, \$25 per year, per address is what you can expect to pay, but check with your existing provider for all the options. Landline ownership (question 5) is moving from Telstra to NBN Co and strictly speaking, you don't require an active phone line to connect to the NBN. That said though, depending on your method of connection, your existing copper wire to the house may still be used. The phone service however, will only be active through the NBN modem using VOIP technology and you will be able to retain your existing phone number if desired.

Moving on to question 6, you may have landline phones in multiple rooms of your house. If you do, these phones may be individually connected via plugs on the wall or cordless phones connected to a base unit in one of the rooms. If you have cordless units, then it's relatively straightforward to retain the existing phone setup by simply plugging the master cordless base unit into the NBN modem. If your phones plug into sockets on the wall however, you will need to have the home phone wiring altered to support the use of phone extensions in the other rooms. Your provider will generally not help with this extra stuff, but Magoo IT can take care of this for you if required.

There are a few types of Medical Alert services (question 7) in use around Australia. It is best to discuss this with your provider before committing to an NBN plan, but I will touch on the most common setups. Older systems rely on a pendant and/or button around the home that use the landline to call a set number or a list of numbers for assistance. This typically requires the base unit to be connected to an active phone line. Depending on the locations around the house, it may be as simple as moving the base unit next to the NBN modem and plugging it in. It may

be more complicated if there are buttons which are hard wired into specific rooms, so investigate the current setup before changing anything. More modern alert systems use 3G and 4G technology, meaning they rely on the mobile phone network. These units will be totally unaffected by any NBN changes in your home. If you have the older type setup that relies on a landline, it may be a good reason to upgrade to the mobile service. This will provide better protection and will work anywhere there is mobile phone coverage.

Similarly with question 8, monitored alarms can be connected using either a phone line or the mobile network so you will need to confirm which. Unfortunately, you cannot easily move the alarm module to connect to the NBN modem, so some of your house wiring will need to be modified to retain the monitoring facility.

Hopefully, we now we have a better picture of our requirements, so time for another fresh look at:

whistleOut

It looks like the page has been updated. I am asked my address and data required then in More Options I can choose to see bundles and I can select my current ISP. Incidentally my current ISP Amnet is now iPrimus. Now I refine the results to

- Unlimited Data,
- Min Speed Standard Plus,
- Max cost \$70
- Wifi Modem

I removed the sponsored results from the list and see Tangerine, Internode and Spintel, Belong and Mate.

Next time we'll make the call and choose a provider and a plan.

Have a great Christmas and superb New Year!





Do you need help?

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



We come to you!
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Picking up on Question 4 the answer is not a simple yes/no as expected. If your current provider provides NBN as well as your current ADSL offering then yes, you can stay with them and keep your existing email addresses - assuming that's the best option for you. If you must move to another provider, you