

WORDS DAN WARNE APC MAGAZINE

Camera crew

Facing stiff competition from affordable digital SLR cameras, pocket compacts are being reinvented with an array of clever new features. Gimmickry? Or here to stay?



SAMSUNG 2VIEW ST550

\$449. www.samsung.com.au

Say farewell to awkward self-portrait scenarios with the 3.8cm second screen on the front of Samsung's new 12.2 megapixel camera. It's also ideal for standard portraits – the other person gets the digital equivalent of a mirror to compose themselves in the shot. It also makes family photos on a timer a lot easier – you can avoid dashing to and from the camera to make sure everyone's in the picture. Other good features include an 8.9cm touch-screen at the rear of the camera that displays pictures in a crisp 1.15 megapixel resolution, and the camera can also record 720p high-definition video.



NIKON COOLPIX S1000PJ

\$699. www.nikon.com.au

This camera features a built-in micro-projector that can display your shots on any flat surface up to 101cm wide. Of course, it looks better in a dim room, but the projected images are surprisingly good. The S1000pj is otherwise a pretty standard compact camera – the still photos are acceptable, but not exceptional; the screen on the back is 6.8cm, the camera is pretty chunky and the battery drains quickly if you use the projector a lot. It's hard not to love the innovation in this camera, though – being able to project photos directly from the camera is so much more useful than hooking it up to a TV.



FUJIFILM FINEPIX REAL 3D W1

\$899. www.fujifilm.com.au

3D was the buzz of the 1950s in films such as *Robot Monster* and *It Came From Outer Space*. Now it's back – in movies, on computers and now in compact cameras. Fujifilm's long-awaited W1 uses two lenses and sensors to capture true 3D images, and it has a screen on the back that can display the images in 3D. Fujifilm has also produced a 3D digital photo frame (\$699), and plans to offer 3D photo printing soon. You don't need special glasses to see the pictures in 3D on the camera, frame or prints – Fujifilm uses lenticular sheets when printing, which change according to the viewing angle.

Watch out for...

The home-office pod

No room for a study in the house? Now you can buy a drop-in office pod that sits in your garden. The futuristic 2.1 x 2.1m pod provides wireless data and phone networking back to your house and has its own power feed. Fully furnished pods are available only in the UK to date, where they have an interesting pricing scheme: a £5000 (\$8900) per year lease for five years, which the manufacturer claims could save employers £9000 (\$16,100) per employee per year and cut carbon emissions by 67 per cent through reduced commuting and office building rental and support costs.

www.officepod.co.uk

