



# SAAUCery



April 2026

<https://www.saauc.org.au> - <https://www.facebook.com/saauc>

**Our next SAAUC (Zoom) meeting is...  
Friday 10th April, 2026 from 7:30pm. Connect  
from wherever you have internet access and the  
zoom.us app**

*(Details will be sent to members via email)*

## *Dates to remember:*

*Friday 10th April, SAAUC meeting  
Latest Apple updates and news.*

*Monday 8th June: WWDC (World Wide  
Developers' Conference) online from Apple  
Park - Tuesday morning Australian time.*

SAAUC Meetings 2026	
Fridays @ 7:30pm	
February	6
March (AGM)	6
April	10
May	1
June	5
July	3
August	7
September	4
October	2
November	6
December	4

April meeting changed to after Easter





## *A word from our President*

*March 2026 has been one of the most extraordinary months in Apple history. The company released over ten new products and accessories, confirmed WWDC 2026 dates, and announced plans to celebrate its historic 50th anniversary on April 1st. Whether you're a long-time Mac devotee or a newcomer to the ecosystem, there has never been a more exciting time to be an Apple fan.*

*The latest OS, 26.4, has been release and takes some time to update everything. It is important to do so as each update contains security and software features which keeps your devices safe and working smoothly. Apple is carefully, some say too slowly, releasing it's AI and one interesting feature in Apple Music is Offline Music recognition where it is able to identify music without an internet connection by capturing and saving the audio data locally on the device to be able to provide results when back online. Apple's aim appear to be able to use AI on device.*

*Easter season is upon us and I wish you all a blessed , happy and safe Easter - it's not about chocolate. 🐣*

*Regards*

*Marie*

*PS: Latest Emojies*



Apple  
At Unley Library.  
Marie is a  
volunteer at Unley  
Library and will be  
assisting with  
Macs and Apple  
devices once a  
month on the 2nd  
Wednesday of  
each month from  
10 to midday.

# NEW HARDWARE

## MacBook Neo: Apple's Most Affordable Laptop Ever

ANNOUNCED MARCH 4, 2026 | RELEASED MARCH 11, 2026 | FROM \$899

Apple made history in early March with the introduction of the MacBook Neo — a brand-new laptop that is not only the most affordable Mac ever sold, but also the first Mac to run an A-series chip rather than the M-series chips found in other Apple silicon Macs.

At the heart of the MacBook Neo is the Apple A18 Pro chip, the same processor found in the iPhone 16 Pro. Thanks to the A18 Pro's efficiency, the MacBook Neo relies on passive fanless cooling, meaning it runs completely silently. Despite packing an iPhone chip, early benchmarks show it outperforms the M1 MacBook Air in several tests.

**Starting price: A\$899 | Education price: A\$749**

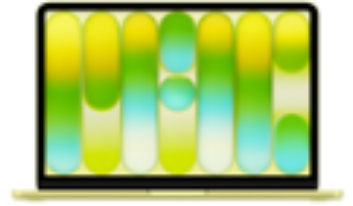
### Design & Display

The MacBook Neo features a 13-inch Liquid Retina display with a resolution of 2408x1506 and 218 pixels per inch. Notably, it is the first MacBook to have a notch-free display since the 2022 MacBook Pro. It comes in four vibrant colors — Silver, Blush, Citrus, and Indigo — each with a color-coordinated keyboard.

The aluminum enclosure is fanless and durable, and iFixit named it Apple's most repairable laptop in 14 years, praising its screwed-down battery, lack of parts pairing, and modular ports.

### Specs at a Glance

Chip	Apple A18 Pro (6-core CPU, 5-core GPU)
Memory	8GB Unified Memory
Storage	256GB or 512GB SSD
Display	13" Liquid Retina, 2408×1506, 500 nits
Battery	Up to 16 hours
Camera	1080p FaceTime HD
Ports	2× USB-C, headphone jack
Colors	Silver, Blush, Citrus, Indigo
Price	\$899   \$749 for education



MacBook Neo



## MacBook Air Gets the M5 Treatment

FROM A\$1,799 | AVAILABLE MARCH 11, 2026

Apple's best-selling laptop — the MacBook Air — received a significant upgrade with the new M5 chip. The M5 delivers up to 4x the AI performance of the M1, making it the ideal everyday machine for users embracing Apple Intelligence. The new Air also ships with 512GB of storage as standard, double the previous starting amount, and includes Apple's new N1 wireless chip for Wi-Fi 7 and Bluetooth 6 connectivity.

