

mx Techno

OFFER OF THE WEEK

The Nokia 1208 is \$49 and comes with polyphonic ringtones, a colour screen and hands-free speaker. Network locking applies. Visit a participating Optus Pre-Paid outlet while stocks last.



SAVINGS | HOME PHONE

Get the buzz

Want to save money on phone bills? Hell yeah! Who doesn't?

The BuzzBox is an Aussie invention which bypasses your usual carrier and connects you to pals via the internet, cutting costs.

But you don't need an internet connection or a computer. Simply plug the BuzzBox in between the phone and the wall socket and make a call. You get the usual ringtone, then a voice saying, "You are being buzzed through" and then you're connected. Too easy.

Now there's one major quirk – use the BuzzBox as soon as you get it. If you don't and you forget about it for a month, you'll be charged \$95 for the box. But if you use it straight away, there's no charge. (As if we needed an incentive to get on the phone.)

Local calls are 9c (for less than one minute) and STD calls are 49c untimed. So if your

bestie has moved to WA, you can call them and talk for four hours and you'll still only be charged 49c.

There's no monthly service fees and no contracts. Your line rental will still be with your normal provider, so you'll be billed as normal for line rental.

The brains behind the BuzzBox are telecommunications professors, Kevin Fynn and John Siliquini.

Oh and the BuzzBox hardware doesn't cost anything either. Sign up and start using it. If you ever want to go back to your normal telephone operator, just unplug the BuzzBox. And there is no disconnection fee so if you connect the BuzzBox and make one call then decide to make no more, you will only be billed for that one call!

■ www.thebuzzcorp.com



Picture: DEREK LAU

ASK GIZMO | VISTA

I have recently swapped to Windows Vista. On the Start menu there appears to be an option to shut down my computer, but pressing it just puts it to sleep. Is there a way to make this button shut down the computer completely? Carol

Good question. By default Vista puts your computer to sleep so that it's faster to turn on next time, however this can get frustrating. To change the default action, click on the Start button, type Power Options then select Change Plan Settings > Change Advanced Power Settings. In here you'll find an option Power Buttons

and Lid and under that Start Menu Power Button. Change the default behaviour to Shut Down instead of Sleep, press OK and the next time you press the button it should shut down all the way.

Computer Repair, Set Ups & Networking, Home Delivered - 1300 275 449, www.gizmo.com.au



AWARDS | ENTER NOW

Entries officially opened this week for the 2009 Enhance TV ATOM awards, for achievements in Film, Television, Animation and Multimedia (including video games).

Production houses, students, game developers, educational resource developers, independent film makers, documentary makers, animators, multimedia developers ... anyone who has produced anything for the screen is encouraged to enter the 2009 EnhanceTV ATOM Awards.

This image of a cow and a sheep standing off in a paddock is from last year's winner of the Best Animation Tertiary section, Cameron Edser with *Animal Instincts*.

This year, the ATOM Awards program will celebrate excellence with 36 awards across three categories - student, educational/vocational and general.

Entries for the 2009 EnhanceTV ATOM Awards will close at noon on Monday, June 15, 2009.

■ www.atomawards.org

DIGITAL | TV TUNER

With the AVL683 digital TV tuner, anyone can watch and record high definition digital TV.

Transform your PC or Mac into a personal TV and video recorder.

The included software lets you take control of your TV viewing with the Time-Shift function and you can schedule recordings ahead of time using the Electronic Program Guide.

Available now, the AVL683 retails at \$150.

■ www.audion-mm.com



SOUND | PORTABLE

Going mobile doesn't mean having to accept average sound quality any longer. Laptops and mobiles don't have the best sound systems built-in simply to keep the cost and weight down.

Canadian-based audio company Edifier has built the MP300 2.1 Audio System.

This is a small but stylish sound system with an aluminum tube subwoofer and two spherical full range speakers that fit into the palm of your hand.

The speakers connect via a 3mm audio jack, available for all notebooks and most mobiles.

Once connected you will get a rich, fat sound with any audio or video you pump through.

It's even good enough to throw a party using your mobile phone as the speaker system.

To make travel easy, the speakers come bundled in a hard-wearing case. Each element fits snugly in its own section so it won't rattle around.

The speakers ship in three colours: black, silver and white.

If the MP300 came with a battery back up option instead of just a power supply, it would give you true portability.

The MP300 2.1 speakers cost \$150. Insert and play.

– ASH

■ www.TekTime.com.au

