

IPAD PURCHASE UPDATE - Tracking some key emails/advice

August 28th: From Bev – “Terry Case has informed me that the Exec. Committee has given the go ahead for the immediate purchase of five x I Pad Air 2 Wi Fi 16GB at a price up to \$569 each.”

September 2nd: From Barry following other email updates on research nearly there!

“The iPads at Officeworks are down to \$568 today. If we combine this price with the Otterbox*cover it gives a total cost per unit of \$677 or \$3,385 for the lot. There may be some freight charge, however I believe we can get the lot for well under our budget...”

There is no ongoing costs with these units unless you download an app which has costs associated with it. I believe that there are a large number of free apps available. The only ongoing costs for an iPad is if you have cellular capability which would mean that there would be an ongoing data charge. The units we are proposing are only Wi-Fi, without cellular connectivity.”

“* The Otterbox cover (which is similar to, but less expensive than the Apple item), encases the iPad in a polycarbonate case with a screen protector. Cost \$109.”

Sep 3: From Barry O'Connor

“As confirmed by Terry Case, I have been able to purchase through Officeworks Head Office, five Apple iPad Air 2 Wi-Fi 16GB units with Otterbox covers for a total of \$3,410-00 including GST and freight of \$29-95”.

Sept 3: From Terry Dillon – information/concerns re WiFi current download capacity

“On Wifi, I prefer to have the phone connection on my phone and to have my tablet with only wifi. I tether my tablet to my phone. Having the 3G or any G connection in the tablet is expensive both upfront and ongoing. However, you must consider whether the existing modem connection at U3A is capable of supporting five simultaneous connections (plus any other connections if, potentially, androids are used simultaneously).

A serious consideration of wifi capability in general and the U3A modem connection is required. The existing service could be described as poor. We are looking at a minimum of five connections here. You are also considering purchase of androids. This would be extremely unlikely to be able to be supported by the modem. In fact, I doubt whether five connections would be viable for a serious class activity. This should be addressed prior to the purchase of the tablets.”

Sept 22 : From Bill Parris –research into options for WiFi and current status

“On the afternoon of our Tech Savvy meeting Terry Dillon and I went to Wangaratta to get information from Optus and Telstra.

Optus offered

- A 12 or 24 month Mobile Broadband contract of 12 GB at \$60/month. We may need a compatible 4G modem (\$99) and a Booster Aerial (\$99 - \$129) A paper invoice of \$2.20/month applies.
- Prepaid Mobile Broadband Recharge Options: \$50 for 7GB up to 365 days, \$130 for 22GB up to 730 days. Same modem and booster aerial situation applies.
- Optus cannot provide a telephone connection.

Telstra offered

- A 24 month Go Business Mobile Broadband of 8GB for \$55/mth, 15GB for \$105/mth or 25GB for \$165/mth
- Prepaid Mobile Broadband, 5GB for \$50 for up to 365 days or 16GB for \$140 for up to 2 years
- A telephone connection for \$299 (would need approval from our landlord). With a phone line we could have 50GB plan at \$75/mth or 250GB for \$95

While we are deciding which way to go we are paying \$85/mth for 8GB and no contract with Telstra. *(An increase in download capacity from the 4GB we had been getting. Bev)*

At our Exec Meeting The above information was discussed, my preferred option was to get a phone land line from Telstra.

It was decided Terry Case would discuss a landline connection with Michelle Ramage. Michelle would prefer that we do not get a land line and for the student participation with U3A we would use their WiFi with the I Pads.

I still prefer getting our own landline as our own usage will continue to increase and we will again suffer bill shock.”

29 Sept – on website from Bev:

“I'd like to thank Tech Heads members for their assistance to U3A this month - to Barry for expediting the purchase and delivery of the I-Pads and Otterbox covers; to Bill and Terry for researching into WiFi options for W4, and to Bill for fitting the I-Pads into the Otterbox covers. Bill commented on the excellent design features of these covers - they are incredibly strong and at the same time all the features of the I-Pad can be used with ease. An excellent choice, Barry!

The selection of the best choice of WiFi option for W4 is still to be decided and negotiations are continuing. We need an option which has an adequate level of Gigabytes to meet our growing needs.

Evidence of the need for a WiFi package containing over the current trial of 8G was provided in a preliminary test last week.

Bill mentioned that the modem screen near the computer had a figure on the bottom left hand side which registered WiFi use. On Tuesday I mentored a U3A member for two hours using the 'Treasure Hunt' resource and our web site. I had my smartphone with me and used it several times to refer to the internet. The amount registered on the modem screen initially was 0.03 MG, at the end 414 MG. I will do a few more 'tests' over the coming weeks.