

# **Some Firefox add-ons**

**Jazz up your browsing experience**

# Raindrops on Roses

- and whiskers on kittens,
- Bright copper kettles and
- warm woolen mittens....
- These are a few of my favourite things
- Not really...
- If you are an Internet User
  - You may be more excited by
  - **Firefox** with some enhancements

# About Firefox Add-ons

- Firefox provides a framework for users to plug in scripted extras to add function
- More than 200 add-ons available
  - Ranging from the terrific to the ho-hum
- APC magazine March 2008 has a how-to create add-ons
- For you and me, we can just install
- On the Firefox menu go to
  - Tools>Add-ons

# Useful Add-ons (for me)

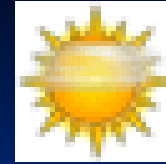
- **Fasterfox** – performance and network tweaks
- **Forecastfox** – Weather forecasts
- **Net usage** – Displays internet usage
- **Tiddlysnip** – Create Tiddlywiki items
- **Google Notebook** – Allows note-taking
- **Simple Mail** – Mail in your browser

# Fasterfox



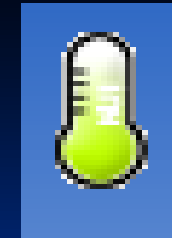
- Tweak network and rendering settings
  - e.g. Pipelining, simultaneous connections
- Block pop-ups from Flash plug-ins
- Pre-fetch links
  - Can use idle network time to pre-load pages linked from the current page
- Page load timer
- Preferences allow generic settings

# Forecastfox



- Provides weather forecasts in a toolbar or the status bar
- Weather feeds from Accuweather
- Customise to local source e.g. airport
- Weather conditions shown for now, today, tomorrow
- Click on item for more detail

# Net Usage



- An Australian project
- Displays your internet usage on a toolbar
- About 35 Oz ISP's supported
- Customise it to fetch your usage from the ISP
- Sample:



# Tiddlywiki and Tiddlysnip

- Tiddlywiki is a personal wiki
  - Exists on your computer, not public
  - Single file
- Tiddlysnip is the Firefox extension
  - Supports creating items (tiddlers) from web pages
  - Useful for capturing tips, hints etc. from forums, blogs, etc.

# Tiddlysnip at work - 1

Melbourne PC User Group

Monthly Meeting - Deakin University, Burwood Wednesday 7th February 2007, 7:00 pm

It's the Launch of the Millennium

The world has been watching  
look speedy, but at last the new  
Melb PC has been closely involved  
it is launched on January 30th

This is going to be a big night  
answer your personal questions  
comes to town, don't miss it

Random Access

This will be a big Melbourne PC  
And don't forget to bring your  
questions-and-answers called

Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood.

Lecture Theatre 1, Building I. 7:00 pm Sharp.



TiddlySnip Selection ←

Copy

Select All

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Search Web for "Melbourne PC Us..."

