

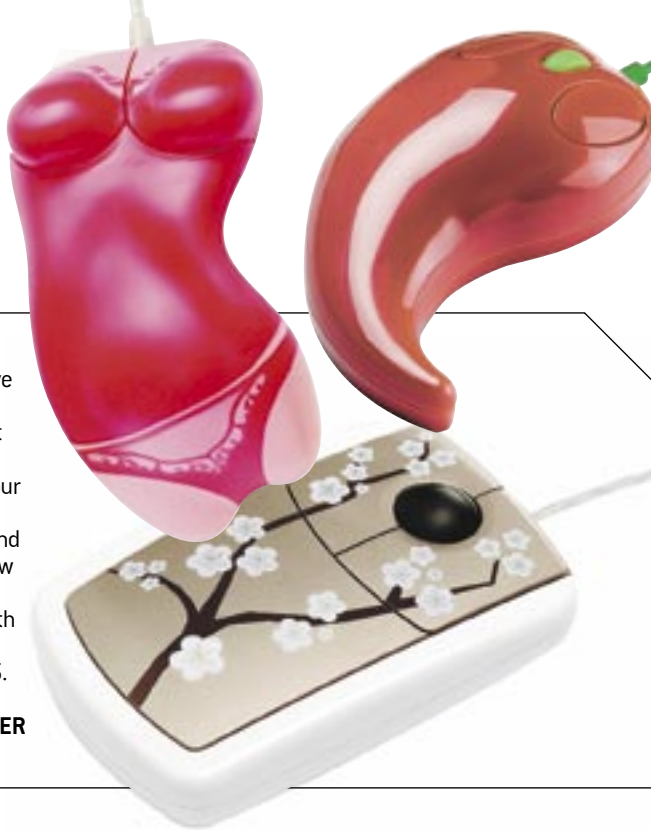
newtoys

coolhunting

You have heard of homewares, footwear and officeware, but have you heard of mouseware? Swiss group Pat Says Now has taken on the role of jazzing up the office desk with computer mice that will rock your working world. Take the chilli mouse, for instance. Its curvaceous mould fits snugly under the palm and fires up your work day. Or for something a little more glam, though you may want to pack this baby home each day, is the \$US23,250 diamond flower mouse. With 59 diamonds set into 18-carat white or yellow gold, this mouse is one for the taking. Literally. The body mouse is great for the office perv and the brain is for the office nerd. With shipping to Oz available, soon you could be suffering from your own mouse envy. Non-diamond mice cost from \$US35 to \$US85.

➔ See www.mousenvy.com for more.

RETNA WOOLLER



GOING UP

Shoulder pads: They are back, they are big. Get used to it.

Freo late-night shopping: Because there just aren't enough hours in the day to browse.

The Pope: Saying climate change is up to believers to "protect creation" the Pope is raising green issues with the millions of Catholics. Amen.



Green, mean Halo machine

Halo may well have single-handedly saved Xbox and turned the gaming console into a contender. Now Microsoft is paying homage to its standout cult-hit game by putting out the limited-release Xbox 360 Halo 3 Special Edition console, for the third game's launch. For \$679.95 you get a console in a "Spartan green and gold" finish with a matching 360 wireless controller, 20GB hard drive, headset, play and charge kit and a few downloadable Halo 3 goodies. The Halo 3 game isn't included, though. (That came out late last month if you're wondering where all the males aged 18 to 30 went.) As for the big question: Will it make you play Halo 3 better? Nah. Does it do anything your existing Xbox 360 doesn't do? Nah. Looks good, though. It's available from EB Games and other game retailers.



Tourism in Amsterdam: The city's new mayor wants the sleazy sex trade replaced by sophisticated eateries. But will those tourists really find the lure of appelstroop and tulips as enthralling?

Children's birthday parties: The new way to show you can keep up with the Joneses is to spend more than \$10,000 for a children's party. Wedding planners are diversifying.

The "no-bread sandwich": Taking over the healthy options for fast-food chains, although most people like to call this meal a salad.



RETNA WOOLLER
outthere@retna.com.au

GOING DOWN

Bang for your buck

If you're more interested in gadget ability than brand names, then this media player is a budget-conscious, spec-heavy head-turner. From Chinese brand Hacha, which has just set up its first online Australian store in Perth, comes the compact PA20. It has 4GB of in-built flash memory, a large 3.2in 262K full-colour TFT touch screen and the ability to play a raft of video and audio file types (AVI, XVID, MP3, WMA, FLAC and APE). It comes with an external micro speaker and a microSD slot.

➔ The PA20 costs \$165 plus \$8 postage within WA and is available from www.HachaOnline.com.



Faster, sleeker, stronger

OK ladies (and more than a few gents), try to look at the actual phone in this picture. Yep, this is Motorola's newest mobile in the sexy-as-hell Razr2 series, the V9. But what can it do, beyond make David Beckham whip off his shirt? (And don't say "Isn't that enough?") Well, thin is still in, but the sleeker 2.2in screen has twice the resolution as the original craze-creating RAZRs. It comes with a 2-megapixel camera (8x digital zoom), USB and wireless connectivity options, 45MB of memory and a microSD card slot, fast video and audio streaming, capture and playback, video telephony, messaging via MMS, email and SMS. The price for this naked-Becks magnet is \$799. Footballer not included.

➔ See <http://asia.motorola.com/v9/au>.

