

FOCUS

20 websites that will save you money

1 www.graysonline.com.au: Once eBay was the be all and end all for auction websites in the eyes of most websurfing shoppers, but then a few others stood up to be counted — notably Gray's Online. What we like is the time extension period it offers. When a bid is placed within 10 minutes before the end of an auction it extends the auction a bit longer to stop bidders hellbent on pouncing in the closing seconds. Grays is particularly strong for computers and electronics, ex-fleet cars and tools.

2 www.zazz.com.au: It's a kookier kind of auction site that basically sells one item a day, but in a big quantity. All must be cleared by midnight, but sometimes they sell well before the deadline.

3 www.etsy.com: If you're into buying or selling hip, handmade items, this site is for you. There are candles, jewellery, handbags, housewares, clothing — you name it, you'll find it here.

4 www.cincottachemist.com.au: This is a great site for serious bargain hunters. On comparing everyday products such as nicotine patches, vitamins and over-the-counter headache tablets, one product in particular came in \$6 under its online competitors and the chemist down the road — a figure that would easily cover the standard postage cost (three days' delivery).

5 http://au.strawberrynet.com: Offering heavily discounted make-up, skincare and fragrances from its Hong Kong base, Strawberry Net supplies more than 20,000 items from more than 200 brands.

6 http://motormouth.com.au: Designed to help you find the cheapest fuel in your area. You search by typing in your suburb, street or area and up pops a range of price options and locations. Or you can register your details to receive free fuel price email alerts.

7 www.aussiehouseswap.com.au: The idea for this is simple. You give me your house for a week over there and I'll give you my house for a week over here. The options are quite good throughout Australia and NZ, as well as some overseas destinations.

8 www.travelzoo.com.au: Travel Zoo hunts down the best travel bargains from all the major (and many minor) travel companies throughout the world and emails them to subscribers weekly.

9 www.shopbot.com.au: This site's search tool discovers the best deal possible. From computers to

The internet is a goldmine for hot deals and advice on how to save or make money. It is also a great place to find comparison tools to help you track down bargains and auction sites, as well as find freebies on the huge number of little-known websites. But finding these sites can sometimes take hours of research. So here are 20 great sites to help you.



fitness, appliances (including white goods), video games, beauty products, fashion and baby clothes, there's a lot to compare and sift through.

10 www.hotdockets.com.au: The formula for this site is easy — print docketts and save money on food, entertainment, shopping and more. Key in your postcode and several hot deals in your immediate and nearby region show up.

11 www.lasoo.com.au: The clever idea for this site is to create and save your shopping list, which you can attach customised alerts to so you don't miss out on any deals specific to your tastes.

12 www.cheapskates.com.au: The name of the game here is to show you "how to live life debt free, cashed up and laughing". Most impressive are the free tips provided on a PDF sheet titled 10 Painless Ways to

Save on Groceries that you get when you register. It's up to you whether you want to sign up and pay about \$30 for special access and extra privileges (\$18.25 every year after).

13 www.savingmum.com.au: Australian mums — and some dads — unite as one here at this little site offering an array of ideas and stories about having more choices on how you can save time, money and become

environmentally friendly in the process. Meals are the main go here, with printable recipes for such dinner table hits as Vegemite cutlets, bubble and squeak, steak with French onion soup and several others.

14 www.bunnings.com.au/learn-how-to-diy.aspx: Sometimes, we just don't need to call in a tradie to do that small job at home, nor do we need to always pull the wallet out to buy certain

products. This page link at Bunnings is a beauty that is sure to save you some bucks — and you may have some fun along the way.

15 www.taste.com.au: This is the companion website to those great little mags you see on the shelves at the newsagent and supermarket. The next time you're struggling for some gastronomic inspiration (or planning some), get on this site and borrow the recipes. You can search by publication or by recipe name.

16 www.quickflix.com.au: Quickflix is a dream come true for movie lovers. With more than 38,000 DVD titles to choose from, Quickflix has a range of plans to suit, from casual plans at just under \$10 a month (two movies a month sent to your letterbox), or pay \$29.95 for an unlimited supply of movies hitting your mailbox. Best of all, the deals offer free postage both ways, there are no late fees and you can try before you buy by doing a two-week trial.

17 www.booktopia.com.au: We like this online bookstore for its practical functionality, slick design and the fact it has been ranked as one of the 100 fastest-growing companies for the past three years. There is always a bargain on the go, the blog is a good read and the categories are easy to search.

18 www4.snapfish.com.au: You don't have to leave home these days to get your digital photos printed — simply order your snaps online and receive them in the post only a few days later. Snapfish will offer 20 freebies to get you started.

19 www.picturestore.com.au: This is one of the internet's biggest poster, print and framing stores and often there are big stock clearances, sometimes up to 70 per cent off.

20 www.skype.com: It says something when there are sometimes 20 million people using the same service at the same time, doesn't it? Welcome to the world of Skype, a place where video and voice calls have never been cheaper. Download the software from this website and discover how video and voice calls, as well as instant messaging, group conferences and file sharing with other Skype users are free. Then from about \$5 a month you can make unlimited calls to landlines and mobiles.

101 Great Websites to Save You \$\$\$, by Scott and Kerry Podmore, Wilkinson Publishing. RRP: \$9.95

Bleeding obvious umpires need technical help

"UMPIRE, referee, arbiter, mediator, moderator, judge, jury, executioner, menace, mongrel, moron, maggot, imbecile, incompetent, pompous, puffed-up, self-important, power-hungry maniac!"

Whatever you call them, nobody envies the responsibilities of those who officiate in on today's sporting landscapes.

Never before has their craft been so much in the spotlight as at the

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2010 FIFA World Cup, where lamentably the Australian team will take no further part, despite a superb 2-1 effort against Serbia.

Instead of celebrating a victory that would have rocketed the Socceroos further, we were left to Soccer-rue the events of the Ghana disaster.

We watched in horror as a decision

— given by one man — completely changed our team's fortunes.

Italian referee Roberto Rosetti sank the dreams of an entire nation — not to mention the team and, in particular, Harry Kewell.

Red-carded and made to sit out the Serbia clash, little wonder his description of his heartbreak was "absolutely gutted". It got me agonising how, in this game of inches worth billions globally, can the out-

come of a match be placed solely in the command of one individual? The game needs to catch up with technology to ensure decisions are decided in the fairest possible way.

Telecasts capture the action on dozens of cameras, varying angles and even in 3D for all to see. So why not let the umpires enjoy the replay as well! Allow them the opportunity to admit they're human and when needed, refer their decisions to a

source not open to as much interpretation or misjudgment.

Replays help the correct decision to be made by consensus and once reached, players, teams and fans can move on without the hard feelings towards one individual.

Because it's fair, everyone's happy!

Bruce Williams is Creative Director at Sputnik Agency and sports marketing consultant.