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Download all with DAP

View Selection Source

---

Fill Forms

Save Forms

Customize Menu

as ended a gestation period that makes elephants

will be among the first in the world to see Vista after

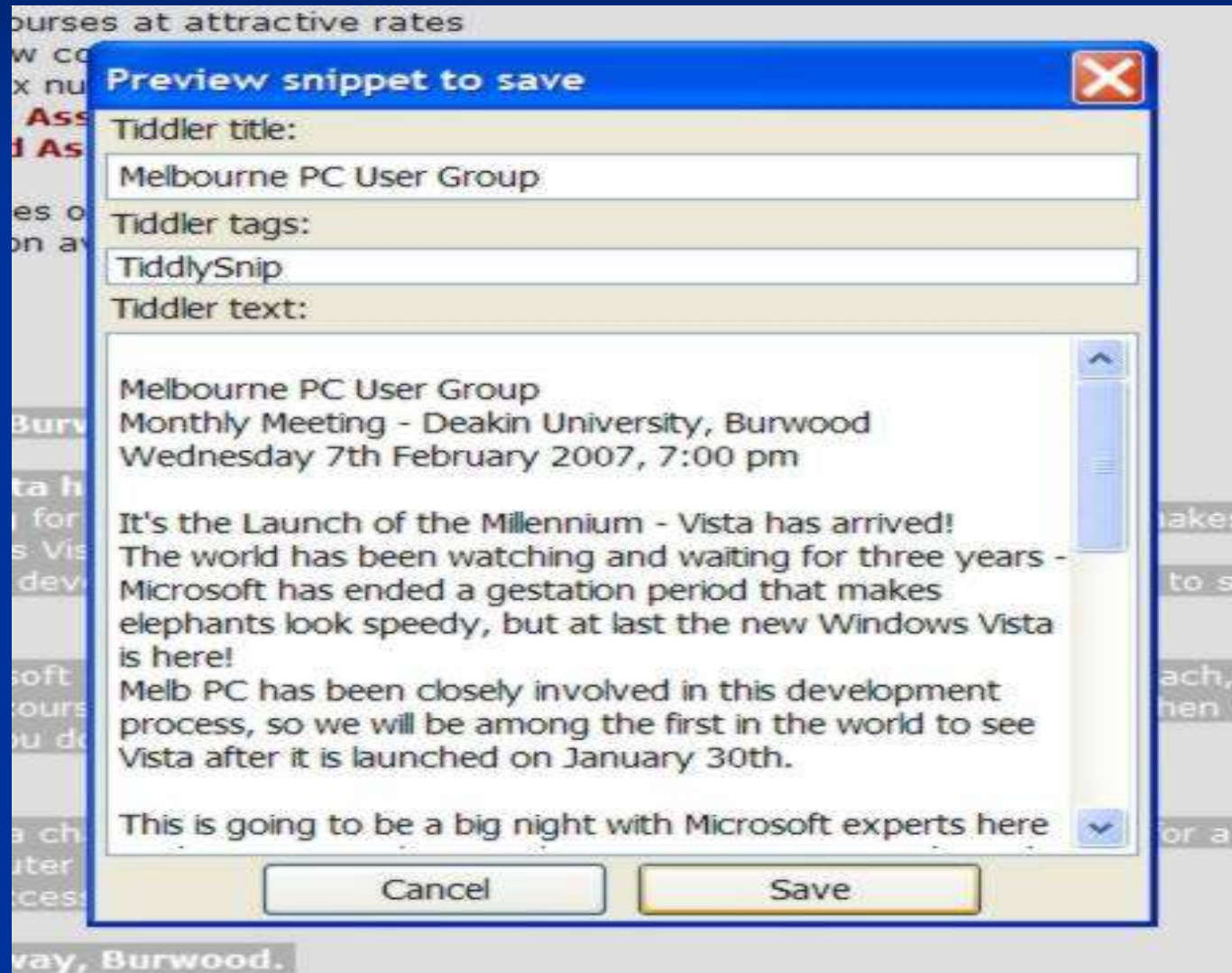
ate the new dimensions you can reach, and to  
es - you know how exciting it is when Microsoft

dreds of your fellow members out for a great night.

this meeting will start with the

1.

# TiddlySnip at work -2



# Google Notebook

- Available in any browser, but additional function with Firefox add-on
- Without the add-on, Notebook opens a new window or tab
- With the add-on, Notebook opens in a small window in front of current one
- Also has a start item in the status bar

# Google Notebook add-on at work

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the Google Notebook add-on installed. The browser is displaying the Firefox Start page, which includes a search bar and navigation links. The Google Notebook add-on is visible in the bottom right corner, showing a notebook titled 'NSLIG' with a calendar of dates for meetings in 2008.

**NSLIG - Calendar**

January 21	July 21
February 18	August 18
March 17	September 22
April 21	October 20

The add-on interface also includes a 'Clip' button, a 'Saved' status, and a 'Tools' menu. The notebook content includes the text: 'The dates for meetings in 2008 are as follows' followed by the calendar table.

