



briefcase - or in Apple's nifty sleeve / carrying folder. The iPad may be comfortably operated by holding it in one hand and gesturing on the touch screen but it is happier on a lap or table top when typing on the virtual keyboard. The iPad is much lighter than a traditional laptop (or even a netbook) and immediately wins a role as a highly portable email and web browsing device. When given the choice of browsing the web with a mouse and PC at a desk or lying on a sofa with an iPad the sofa wins every time.

### **Configurations**

The base model is a 16Gb Wi-Fi, with more expensive versions having 32Gb and 64Gb of memory. Only the Wi-Fi model was available at the initial release in the USA but it is likely that both Wi-Fi and 3G models will be released simultaneously in Australia (date yet to be determined). With Wi-Fi being so widespread in homes, offices and cafes do you really need to pay more for a device that requires yet another 3G contract?

### **Battery life**

The iPhone battery struggles to last through a day of reasonably heavy use. By comparison the iPad battery is good for ten hours of full-screen, high resolution video. The writer's iPad provided more than a week of intermittent email and web browsing before requiring a first recharge.

### **Cost**

Apple has not yet released pricing for the iPad in Australia. The base 16 Gb Wi-Fi model in the USA sells for US\$499. Interestingly, despite the huge run on the product, it was possible to find them discounted by 20% at general electronics outlets within two weeks of the product launch.

### **Capabilities - what it *can't* do**

OK - it's obviously not a phone and it's not a camera.

If you have an iPhone then all your music will already be on this ultra portable device with no need to duplicate it on an iPad. If you don't have an iPhone (or equivalent MP3 player) then you might want to sync your music to an iPad for a degree of portability rather than keep it on a desktop or laptop.

Unless you buy the 3G version of the iPad it cannot provide navigation or GPS capabilities as the GPS chip is built into the 3G chip.

Connectivity is compromised as neither the iPhone nor the iPad have a built-in USB port, however you can buy a USB port accessory that connects to the 30 pin socket on either device. The iPad also has Bluetooth capability for connecting to a keyboard or headphones. There is an app called [ActivePrint](#) that will print from both iPhones and iPads (including MS Office documents) across Wi-Fi or 3G networks.

### **Capabilities - what it *can* do**

You might think from reading the above list of negatives that this is a device without a purpose, however that would be a mistaken assumption. The iPad performs the core activities of web browsing and email brilliantly in a highly portable package. The excellent battery life removes another limitation of many portable devices and the high-resolution, backlit colour screen makes it an attractive tool for viewing YouTube videos or downloading films.

The publishing industry considers the iPad's combination of portability, a decent screen and good battery life an ideal platform for electronic versions of newspapers, periodicals and books - and a potential antidote to the declining circulation figures of traditional print media. Electronic versions of books have a home on the iBooks section of iTunes but as yet there is no area of iTunes dedicated to subscriptions or downloading individual issues of publications.

The larger screen of the iPad makes it a much more successful device for storing and displaying photos than the iPhone. I have synced all my images to the iPad and rather like its ability to display a slideshow of images while recharging.

Finally, most of the 150,000 iPhone apps run on the iPad without modification, albeit in either an iPhone sized window or at double size and half the resolution. There are currently around 3,500 dedicated iPad apps available on the US iTunes site, with an average cost of \$5 - \$10 each (free if you already have the iPhone version), compared with perhaps \$2 - \$3 for typical iPhone apps. Many apps that have been modified for the iPad screen are much more successful in this environment than on the smaller iPhone screen.

