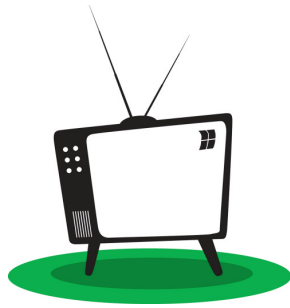


Are you ready for digital TV?

Between 2010 and 2013 analog free-to-air TV signals are being switched off and replaced with digital-only signals. Parts of Queensland will switch to digital TV in 2011, while SE Qld (Brisbane, Gold and Sunshine Coasts), will wait till 2013.



How will this affect you? To keep receiving free-to-air TV after the digital switchover in your area you will need a television that is capable of receiving digital signals (if you don't have one already). There are 2 options for you:

1. Get a digital set top box to convert your existing analog TV
2. Upgrade to a television with an in-built digital tuner

The government has recognised that some Australians – the elderly, people with disabilities and their carers – without access to family, friends or community support, will require assistance to switchover to digital TV. There will be help available for these people, who will be contacted about six months before the switchover.

For more information:

Website: www.digitalready.gov.au

Phone: 1800 20 10 13

Mobile phones simplified

Mobile phones have become overly complicated and whilst access to email and the internet may be useful to some, there is a growing number of people who just want a phone that will make calls and send text messages.

Oricom International, a 100% Australian owned company, has recently released the EZY100, an affordable, easy-to-use, big button GSM mobile phone without all the features many older Australians just don't use.

The EZY100 is ideal for people with hearing loss or low vision. It features large text size, loud ringer, high visibility tactile buttons, amplified earpiece volume, hearing aid compatibility, speakerphone, SOS emergency button and more.

It can be bought from Crazy John's, Vision Australia and a number of hearing aid providers for \$249 and for a limited time comes with a bonus desktop charging base included in the pack, valued at \$49.



For further information contact Oricom International:

Phone: 1300 889 785

Website: www.oricom.com.au

National Rental Affordability Scheme

The National Rental Affordability Scheme, an Australian Government initiative, financially supported by the Queensland Government, will help increase the supply of affordable rental dwellings across Australia by up to 50,000 by 2012, and a further 50,000 after July 2012, subject to demand.

Under the scheme, investors will build new affordable housing and rents will be set at least 20% below the market rent for the properties. In Queensland, the Department of Housing will refer eligible applicants to the National Rental Affordability Scheme tenancy managers, who will select tenants, and manage the properties built under the scheme and the tenancies. A fact sheet outlining tenant eligibility requirements under the scheme is available on the website.

For further information contact the Department of Communities:

Phone: 1300 800 882

Website: <http://www.housing.qld.gov.au/nras>

WHAT'S ON

Lifeline Bookfest - Brisbane

Dates: 16 – 24 January 2010

Description: On weekends, the bookfest is open until 8pm. Stock up on books, magazines, CDs etc at this enormous secondhand book sale which helps to cover the costs of Lifeline's telephone counselling and other work in the community. Books from 20c. Free entry. If you are interested in volunteering for this Bookfest or a future one, please phone 3250 1927.

Venue: Brisbane Convention Centre, Merivale St, South Brisbane

Phone: 3250 1900

Website: www.lifelinebookfest.com.au/bookfest

'A Camera on the Somme 1916-19' - Ipswich

Date: 23 January – 21 March 2010

Description: See this Bendigo Art Gallery Travelling Exhibition of photos from World War 1. The images were taken by brothers Jack and Bert Grinton with the cameras they carried with them – against all regulations – during the war. This collection is a unique addition to the historical record, capturing people and places often overlooked by official war photographs whilst also highlighting the development and artistry of amateur photography.

Venue: Ipswich Art Gallery, d'Arcy Doyle Place, Nicholas Street, Ipswich Central

Phone: 07 3810 7222

Email: info@ipswichartgallery.qld.gov.au

Website: <http://www.ipswichartgallery.qld.gov.au>

Ginger Flower & Food Festival - Yandina

Date: 22 – 25 January 2010

Description: Four days of beautiful blooms, local and exotic produce, public cooking displays and exclusive cooking classes, together with a healthy dose of holistic goodness underpins a packed program of events at Australia's largest sub-tropical festival now in its 14th year. Speakers include Colin Campbell, Annette McFarlane and Ross McKinnon AM. Complementing the huge gardening line-up are loads of free cooking demonstrations. Entry and all presentations (excluding the Deluxe Cooking Classes) at the Festival are free of charge and the full event program can be found on the website.

Venue: 50 Pioneer Road, Yandina

Phone: 07 5446 7100 or 1800 067 686

Website: www.gingerfactory.com.au

Other events on Seniors Enquiry Line's 'Events' include: Australia Day Family Fishing Competition – Hervey Bay, Government House Open Day – Brisbane, Australia Day Celebrations – Jondaryan, Australian Tennis Seniors Championship – Gold Coast and many more

Community Information

Social Website for Over 50s

About My Age is a social website for people over 50. It has been designed to be fun and easy to use for people in their 50s, 60s and 70s and beyond, to learn to embrace new technology in a safe and controlled environment. It also helps those living alone or who are isolated to connect with others in the community.

Membership is FREE

Benefits include:

- having your own unique web page and staying in touch with family and friends.
- Making new friends and re-uniting with old ones
- Creating a journal, uploading photos, participating in forums and staying informed on issues for over 50s
- Listening to live radio in your state
- A local noticeboard for events in your area – including finding a friend to accompany you to events

For more information:

Website: www.aboutmyage.com

Rent Connect

RentConnect, run by the Queensland Government's Housing Services helps Queenslanders to find and secure a tenancy in the private rental market.

RentConnect officers work with people to identify what type of assistance they may need. They can:

- advise how to find a rental home
- help people to understand the rental application process
- help prepare a rental application.

RentConnect officers may also put people in contact with local real estate agents and providers of community services. The service is currently available at the Central Queensland (Rockhampton) and Caboolture Housing Services offices. During 2010 RentConnect will be made available in more offices around the State.

For further information on RentConnect please contact your nearest Housing Services office:

Phone: 1300 880 882

Website: <http://www.housing.qld.gov.au>

If you have any comments or contributions for Snippets or would like to be added to our electronic mailing list, you can reach us at: sel@lccq.org.au