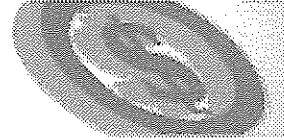


Buyers' guide

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Reviews

Reviews by Alex Kidman

SOFTWARE

QuickBooks Accounting Small Business 2006/7

RRP \$249; upgrade \$179

WEB www.quicken.com.au

It's tax time again, and inevitably there's an updated range of software packages designed to make paying the tax man slightly less irritating. Quicken offers a huge number of products in the QuickBooks range, although for many simple tax applications the Small Business 2006/7 package offers more than enough to keep your business ticking over.

PROS The supplied tutorials are excellent, even if you're a bit of a duffer when it comes to accounting practices. Likewise, the flow of the application itself is extremely logical and quickly becomes second nature.

CONS It's sadly not entirely bug free, although nothing we encountered was terminal, just annoying things like fields blanking themselves out. There's also a 'sunset' period for each version of QuickBooks beyond which Quicken won't offer support.

VERDICT Tax time is pain time, and applications like QuickBooks do relieve the pain — somewhat.

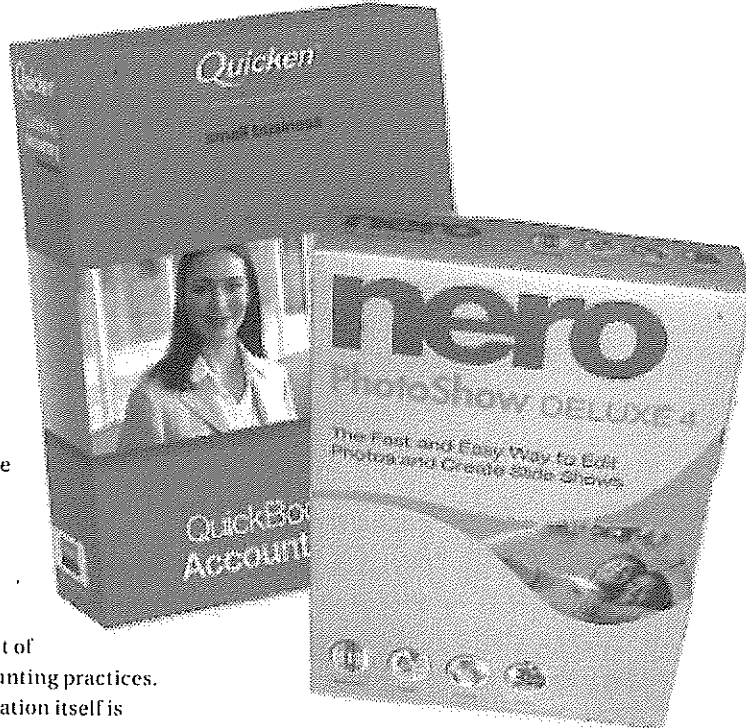
NetGuide's RATING ●●●●○

Nero PhotoShow Deluxe 4

RRP \$99

WEB www.communique.com.au

PhotoShow Deluxe 4 is a photo organisation and sharing tool that lets you sort and collate your digital image collections, as well as create



animated photo shows that can be shared over the Web or burnt to CD or DVD.

PROS PhotoShow's interface is incredibly easy to understand — even in a crowded market like image applications. The created photo shows look slick and are very easy to tweak, adding narration, audio and custom effects.

CONS In our testing, PhotoShow constantly had problems scanning all of our photo folders and locked up. This is a problem that's exacerbated as you can't simply tell it to scan and add sub-folders after you've installed it.

VERDICT Makes attractive slideshows very easily, although its crash bugs did mar the experience.

NetGuide's RATING ●●●●○

For a chance to win 1 of 10 copies of PhotoShow, see page 54.