# Simple Mail

- An email client in the Firefox browser
- Customise it to fetch mail from your ISP or other sources
  - E.g. Gmail, Yahoo! Mail, Melb PC
- Limited function, but adequate mail client
- Notification re unread mail in the status bar

# Simple Mail at work

The screenshot shows the Simple Mail interface within a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The browser's address bar displays the URL `chrome://simplemail/content/main/main.xul`. The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, History, Bookmarks, Tools, Help), a toolbar with navigation icons, and a status bar at the bottom showing system information like time and weather.

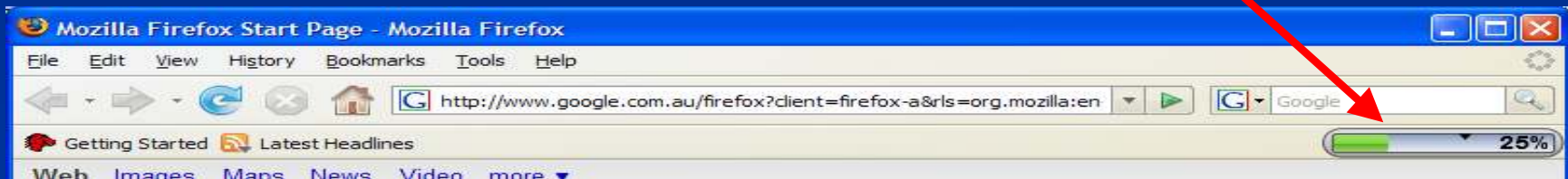
The email inbox is visible with the following entries:

Name	From	Subject	Date	Size
Inbox	Rainer Lesani (Ashampoo) ...	Finally available: WinOptimizer...	Thursday, March 06, 2008 ...	10.8 Kb
Sent	Simple Mail <no-reply@local...>	Welcome to Simple Mail!	Thursday, March 06, 2008 ...	177 bytes
Drafts				
Trash				

Below the inbox, a promotional banner for Ashampoo WinOptimizer 5 is displayed. The banner features the text: "Hello Ashampoo Customer! You are receiving this Service Letter as a registered Ashampoo® customer. If you are unable to view this e-mail correctly, please click [here](#) (online). To make sure you receive our best offers, please add us to your address book. Use of the Reply button is not supported." The main headline of the banner reads "Finally available!" in red, followed by "Ashampoo® WinOptimizer 5" in large blue letters. Below this, it states "Ten years' experience in the premium segment translates to Windows® optimization excellence!". A placeholder for a "Sponsor logo here" is located in the bottom left corner of the banner area.

# Some of the Add-ons at work

Net Usage

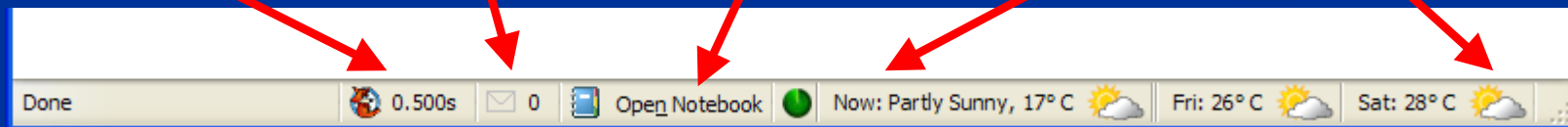


Simple Mail

Google Notebook

Forecastfox

Fasterfox



# But wait...there's more!

- You might also be interested in
  - Swiftfox – not an add-on, but Firefox versions optimised for Intel or AMD processors
    - Linux only
  - Stumbleupon – Randomly explore the web
  - Flock – A web 2.0 browser based on Firefox
  - Greasemonkey – Scripting framework
  - Mouse Gestures – Control browsing by moving the mouse

# John Fogarty's list

- Contains some very different add-ons to mine
  - Quite security-oriented.
  - Includes:
- AdBlock – Prevents advert. pop-ups
- NoScript – Prevents Javascripts running
- Cookie Culler – Manages web site cookies
- FlashBlock – Prevents pop-ups from the Flash player

# Questions?

- Sorry....but there are no steak knives.