Available in 13-inch and 15-inch models, the MacBook Air with M5 comes in sky blue, midnight, starlight, and silver. The 13-inch model starts at \$1,799, while the 15-inch begins at \$2,199.

## MacBook Pro Gains M5 Pro and M5 Max

14-INCH FROM A\$2,699 | 16-INCH FROM A\$4,299 | MARCH 11, 2026

For power users and professionals, Apple refreshed the MacBook Pro with the new M5 Pro and M5 Max chips. Both chips feature a CPU with what Apple calls 'the world's fastest CPU core,' along with a next-generation GPU with a Neural Accelerator in each core.

The new MacBook Pro delivers up to 8x AI performance compared to M1 models. It also includes Thunderbolt 5 connectivity, up to 24 hours of battery life, a nano-texture display option, and starts with 1TB of storage for M5 Pro and 2TB for M5 Max. The Wi-Fi 7 and Bluetooth 6 N1 chip is also on board. Models are available in space black and silver.



MacBook Air



MacBook Pro

## iPhone 17e: Power at a Lower Price FROM A\$999 | AVAILABLE MARCH 2026

11,

Apple launched the iPhone 17e as the affordable member of the iPhone 17 family. Powered by the latest A19 chip and featuring C1X — Apple's own cellular modem, which is up to 2x faster than the C1 in the iPhone 16e — the 17e offers impressive performance at a more accessible price.

The iPhone 17e includes a 48MP 2-in-1 camera system, MagSafe support, and double the entry-level storage compared to its predecessor, now starting at 256GB for \$999. It comes in black, white, and a new soft pink finish. Apple said the 17e 'delivers powerful features at an incredible value' for users looking to enter the iPhone 17 ecosystem.



## Apple at

## 50

### Happy Birthday Apple - 50 Years of Thinking Different

ANNIVERSARY  
DATE: APRIL 1,  
2026

Apple was  
founded on April  
1, 1976, and on

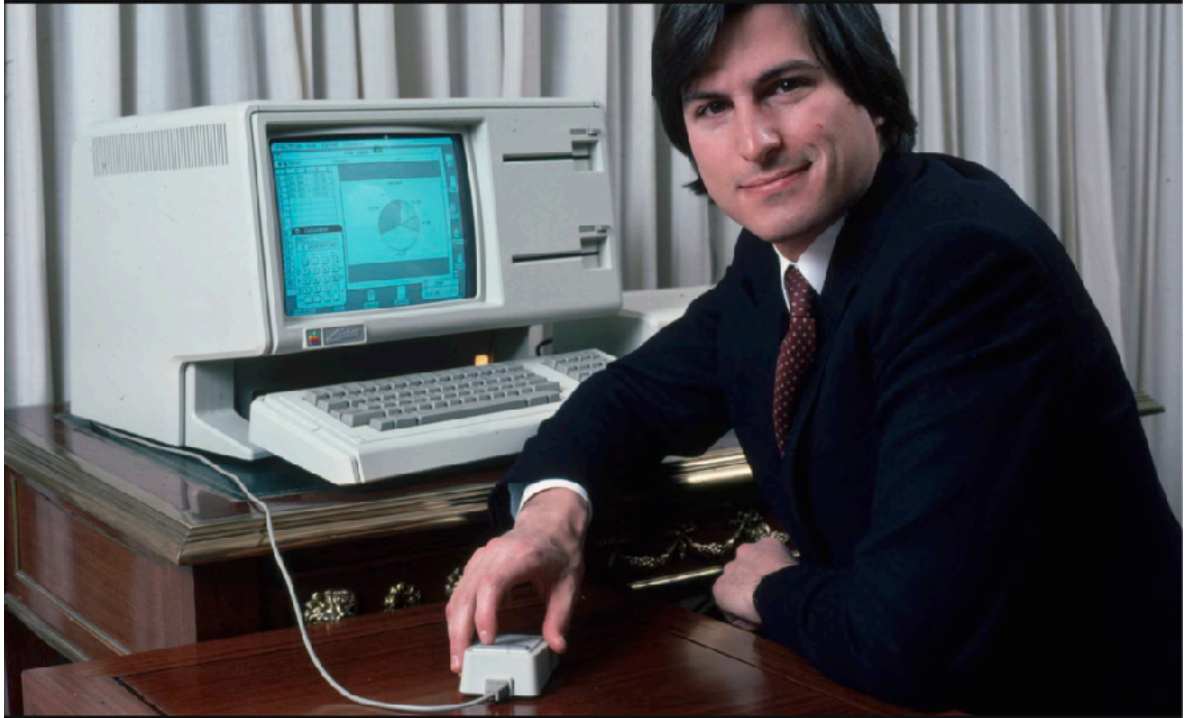
April 1, 2026, the company officially celebrates its 50th anniversary. The milestone marks five decades of innovation, from the Apple I in a garage to the era of Apple Intelligence, spatial computing, and the world's most popular laptop.

