



## SURVIVAL GUIDE

### Get with the spirit

IN WHAT has become a highlight, search engines such as Google and Yahoo release a "what people were searching for" at the end of each year. These lists often give a summary of what was memorable and showcase the most desirable product releases. Google names these lists zeitgeist, or "spirit of the times".

The top 10 fastest-rising searches on Google Australia were: Facebook, YouTube, Summer Heights High, Tiger Airways, iPhone, Rugby World Cup, MySpace, Heroes, Bebo (social networking platform) and Transformers.

This year Google went further and broke searches into categories such as Top 10 on TV or Top 10 celebs. Not surprisingly, Big Brother topped the TV list and Paris Hilton was the most searched-for celebrity.

Other notes of interest were the Packer wedding, the most searched-for nuptials (including divorces), and there was lots of interest in social networking such as MySpace and Facebook. For more results visit [www.google.com.au/intl/en/press/zeitgeist2007/index.html](http://www.google.com.au/intl/en/press/zeitgeist2007/index.html)

Yahoo's (au.docs.yahoo.com/top2007) most popular search overall was Britney Spears, who topped the celebrity search.

Lost was in the No.1 slot for top entertainment searches, with local show Dancing With the Stars No.2. The federal election was the most popular news search and the top gadget search was iPod nano.

Other topics that fascinated Australians were weather, climate change, interest rates, Anna Nicole Smith, Bebo and Luciano Pavarotti's death.

Yahoo and Google calculate the lists by looking at the aggregation of the most popular and fast-rising search queries being typed into the respective search boxes.

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### Peter Familiari brings you the best of the latest products

#### ► Light show

What: LED LightWave speakers  
Price: \$150  
Gadget King 9510 8000  
[www.gadgetking.com.au](http://www.gadgetking.com.au)

THESE spherical LED Light Speakers, which can be set to pulsate with three lighting patterns, are designed to link with PCs, laptops, MP3 players and personal portables — and pulsate light patterns in sync with your music. Each of the Light Speakers has a small built-in amplifier, good for a couple of watts of power. Operating controls include a volume knob and a switch, to set your light patterns.



#### ▲ Little wonder

What: Set-top box  
Price: \$60  
Radio Parts Group:  
9321 8300  
[www.wintal.com.au](http://www.wintal.com.au)

AUSSIE company Wintal has come up with the world's smallest digital set-top box. The STB12V Mini set-top box is a hand-sized standard-definition model with a 12-volt power supply, which is tailor-made for caravans and boats. The STB12V also plugs into 240-volt mains-power points so it's ideal for bedrooms, the den or garage. Its compact size allows it to be hidden behind cabinets and television sets.



#### ▲ Band on the run

What: iPod armband  
Price: \$30  
Cygnett: 9429 2552  
[www.cygnett.com.au](http://www.cygnett.com.au)

WE TAKE our iPods on walks, runs and even when we work out in the gym. So to keep them snug and safe, iPod accessory brands have come up with a bundle of iPod armbands such as Cygnett's GrooveRunner for the third-generation iPod nano. GrooveRunner has a novel slide-in pocket to slot in a nano upside down. GrooveRunner provides easy access to the iPod's menu when you're pounding the pavement.



#### ▲ A better direction

What: Portable SatNav  
Price: \$349  
Logic Gear: 1300 882 896  
[www.logicgear.com.au](http://www.logicgear.com.au)

LOGIC Gear's XL488 portable satellite navigation unit follows the bestselling FL350, and it's even better. Onboard this sleek unit is the full Sensis Where's V14 Deluxe Australia-wide map with fixed speed and red-light camera alerts and points of interest, including fast-food outlets. The Cockpit view setting represents the road ahead as you see it through the windscreen. Features include Bluetooth, an MP3 player, cradle, charger and a handy audio-video input for an optional reversing camera.



#### ▲ Couch comfort control

What: iPod Dock  
Price: \$299  
iWorld Australia: 9532 3300  
[www.dlo.com](http://www.dlo.com)

IT'S AN all-in-one solution to stream music and video files from your iPod to your stereo and TV. DLO's superbly finished HomeDock Deluxe is the full biscuit. A plug-and-play model, the HomeDock Deluxe puts iPod menus, album art and more up on your TV screen for navigating and creating playlists by remote control from the comfort of your couch. The HomeDock is bundled with S-video and RCA cables.