

I like to watch

As TV viewing has become more demanding with a plethora of streaming options during the pandemic, so has our hunger for better quality screens as our tech guy Jon Mamonski discovers

The TV viewing habits of 60,000 Australians were recently revealed by Roy Morgan researchers and two things are clear. On average we watch three hours of TV a day and we consume a vast variety of streaming content both subscribed and free-to-air Broadcast Video on Demand – otherwise known as BVOD – such as ABC iView and SBS On-Demand. We choose to watch our favourite content when it suits us, not when a TV channel schedules it.

Since 2020, OLED (organic LED) TV sales have skyrocketed by 80 per cent worldwide as viewers demand better screen quality to match the time invested in home entertainment.

OLED TV screens cannot be equalled because each pixel is self-lit, giving the brightest colours and the truest blacks.

Twelve years on, LG is still the world leader in OLED TV sales and innovation and each year is bestowed with CES Innovation Awards for their OLED screens.

This year, LG's OLED G2 Gallery series has critics enthralled with its amazing clarity and detail using second generation evo technology that delivers the highest brightness for ultra-realistic images while outclassing competing QD-OLED technology. The LG G2 series is also an artistic statement with its attractive flush-to-the-wall gallery design.

Unmatched in gaming

LG OLED has claimed many gaming first titles over the years. With its one millisecond response time, low input lag and up to four HDMI ports for supporting multiple HDMI 2.1 features, it's no surprise that LG OLED is the ideal choice for console and PC gaming fans. And with support for NVIDIA GeForce NOW and Google Stadia cloud gaming platforms, gamers can start having fun by just connecting a compatible controller.

New engine

Powered by LG's new Alpha 9 Gen 5



intelligent processor, the LG G2's HDR and Dolby-encoded content never looked better in ultra-high definition 4k. The company's Brightness Booster technology has enabled G2 series TVs to deliver even more brightness through improved heat dissipation.

LG ThinQ AI gives recommendations based on your taste and sets up profiles for everyone at home so they can quickly dive back into their favourite TV series and receive tailored news and sports updates.

NFC Magic Tap can also be used to mirror a mobile device screen to the G2. You can also mirror content from one TV to another at home using Room-to-Room Share, so you can watch cable or satellite content on another TV via Wi-Fi without an additional set-top-box.

Asking for content via the remote-control mic couldn't be easier with access to Google, Alexa and Apple at the ready.

Also new for 2022, Always Ready turns the G2 into a media display to transform the screen into a digital canvas for showcasing artwork, keeping track of time or playing music.

The LG Gallery series represents the very best in screen quality, streaming smarts and gaming. Available in 55", 65", 77" and 83" sizes with a 5-year panel warranty and priced from \$3995 at your local retailer.

Add cinema sound

LG has introduced a new line-up of sound bars giving you exciting, new sound experiences and ensuring accurate, immersive sound for home cinema, music and gaming.

The premium Meridian engineered LG Soundbar model S95QR, which boasts an output of 810W and 9.1.5 channels of pure surround sound immersion, is a holistic high-end audio solution.

With five up-firing channels including the world's first centre up-firing speaker – three on the soundbar and two in the separate wireless rear speakers, improve clarity and enlarge the soundstage for the ultimate in realism.

Of-course it works with Alexa, Google and Air Play. The perfect choice for movie lovers looking to elevate their home cinema experience, the LG Soundbar's centre up-firing speaker delivers clearer dialogue and makes Dolby Atmos and DTS:X content even more immersive.

With a new larger sub-woofer you'll experience true sound depth and with IMAX Enhanced, you can enjoy stunning three-dimensional audio when watching compatible content. The LG S95QR sells for \$2049 and other LG soundbar models from \$399.



Are you game?

Computer games have become a huge source of home entertainment and gaming screens must match the now standard 4K quality expected. A fine example of a great gaming screen is the 32-inch Dell G3223Q with adaptive-sync technology. If you want a 32-inch 4K gaming monitor that's suitable for both PC and consoles, this is one of the easiest to use. It has a beautiful display, a simple design and accessible menus. It has a 32-inch flat screen, with minimal side bezels. There's an adjustable stand with a large, sturdy base and the back has a Dell blue LED strip. There's lots of ports including a power port, two HDMI 2.1 ports, a DisplayPort and a USB-B port on the back of the device and the USB-A and 3.5 mm audio ports are on the bottom of the screen bezel which is handy. Regardless of the room ambient light, the G3223Q looks bright and lifelike and handles the toughest 4k games with ease. Available now with a 3 year warranty from dell.com.au for \$1499.

