

Tip for August 2006  
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There are those who seek fame and those who have it thrust upon them...

In last month's edition, I as usual was reading every article (doesn't Bill put out a terrific local newspaper?) and started reading Keith Clampett's car guide which resides on the last pages of the MC. And here I come to the above quote – he was talking about me!!! Thanks for the mention, Keith. I wish computers were like cars and didn't come with discs for software because more often than not when I ask my client for the original disc so that I can repair their machine, I am met with a blank stare and a frantic search through cupboards and garages. If only there were some way of having them taped to the inside of the case so that they were always there. You can often download the software from the internet but that takes time and effort. It is much easier if the discs are there to hand.

I have just returned from a client who has two older machines that work well but they are run on ME operating system. She wanted to set up a network between the two and connect to the internet using broadband. Her frustration has lasted two months. She knew she could have called me in the first place but she was assured by her ISP (Internet Service Provider), which shall remain nameless, that it was an easy job for her to install. When the plug and play didn't work, she went for advice to a computer technology store to see if the router (modem) needed replacing, spent many hours on many phone calls to the ISP and then she decided to give up and call me. And I too made a phone call to the ISP thinking that there must be a setting I had missed, but no, it still didn't work. I eventually remembered that (those of you who don't like tech speak, please close your ears) you had to add a protocol for access to the internet to work. So she is up and running. She would like these people to indulge in truth in advertising and actually tell you that it doesn't always work and it might be an idea to get a technician in.

I notice that you can now lodge your census form on line – great. But always remember that your computer is a useful tool but doesn't replace everything and I must admit enjoying my conversation with the census woman. Me? Well I fix them, but love my books, my music and my radio while sitting in comfort in my lounge room, far away from my computers.

Cheers,  
Deirdree