



INDIAN OCEAN INTERNET NEWS: April 2006 Cocos (Keeling) Islands - Christmas Island

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Wireless Internet “Hotspots” and Broadband for home users.

Hotspots

CIIA is in the process of rolling out wireless Hotspots for visitors to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Hotspots will enable guests and visitors to the islands to connect to the Internet via their laptop. These will be installed at participating lodging and café facilities for a one-off fee of AU \$250. This fee will cover labour and the cost of cables, brackets and antennas. Equipment will belong to and be maintained by CIIA.

There will be NO recurring monthly costs to the lodging or café owner. If the Hotspot is not used a minimum of 15 hours in a 90-day period CIIA may choose to remove the Hotspot. If the owner desires to maintain this facility for their guests, a nominal monthly fee of \$39 will be charged to maintain the access point.

Hotspot Internet access will be pre-paid. Access vouchers will be available from the Tele-Centre Association on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the CI Tourism Association on Christmas Island. Proceeds go to the respective organizations.

Users will require their own computer to access the net at these public Hotspots. If you desire to have a terminal installed at your site CIIA will work with the Tele-Centre Association and CI Tourism to install and maintain one at your site on a cost-recovery basis. These public Hotspots will serve as satellite locations to the existing CI Tourism and Tele-Centre Internet café's.

The key benefits to the community are 24/7 access for visitors and guests and increased convenience (work from the privacy of your place of lodging). It can be reasonably expected that the Cocos Tele-Centre and CI Tourism will see increased revenue from use of the public Hotspots.

If you are interested in having a public Hotspot installed at your location please email hotspots@ciia.cx or fax your request to 08 9164 8879.

CIIA is a not for profit, member-owned company and you must be a member to be eligible for installation of a public Hotspot.

This offer does NOT apply to home or residential users. See below for information on residential broadband offerings.

Residential Wireless Broadband. (AKA “just say no to copper”)

CIIA has historically relied on the Telstra telephone network and dated analogue modem banks for Residential Internet Access. The local Telstra telephone network was not designed for data transmission and as such modem speeds of up to 28.8kbps are the maximum attainable. With no likely improvement in speed for dial-up modem services, increasingly hard to source spare parts for CIIA’s dated dial-up modem banks and high maintenance/labour costs, the recurring monthly costs to maintain the dial-up services are increasingly hard to justify.

Therefore CIIA will be phasing out all existing dial-up services over the next 6 months and replacing it with wireless broadband. It is envisioned that the new residential wireless network will be a separate network from that used by existing corporate and institutional users - corporate and institutional users will continue to have high network availability while residential users will use “shared” or “pooled” bandwidth.

Existing casual dial-up users currently on a monthly plan who do not wish to take advantage (and pay the related premium) of increased wireless broadband speeds will be migrated to the wireless network (at capped speeds of 64kbs) with no increased monthly costs. There are significant economies of scale in this migration, eliminating the dial-up services entirely will give us a more reliable network and free up several thousand dollars per month to purchase additional bandwidth.

Existing users who wish to pay a broadband premium will have a variety of options and payment plans available. These plans will be generally consistent with mainland Broadband prices, but will depend on the number of subscribers. If CIIA is to realise “mainland pricing” we would need to reach our subscriber target - 120 broadband users on each island.

CIIA is in the process of applying to the Commonwealth’s HIBiS (High Bandwidth Incentive Scheme) and are awaiting a reply to our application before finalizing the cut over dates and installation prices. Equipment is on order and expected to arrive in 8-12 weeks.

If you have any questions please contact Christmas Island Internet Administration at broadband@ciia.cx or call 1800 123 820.

Brad Waugh
CIIA