## **What's on at NDA this month**

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### **Train Two People for the Price of One**

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This month we are offering two enrolments for the price of one on the following courses:

- Hobart [Excel Introductory 2007](#) – 7/8 Jun, standard rate \$480
- Launceston [Project 2003 and 2007](#) – 26/27 May, standard rate \$480

- Devonport [PowerPoint 2003](#) – 11 May, standard rate \$240

### Productivity Places Diploma Tenders

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Skills Tasmania announced the results of the 2010 Productivity Places tenders yesterday. NDA was successful with the following tenders for government employees:

- Diploma of IT (General) - 12 places
- Diploma of IT (Networking) - 10 places
- Diploma of Project Management - 12 places
- Diploma of Business Administration - 12 places

These places have all been pre-allocated and we will be contacting successful applicants shortly.

### Federally Funded Project Management and IT Diplomas

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NDA applied through Skills Tasmania to have the [Diploma in Project Management](#) and four [Diplomas in Information Technology](#) added to the approved pathways list. Following the successful addition of these qualifications, funding is now available to the employer for eligible staff\*. We therefore invite applications from people wishing to enrol in either of these qualifications. This is in addition to the funding that is already available for diplomas in [management](#), [business](#) and [business administration](#). **Please note that this funding is not available to state or federal government employees.**

\* Eligibility for any State or Federal funding has to be determined by an Apprenticeship Centre.

### Forthcoming Training Courses

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NDA is now able to release the following courses for stand-by enrolment, some at significant discounts on standard rates (**to obtain the discount, please phone Kristina on 1300 765 736** and mention this email when making bookings):

#### Hobart – IT courses

- [Excel Advanced 2003](#) 7/10 May – 20% discount \$384 (standard rate \$480)
- [Access Introductory/Intermediate 2007](#) 19/21 May – standard rate \$480
- [Word Intermediate 2007](#) 20/21 May – standard rate \$480
- [MYOB Setup and Operation](#) 24/25 May – standard rate \$570
- [Excel Introductory 2007](#) 7/8 Jun – standard rate \$480 **two for the price of one**
- [Excel Intermediate 2007](#) 8/9 Jun – standard rate \$480
- [Excel Advanced 2007](#) 9/11 Jun – standard rate \$480
- [Project 2003 and 2007](#) 10/11 Jun – 20% discount \$228 (standard rate \$480)

#### Hobart – Business Skills courses

- [Managing Successful Projects](#) 26/27 May – standard rate \$570
- [Superior Customer Service](#) 3 Jun – 20% discount \$384 (standard rate \$285)

#### Launceston – IT courses

- [Excel Advanced 2003](#) 7/10 May – standard rate \$480
- [An Introduction to e-Marketing and e-Distribution](#) 18 May (am) – standard rate \$195
- [Search Engine Optimisation and Google Analytics](#) 18 May (pm) – standard rate \$195
- [Word Intermediate 2007](#) 20/21 May – standard rate \$480
- [MYOB Setup and Operation](#) 24/25 May – standard rate \$570
- [Project 2003 and 2007](#) 26/27 May – standard rate \$480 **two for the price of one**
- [Office 2007 Conversion](#) 4 Jun (am) – standard rate \$285
- [Excel Basics 2007](#) 7 Jun – 20% discount \$192 (standard rate \$240)
- [Excel Intermediate 2007](#) 8/9 Jun – standard rate \$480
- [Excel Advanced 2007](#) 9/11 Jun – standard rate \$480

#### Launceston – Business Skills courses

- [OH&S in the Workplace](#) 11 Jun – 20% discount \$228 (standard rate \$285)

#### Devonport – IT courses

- [Excel Advanced 2003](#) 7/10 May – standard rate \$480
- [PowerPoint 2003](#) 11 May – standard rate \$240 **two for the price of one**
- [Word Introductory 2007](#) 17/18 May – standard rate \$480

[MYOB Advanced](#) 31 May – standard rate \$285  
[Excel Introductory 2007](#) 2/7 Jun – standard rate \$480  
[Excel Intermediate 2007](#) 7/9 Jun – standard rate \$480  
[Project 2003 and 2007](#) 8/10 Jun – standard rate \$480  
[Excel Advanced 2007](#) 9/11 Jun – standard rate \$480

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