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WELCOME!

Welcome to our new subscribers!

Well what a start to 2011! Many subscribers will know that I live in Warwick in South East Queensland and my town was actually hit twice between Dec 27 and Jan 11 by flooding. Luckily we were safe on our northern hill but many businesses and homes in town suffered not one but two floods in the space of a couple of weeks. After just getting things sorted after the December flood many were open for business just two days when they went under again. Unfortunately many insurance companies in Queensland don't cover for flood - let's face it, insurance companies aren't in the business of insuring against certainty and if you live on a river chances are good at some point you'll be flooded. Like bushfires and drought, flood is just one of the natural occurrences we've come to expect living in Australia!



"Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies."

- Aristotle

The floods certainly started 2011 off with a good washing away of some of the old and whilst devastating for some and detrimental to our State, have provided others with an opportunity to start afresh.

BLOG

I hope the remainder of the year is less dramatic than the start and trust you have returned from the holiday break refreshed and rejuvenated!

What's been happening at the blog? Latest articles:

- [Is it an Agency or Network?](#)
- [Be Mindful of Your Brand](#)
- [ACT Contractors in Sights](#)
- [Consumer-Like Protection Needed for Small Biz](#)
- [Insurance Burden for Tax Agents?](#)
- [GST - Never Assume](#)
- [5 Tips for Being Professional](#)

Virtually yours

Lyn PB

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Conference Season

Two of the best VA Conventions (in my opinion) are on again shortly so don't miss this opportunity for some great professional development and networking with your peers!

[The Australian VA Convention](#) - March 18 and 19, 2011 - Melbourne. This is a great bricks and mortar convention in Australia (the first of its kind) with a terrific lineup of speakers. [Book your tickets here](#). One day attendance is available. There are also great sponsorship and trade table opportunities.

PODCAST

What's been happening at the Virtual Business Show podcast? Click the titles to be taken to the shows!

- [Doing Business the Feminine Way](#)

[OIVAC 2011](#) - May 19 to 21, 2011 - Online. With over 30 speakers across the three days and some great networking events and the world's first-ever virtual trade hall, now in its sixth year this is a must-attend event on the VA calendar. Also incorporates VA Day celebrations. And it's completely ONLINE so you don't incur travel expenses! [Be sure to book your tickets early!](#)

I'll be presenting two sessions this year at OIVAC: *Offshore Freelancers: Threat or Opportunity?* and *Are You a Contractor ... or Employee?* Looking forward to 'seeing' a few of you there!

- [5 Tips for Starting Your VA Practice](#)
- [Getting Clients](#)
- [Keeping Clients](#)
- [Saying No](#)
- [Business Tax](#)
- [Changes - Australia](#)

7 Simple Steps for Setting up Windows 7

Woody Leonhard shares his steps for setting up Windows 7 in Windows Secrets Newsletter Issue 274.

Seven Simple Steps for Setting Up Windows 7

Next time your Aunt Gertrude *invites* you to help her - or your boss calls you into her office to fix the mess left behind by the corporate IT guy - take these seven steps to a well-set-up machine.

1. Get Rid of the pre-installed junk software
2. Free does not always mean useless
3. Change Windows settings for safety
4. Needed or not, set up a Windows homegroup
5. Get automatic daily backups working
6. Install the basic helper applications
7. Add useful but unobtrusive utilities

[Read the entire article here.](#)

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It's Valentine's Day



Every February 14 around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint, and where did these traditions come from? Find out about the history of this centuries-old holiday, from ancient Roman rituals to the customs of Victorian England.

A great read from history.com!

[Read the article here.](#)

And if you're looking for a great gift for your Valentine, [check out the offerings at Edible Blooms!](#)

Cafe Press Store



Okay - so just as a bit of fun we've [opened a store](#) at CafePress where you can purchase eSOS items! T-shirts, coffee mugs, coasters, bags and notebooks! If you like the support we give and want to spread the word, this is a unique way to do so!

If you want your own CafePress store [click here to set one up](#) - or we can do it for you. **Just ask.**

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