Apple CEO Tim Cook captured the spirit of the occasion, noting that 'thinking different has always been at the heart of Apple' and that this drive has produced 'products that empower people to express themselves, to connect, and to create something wonderful.'



Apple announced it would mark the anniversary with a series of celebrations recognising 'the creativity, innovation, and impact that people around the world have made possible with Apple technology.' The company launched a new 'Hello Apple' Instagram account specifically for the occasion, and Apple Stores worldwide are expected to feature special anniversary experiences.

## 50 Years of Apple: A Brief Timeline



1976	Apple founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne. Apple I introduced.
1984	The Macintosh revolutionizes personal computing with a graphical interface.
1998	iMac G3 returns Apple to profitability and defines the 'i' era.
2001	iPod launches; iTunes changes how the world listens to music.
2007	iPhone debuts. The smartphone era begins.
2010	iPad creates a new product category. App Store transforms software delivery.
2020	Apple Silicon (M1) launches; Mac transitions to Apple-designed chips.
2024	Apple Vision Pro debuts. Apple Intelligence introduced across platforms.
2026	50th Anniversary. MacBook Neo, M5 Macs, and WWDC 2026 announced.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **WWDC 2026: iOS 27, macOS 27, and Major AI Upgrades**

**JUNE 8–12, 2026 | ONLINE + IN-PERSON AT APPLE PARK**

Apple officially confirmed that WWDC 2026 will run June 8 through June 12, with a special in-person component at Apple Park on the opening day. The conference will be livestreamed globally and will feature over 100

video sessions and interactive group labs where developers can connect directly with Apple engineers and designers.

WWDC 2026 is expected to preview iOS 27, macOS 27, watchOS 27, iPadOS 27, tvOS 27, and visionOS 27 — all promising significant updates to Apple Intelligence and the now-familiar Liquid Glass interface aesthetic. Particular attention is expected on a greatly enhanced version of Siri, which has faced delays in rolling out its most advanced AI capabilities through the current iOS 26 update cycle.

Apple has also expanded its developer outreach ahead of WWDC, joining LinkedIn's Apple Developer network and growing its presence on Chinese social media platforms to deepen ties with the global developer community.

### **Swift Student Challenge: Celebrating the Next Generation**

Apple's Swift Student Challenge is a highlight of every WWDC cycle, and 2026 is no exception. Winners were notified on March 26 and are eligible to apply to attend the in-person event at Apple Park. Additionally, 50 Distinguished Winners will be invited to Cupertino for a three-day experience at Apple headquarters — a truly special opportunity for young developers.

### **What's Coming Later in 2026**

With the 50th anniversary coinciding with an unusually busy product calendar, the second half of 2026 promises to be even more dramatic. Reports point to Apple's first foldable iPhone — described by Bloomberg's Mark Gurman as potentially 'the most significant overhaul in the iPhone's history.' Apple is also expected to introduce its HomePad, a smart home display hub that combines HomePod speaker functionality with a large iPad-like screen, positioned as a central home control hub powered by Apple Intelligence.

Looking even further ahead, Apple is rumored to be exploring smart glasses and a next-generation MacBook Pro with an OLED touch screen and thinner chassis. The M6 chip generation is also expected to appear before year's end. 2026 may well go down as one of the most consequential years in Apple's five-decade history.

# One Last Thing

Apple has a reputation for high end quality, and therefore, expensive, devices and has surprised many with their release of the low cost MacBook Neo and iPhone 17e which are aimed at enticing people onto the Apple platform. Particularly aimed at students and anyone wanting a straightforward no frills reliable system. Seems to be working.

As 'Mad March' here in Adelaide comes to a close one cannot but wonder at how much 'madder' our planet can get. We are faced each day with more harrowing stories and many are wondering where their next meal is coming from let alone the next litre of petrol. Lets hope the future brings peace on many levels.

I continue to watch the information being drip fed to us by Donut Lab and their Solid State Battery. Five releases so far and still no details on the chemistry.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
APPLE USERS' CLUB



**SAAUC** Meetings are held online using

**zoom**

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South Australian Apple Users' Club Inc.**

<http://www.saauc.org.au> - <https://www.facebook.com/saauc>

**Editor: Marie Good**

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