



The Place To Be

# Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

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## **LOCAL MP GEOFF HOWARD WELCOMES NETBOOKS AT KYNETON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Brumby Government's three-year trial of mini-Netbook computers in schools has begun at Kyneton Primary School with the arrival of the new student computers today.

Local MP Geoff Howard, MLA for Ballarat East was there to see the Kyneton Primary students become the latest of the participating government primary schools in the Loddon Mallee region to start receiving their new, portable, mini-computers.

"Having access to these computers will provide students with the ability to learn anywhere and anytime through these new Netbook computers, giving them the best educational opportunities possible," Geoff Howard said.

"This is a fantastic initiative which will allow our students to keep pace with modern learning and provide 24-hour online access at a cost to parents of just \$1 a week.

"Grade 6 students in these schools will have access to this portable, compact computer which comes loaded with equipped with 28 educational software programs, wireless internet access and a built in webcam.

"This trial will deliver affordable access to technology for thousands of Victorian families who will save hundreds of dollars on computer software and they will no longer need to buy their children a scientific calculator and atlas.

"This is just one of many ways this Government will continue to invest in new, cutting-edge education to ensure that Victorian students get better outcomes by having quality schools, teachers, and the best possible learning opportunities and programs.

"Education is the Brumby Government's number one priority and we will continue to invest to make sure no student is left behind as we equip 21<sup>st</sup> Century students with the skills to get 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs."

In addition to the family contribution, the Government will contribute \$312 per device covering two-thirds of the cost. Schools will own the devices for the first two years, however students can take them home and will have the option of owning them outright in the final year of the trial.

The Lenovo netbooks, which weigh around one kilogram, also come complete with a webcam.

Software will include Microsoft Office, Microsoft Student with Encarta Premium, animation program Kahootz, computer aided design program Google SketchUp and a range of other free open source multimedia programs.

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