

COMPUTER CLUB This meeting was held on Saturday, 14 July 2007.

“More and more average computer users are now seeing open source software as a real – and free alternative to professional computer software packages” Australian NetGuide MAY 2007 (WWW.NETGUIDE.COM.AU)

Open Office demonstration, which included:

- ❖ **Writer** an equivalent to MS Word (a word processor)
 - Table
 - Insert columns
 - Narrow column
 - Format text
 - Insert picture
 - From file
 - From scanner
 - Adjust image size
 - Bullets
 - Export as PDF
 - Load in templates
 - Insert ‘Table of Contents’
- ❖ **Impress** an equivalent to MS Powerpoint (a presentation program)
- ❖ **Draw** an equivalent to MS Visio (a graphics program)
- ❖ **Calc** an equivalent to MS Excel (a spreadsheet program)
 - Help screen
 - Fill handle
 - Format cells
 - Formulae
 - Charts
 - DataPilot (similar to Excel’s ‘pivot table’). Excel is superior here.
- ❖ **Base** an equivalent to MS Access (a data base program).

Question

How should I choose a laptop computer?

Ans: * decide what you want to use it for eg if for CAD then must have a good screen resolution * should be able to insert extra memory * a dual core processor, will give good battery life * weight is important (especially if you intend to lug it around everywhere * getting a well known brand will help with after sales service * 17” screen is good for failing eyes * DVD burner * wireless connection if you want to connect to eg a mobile phone or other computers.

Our next meeting is Saturday, 11 August at 3pm. John Nicholls has kindly accepted our invitation to give a talk on the Linux Operating System at this meeting. Everyone is welcome.