What's new?

Restore damaged photos

Louis Bouchard and PetaPixel have drawn attention to a free on-line tool recently developed by Tencent researchers that can restore damaged and low-resolution portraits. The technology merges info from two AI models to fill in a photo's missing details with realistic detail in a few seconds, all the while maintaining high accuracy and quality. You can try a demo of GFP-GAN for free at this address, https://app.baseten.co/apps/QPp4nPE/operator_views/RqgOnqV



Teslas now adjust for potholes

Tesla has introduced a software update that allows its vehicles to scan for potholes, broken pavement and other defects. It can then use that to generate "rough road map data," and trigger the adaptive suspension in supported vehicles like the Model S and Model Y, to adjust the ride height for more comfort. That means pothole and other data should become increasingly refined as Tesla vehicles ply the roads.



Camera phones count

Just how important is your mobile phone camera to you? Stand-alone camera sales have plummeted in the past decade while 20 million mobile phones are active in Australia. Asia's largest phone maker has teamed up with Leica for state-of-the-art camera lenses and with Sony for a new huge 1-inch sensor. You will be able to switch between two photographic styles: 'Leica Authentic Look' for natural-looking shots with stronger three-dimensional depth and 'Leica Vibrant Look' which adds Xiaomi's input on vibrancy while preserving the original image. The 6.73-inch Xiaomi 12S Ultra will sell for around \$1199 later this month.

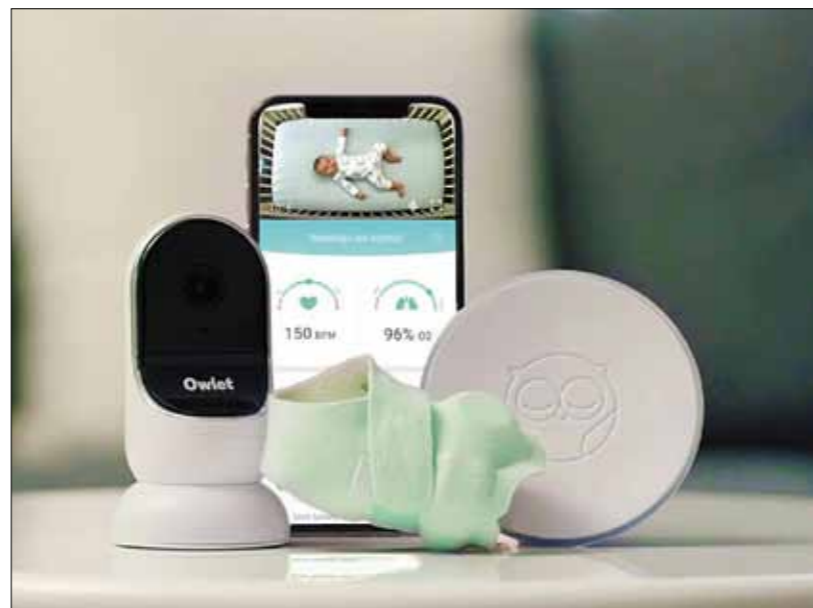


Wordle now a board game

Hasbro and New York Times Games announced a physical adaptation of the online word game phenomenon to be called Wordle: The Party Game, designed to be played with multiple players or teams. Each round of Wordle begins with one player the 'Wordle Host' who writes down a secret word. The rest of the players will be given six tries to guess it and the player with the least points at the end of the game wins. The game comes with three Wordle boards, a secret word board for the host and dry-erase markers. There's also a set of physical green and yellow tiles that mimic the ones used in the game. Available for pre-order on Amazon US for \$29.

