

**GOVERNMENT'S (REVISED)
STIMULUS PACKAGE**

The Government's \$42 Billion "Nation Building and Jobs Plan" was finally passed by the Senate on 13th February 2009. While the package is quite complex it essentially comes in two parts:

Household Stimulus Package

This was the part of the package which caused most debate and was eventually revised to satisfy certain aggrieved political parties. It basically comprises 5 Key Bonus Payments targeted at low to middle income earners and will be received Tax free.

The various bonuses are designed to stimulate household spending and in most cases will be received by eligible recipients by the end of May. Some components of the package will be received when annual tax returns are assessed.

It will be possible for eligible households to receive multiple bonuses.

Nation Building and Jobs Plan

This part of the package involves spending billions of additional dollars on roads and infrastructure spending. It includes school maintenance programs, additional spending on Public Housing and homes for the Australian Defence Forces. \$3.9 Billion is available for installing ceiling insulation in homes and increases to the existing Solar Hot Water rebate.

Small Business Tax Benefits

A significant component of the package provides an additional tax deduction of 30% on depreciable assets purchased by small business before 30th June 2009. Eligible assets acquired between 30th June and 31st December 2009 will receive a tax break of 10% over and above normal tax deductions.

It is expected these windfall payments and spending initiatives will bolster our economy in order to stave off "the Recession we didn't need to have".

★★★★★

**Bruce can be heard fortnightly on
2EC Fridays at around 10.40am**

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**Grant's
Computer Corner**



Welcome to the Eighteenth instalment of Grant's Computer Corner. Have a question or problem for a future column? Send it to computercorner@charsley.net

The question for this month, submitted by Ross is, "What is the difference between a surge protector, and a UPS?"

Thanks Ross. Basically a surge protector can protect your equipment from a short-lived over supply of electricity. This over supply can often blow electronic equipment. A UPS is a battery-driven power supply. The UPS contains a lead-acid battery (in most cases) which is charged up when you have mains power. When the mains power is not there, your electronic equipment will run off the battery. Depending on the VA (or power) rating of your UPS it has a certain time it will run for with a certain amount of equipment. The cheaper UPS is typically made to run a single computer for up to 10 minutes. This is to give you enough time to shutdown the computer cleanly. Price is a big factor in helping decide whether each of these is any good. A cheap surge protector does very little to protect your system. In fact it may just give you a false sense of security. A good surge protector will also have an input and output for a phone line. Most blown equipment tends to be that which is connected to phone lines.

The best solution is to have a UPS, as this has built-in surge protection and can help for short periods when you have a blackout.



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You can also email us on support@charsley.net

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MAIN PHOTO and INSET: MJH is the fourth largest home builder in NSW and offers quality at an affordable price.

'Stunning' designs are very affordable

McDONALD Jones Homes (MJH) is bringing dreams to life on the South Coast with its range of stunning, but affordable, architecturally designed homes.

The company's award-winning house designs have lifted the bar and set a new standard in quality housing with stylish features designed for Australian families at realistic prices.

A Hunter-based firm, MJH is the fourth largest home builder in NSW. In 2008, it built around 400 homes, with its closest competitor completing just over 100.

Providing stylish, quality homes at affordable prices lies at the heart of the MJH philosophy, with the company offering designs ranging from first homebuyer options to classic country homes.

Testament to that philosophy are last year's Project Home of the Year and Display Home of the Year awards, won by MJH at the Housing Industry Association Awards in Newcastle.

McDonald Jones managing director Bill McDonald said the awards recognised MJH's creativity and constant endeavours in providing well-built, attractive and functional homes at realistic prices.



"We have our own award-winning architect to design homes specifically for us," Mr McDonald said.

"Our mission is to build homes for people to be proud of - a home they can brag about to their friends."

United Kingdom-trained architect Stuart Everitt, who designs the MJH homes, adheres to the philosophy that all families should benefit from affordable, architecturally designed homes.

"These homes are designed with central living areas flowing naturally from area to area," Mr Everitt said.

"We are creating smarter designs that answer the varied needs of modern lifestyles while embracing the delicate balance of daily family life.

"The key is maximum flexibility and diversity."

The Stuart Everitt Portfolio homes are built to last, offering all the precision, strength and security of steel frames and Colorbond roofs.

Designed to embrace Australian's love of indoor/outdoor living, attention to detail makes each home design a pleasure to live in.

Step inside and you'll see it's the little features that set MJH homes apart from standard project homes, with coffered ceilings, computer nooks, children's activities rooms, alfresco cabanas, stunning kitchens and bathrooms, and top-of-the-range appliances just some of the standard, thoughtful details.

Since opening its South Coast office in September last year, MJH has begun construction on 20 homes in areas covering Shellharbour, Nowra,

Ulladulla, Camden South, Bowral, the Southern Highlands and Goulburn.

The range of homes also includes floor plans designed to cater especially for the unique South Coast climate.

Complimenting the Stuart Everitt range of homes is the recently released Next Gen collection.

Also designed by Stuart Everitt, these designs have been created especially for those needing a little less space, but all the same style and quality - perfect for buyers just entering the housing market or a mature couple looking for a designer home that allows them to enjoy a relaxed alfresco style of living.

The MJH philosophy of quality also extends to the support and advice offered to buyers.

Experienced full-time sales representatives staff the South Coast sales office at 64 North St, Nowra. Additionally, building and colour consultants are on hand to help buyers with decision making as their dream homes materialise.

Additionally, customers are given a DVD of the MJH 'design story', which features hundreds of photographs of the homes' stylish internal and external features.

MJH expects to have display homes completed at Nowra, Shellharbour and Bowral sometime after June this year, giving everyone the opportunity to experience the quality of a MJH home.

In the meantime, buyers on the South Coast who pay a deposit on their home will be given a \$500 cash-back voucher so they can take advantage of MJH's invitation to spend a weekend in the Hunter Region.

While there, they can walk through the display homes and get a first-hand glimpse of what they have to look forward to.

• For more information phone 1300 555 382 or visit mcdonaldjoneshomes.com.au

Indigenous employment expo in Nowra tomorrow

MORE than 60 stallholders have booked to exhibit at the NSW South Coast Indigenous Employment Expo which will take place tomorrow (Thursday) at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre in Bridge Road, Nowra between 10am and 3pm.

Stallholders include NSW Police and Fire Brigade, the Universities of Wollongong, Sydney and Canberra, TAFE, private employers, volunteer agencies such as Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service, employment agencies, Centrelink and the Defence Forces.

In addition the day will feature

practical demonstrations and a series of short informative presentations by major agencies and organisations regarding employment and training opportunities in many careers.

All students, jobseekers, parents and business people are welcome to attend and to gather information on jobs, training opportunities and university courses to get their careers on track.

Visitors to the expo will also have the opportunity to meet with Kyle Vander-Kuyp, two time Olympian and Centrelink Indigenous Ambassador on the

Centrelink stand.

For those people who have ever thought of becoming a carpenter, typist, painter, plasterer, mechanic, bricklayer, forestry worker, nurse, doctor, aged care worker, soldier, chef, sailor, accountant, waiter, gardener, police officer, journalist or hair dresser, the South Coast Indigenous Expo will be the place to be.

RIGHT: Olympian Kyle Vander-Kuyp will be one of the special guests at tomorrow's NSW South Coast Indigenous Employment Expo in Nowra tomorrow (Thursday).

