

a little CRC...



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Countdown to New NBN Satellites for Rural Australia

The government is promising a mid-2015 launch date for two new Satellites designed for geo-synchronous orbit over the Australian land mass. The satellites, costing \$2 billion to provide and launch, will be dedicated to providing broadband internet to around 200,000 rural Australian premises over the next 15 years. The launch will take place from French Guiana using the Ariane 5 rocket.

We should experience a huge improvement over current satellite internet services provided via the 2006 Optus D1 satellite. The Optus Satellite is getting overloaded and internet services are sharing space with phone, television and other systems. The new Satellites, called NBN Co 1A and NBN Co 1B, are one of the few parts of Labour's NBN to have survived the incoming government's review of the project. Pemberton residents will be weeping in their cornflakes over the likelihood they have lost their promised fibre optic connections, but for Northcliffe, so far, the change of government has meant no practical change to future internet delivery plans.

All households in Northcliffe and surrounds will have the option to receive free installation of new satellite internet receivers. To go with this there is the promise of competitive pricing, speeds of at least 12MBps and, very importantly, larger download allowances.

This should allow Northcliffe residents to experience internet movie and television on demand services, including the fantastic ABC iView. It will also make it practical to backup your computer and data files online and access a host of emerging broadband internet services.

Cross your fingers for a successful launch!



The European Ariane 5 rocket

Northcliffe Weather Report...Postscript to a Postscript

Another new weather service we have discovered on the internet, from the Bureau of Meteorology, is 'MetEye'. This amazing service produces individual 7 day weather forecasts on a 7km by 7km grid across the whole of Australia. That means someone living in Tattenham Road can now get a personalised weather forecast which will be different from that of a Riverway Rd dweller or a Hillbrook Rd resident.

Visit:

www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/

Accept the fine print if you wish to proceed. You can type in your postcode above the map and then select your own locality.

You can zoom in (use your scroll wheel), drag the map around with your cursor, and click anywhere you like to see the 7 day forecast for that area.

Once you have a forecast click on 'Detail' or 'Text view' to see hour by hour predictions of temperature, rainfall, wind speed and direction.

Close your forecast with the 'X' and click elsewhere for another forecast.

If you tick the 'Roads & Railways' box at the bottom you will find it a lot easier to navigate the map...

On the day of writing the benefits of this service over previous offerings were clear: Northcliffe 28 degrees C, Shannon 27, Manjimup 30, Windy Harbour 25, Pemberton 30.

The service is still being developed but Meteye will soon be the foundation of better weather forecasting across Australia. The days of putting up with a Manjimup weather forecast are finally over!



Windows XP Support Expires April 8th 2014

If you still use this 13 year old operating system:

- Your computer will continue operating as normal
- Updates to the Windows XP operating system will now be limited. Your security on the internet will suffer. Microsoft will take no responsibility for any problems you have.
- Virus updates via Microsoft Security Essentials will be provided until June 2015. If you haven't already installed this security product it is now too late. Your alternative is to use a 3rd party security product like AVG Free, Avira, Norton, McAfee, Kapersky.

The solution to all of this is to upgrade or stop using your Windows XP computer on the internet. In all likelihood an upgrade will mean replacing your whole computer. My recommendation is to avoid Windows 8 and ask your salesperson to supply you a Windows 7 computer. Expect them to resist this suggestion!

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