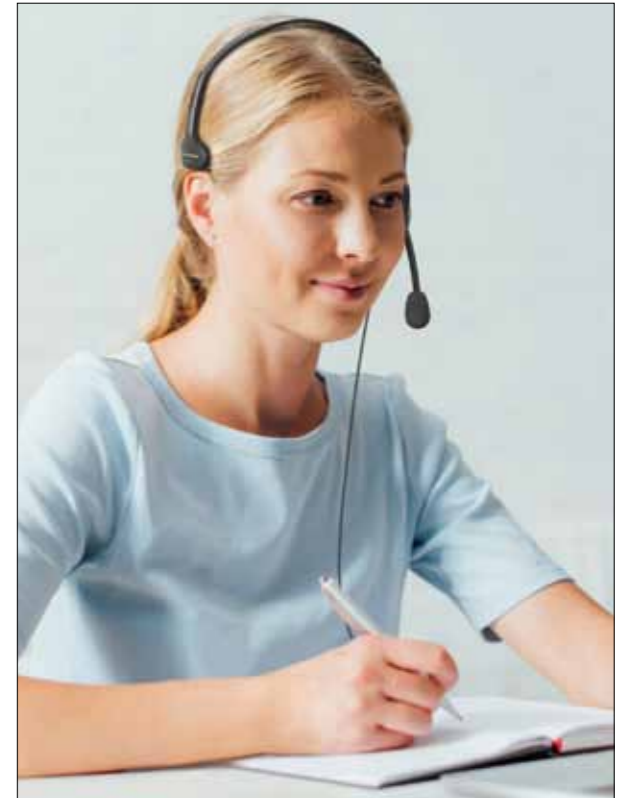
Is the baby really crying?

Owlet is giving tired parents new tools they can use to (hopefully) get little bit more sleep, launching the Owlet Cam 2, which uses AI and machine learning to decipher sounds from the nursery and determine whether the baby is truly crying. Owlet uses a new predictive sleep technology feature that automatically tracks the baby's sleep and wake windows when used with the company's Dream Sock that can predict when the baby might be ready for sleep and can let parents know through the Owlet app – it can even adjust the child's anticipated sleep window as they age. That way parents can plan their own rest periods and other activities around the baby's sleep schedule. Go to owletcare.com.au



Thin, light and strong

Hot desking, being a road warrior or just sitting in the living room, you need a laptop that's light and powerful. LG's refreshed 2022 LG gram range of premium laptops have an excellent screen-to-body ratio. There are six new models: one new LG gram 17-inch (17Z90Q) model, three new LG gram 16-inch (16Z90Q) models and two new LG gram 14-inch (14Z90Q) models. You can also get the matching 16-inch gram View+ display monitor that connects via USB-C, enabling you to extend the digital workspace. Each new LG gram laptop provides powerful performance backed by a 12th-Gen Intel Core processor and upgraded to the latest Gen4 NVMe solid state drive and employ low-voltage LPDDR5 RAM to achieve a performance and long battery life, giving you the freedom to work or play, wherever your day takes you. For security and convenience, LG Glance automatically locks the screen if you step away from your laptop. It also alerts you and blurs the content you're working on if someone is peeking at the screen from over your shoulder. Also, the LG Gram laptops offer an optimised environment for video conferencing with features such as face log-in, noise cancelling and a built-in Full HD webcam, perfect for hybrid working. Check them out at lg.com/au/laptops.



Working from home

Office work has changed forever for many and working from home is now a permanent feature so the right comms gear is what you need to get the best sound and comfort. Audio-Technica is a major player in conference mic/headsets that are comfortable, lightweight and great value. You can also enjoy extended wear with close-fitting and soft earpads – a non-isolating design that enables natural-sounding conversations and a lightweight design that prevents neck and shoulder strain. The single (ATH-101USB) and dual (ATH102USB) earpiece designs are also coated with Anti-Microbial on the headset, controller, plugs, earpads and windscreen – to prevent the growth of germs. Available from your favourite retailer for \$49.



Accessible personal training

Nike wants to make fitness apps accessible to more people including those with disabilities. It has introduced adaptive workouts to the Nike Training Club app – available for Android and iOS – that you can perform whether you have a disability or not. The seven classes in this set target a wide range of movement and equipment, ranging from upper-body strength training with dumbbells to yoga. Apple added Fitness+ workouts for pregnant people and seniors last year and has Apple Watch wheelchair workout tracking.



Get that Zoom face glow

Zoom calls and video meetings are going nowhere so why not look your absolute best while you do it? With Logitech's new Litra Glow you can get a nice glow at home that will make co-workers jealous – they don't need to know you've just crawled out of bed. Logitech Litra Glow sensors will adjust the light's brightness to adapt to different skin tones and diffuse the light so that you don't look like a deer caught in the headlights. It has also been tested to make sure it is completely safe to use the lamp for long periods of time and priced at \$89.95.