

# Newsletter



## Merry Christmas

### Google launches Gemini 3 of its AI model

This new version is rolling out across all of its products, in particular its web search. Paid version Gemini 3 Pro is claimed to be smarter at answering questions, writing code and analysing or creating media. To take advantage of many of the features you need the paid subscription.

*Reference: The Sydney Morning Herald*

### Social Media Platform changes 10th December 2025

The Good Things network is suggesting **NOW** is the time parents, **grandparents** and carers should familiarise themselves with the new changes.

See page 4. for resources.

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## Page 2 Xmas Tech suggestions

### Memory cards



have multiple uses by smartphones, computers, tablets, cameras and they come in a variety of shapes, storage sizes. Shop around for a good price.

### Bluetooth mouse

A Bluetooth mouse has the benefit of reduced interference compared to traditional wireless mice and devices that operate on a 2.4Hz frequency band such as microwave ovens, cordless phones and wi-Fi routers.



### Powerbank



Useful for charging your devices on the go, especially if you travel or if you need to go somewhere urgently and your phone is nearly out of charge.

With Christmas just around the corner I've highlighted a few tech items I use that may provide ideas for your Christmas stocking.

These and similar items can be purchased for under \$100.

Happy shopping for your Christmas gifts.

### Card reader



I've had a card reader for years and its been of invaluable help reading SD cards from my camera and smartphones.



### Hubs



increase the number of ports on your device. Great for connecting a mouse, keyboard, and external hard disk drive. Many USB hubs get their power from the laptop. Later laptops have a limited number of USB ports.

### JBL clip 4 Bluetooth speaker

Waterproof, dustproof, and up to 10 hours of playtime on a single charge. Ultra portable design and claimed to have rich audio with punchy bass. Can be a great and improved extension of your computer/smartphone.



### Christmas recipe suggestions

**coles** <https://shorturl.at/5pRxu>

In addition to Christmas recipe suggestions there are many recipes under the following categories Gluten free, Vegetarian, Vegan, High in protein, High in protein, No added sugar, Dairy free, Nut free, Peanut, Soy free.



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Hi and Merry Christmas. I trust you have enjoyed the monthly newsletters and found some useful information. Its been an unbelievable year for changes in technology. Artificial Intelligence is changing our programs and our lifestyles.

*Happy Computing*

*Lindsay*



## Windows 10 stories aren't going away

Many users of Windows 10 are receiving the message "Your version of Windows has reached the end of support", even users who have paid for extra support.

The message asks you to update to the latest version by clicking on a link. The new issue is "bad actors" as they are called, may mimic the bug in an attempt to get users to share their details via malicious links. The issue is still to be fixed by Microsoft.

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## Microsoft tests W11 Version 26H1

Windows 26H1 is not a feature update. Microsoft advised it is about the hardware. A new platform called "Bromine" that provides support for the next wave of powerful, energy efficient Arm based processors and possibly Nvidia NIX chips expected to appear in new laptops and devices in early 2026.

*Reference: TechRepublic*

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## Printable Calendars 2025 2026 2027 free

Vertex42

2026 is almost here and time to think about a calendar. While many users will continue to use digital calendars, this website allows you to print calendars in

- **different formats** like PDF, HTML and printable yearly calendars in excel, and word templates.
- **colors**, and you **can edit** calendars.
- **Specific types of calendars**—daily, weekly monthly, budget, fiscal, perpetual.

<https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/printable-calendars.html>

*Reference: JR Raphael—the intelligence*



## Microsoft Edge web browser gets scareware sensor?

What is a scareware scam? Commonly known as *tech support scams* they are used by fraudsters to trick potential victims into believing their devices are compromised with malware. They are pressured into calling a fake tech support number where an attempt is then made to gain remote access to their devices.

This feature provides faster detection of scam pages so Defender SmartScreen blocks them faster. While it will be disabled by default Microsoft plan to enable it for all users that have SmartScreen enabled. It will always be off in inPrivate.

*Reference: Bleeping Computer*



Scammers  
don't rest  
during the  
Christmas  
season



## Linux Mint Overhaul

The Linux Mint team's redesign of the *System Reports Tools* is aiming to troubleshoot issues and also rename the *System Reports Tool* to *System Information*.

The team is believed to be developing a system administration tool that will allow you to configure deeper settings in your Mint install.

Linux Mint 22.3 is expected early next year.

*Reference: How To Geek*



## New Digital Inclusion Research

New research from Telstra, ARC Centre for Excellence for Automated Decision making, RMIT University and Swinburne university.

*Reference: Be Connected*

## Is Your Tech Up To Date?

The recent fatality when a triple zero call didn't connect to emergency services highlights the **importance of updating your software and devices**.

While TPG and Samsung were slammed in the media, Users have a responsibility to ensure their devices are up to date. **CHECK YOURS NOW.**



Yes this is a site for kids, a website for fun and educational activities.

If you are a grandparent or parent looking to entertain the kids, this website is worth a visit.

An example, creating bingo cards to play bingo. Bingo > print the cards > select the theme. Instructions, directions and ideas are available.

There are other projects with instructions.

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/cards/bingo/>



## Social Media Platform Changes

10th December 2025

### eSafety

<https://shorturl.at/RUz8g>

Helpful resources, information and guides

Be connected website

<https://shorturl.at/X1d4S>

Explainer article on changes and common changes

### eSafety webinars

<https://urli.info/1jrzf>

For parents, carers, professionals

Past Sands Tech Group Newsletters can be found at this link. <https://sandslifestylebfs.wixsite.com/scgbfs>

### Disclaimer:

The information contained in this newsletter is of a general nature. Always do your own research and seek advice before acting on the information provided.