Hi all

A great way to keep and show your photographs is to produce a photo book.

There are several products available, among them is Blurb, Snapfish, Memento, Photobookshop (which includes Photobookclub), and others.

Also Big W, Harvey Norman and a few other outlets can produce photo books if you go into the store.

I have used two; Memento and Photobookshop.

Memento is an excellent quality product, but very, very expensive.

The other that I use all of the time now is:

Photobookshop

This is just a short course on how to use the program.

Download the program: https://www.photobookshop.com.au/index/download

Photobookshop offers several products as well as photo books. Calendars (Great family presents for Chrissy), Mugs, Fridge magnets, Kids plates etc

Once you are registered with Photobookshop, You will get special offers, especially around Christmas, Easter, Mum and Dads Days, Valentine day etc. If you keep your eyes open on the specials on offer, you will make a great saving on the costs of your project.

I usually wait for these specials as the savings can be quite significant.

The only downside of this is that there is a time limit of three or four months to complete your project, after that you may have to pay some extra due to cost rises.

Also, if you are ordering more than one article (Say for example you require 6 calendars for giving away, you will receive 6 order numbers. When it comes to completing your order watch out that you do not just order one and have to phone up and work out what is what.

Now open the program, and each time you will be asked to update the products, look at the list to see if there are any new books etc. Most of the updates will be background and cards etc. Mark any that you may think you need and the program will be updated.

Select new to begin your new book, calendar, etc. If you already have a project you are working on and previously saved, select open existing project.
(You can have several projects going at once).
The Cart is for when you have finished your project, more later.

Once you open the program for the first time (or when you start a new project) a menu opens up for you to select the product you wish to work on.
Select what you want.(I have usually selected standard collections, although the last book I produced was a Lay Flat. This enables images to be placed over two pages with no ridge in the centre).

Select Next. The menu then asks to choose product type. Select the type of book you want and select Next.

This is now the actual product you require, A4, 22 x 28, 26 x 33 Landscape, Square or whatever size you require, select and press next. (I stick to 26 x 33 Landscape).

At this stage a wizard will come up to help you create your project. (Use if you wish).

Now you get to the workings of the photo book. With five windows to work with.

Underneath the drop down menu on the LHS is the area where your images are stored. By clicking on the "+" kery, images can be imported. This is why I suggest putting the images for your project into a separate file. The settings key enables you to sort these images into particular order.

Across the top is a preview of the pages - Pages can be added, deleted or rearranged as wanted.

At the base are templates for Page Styles, Masks, Backgrounds, Frames and Scrapbook (Omiji's).

On the RHS there are five selections.

The first allows you to add borders, Drop shadows and unusual shapes to the image.

The second is the orientation, picture enhancement and vignetting of an image

The next, is for text; yes, you can write a story.

The next allows you to position the image by inserting the dimensions.

The final   one is to select a background colour for each page. (in the cover, you can also colour the spine of the book).

I like to KIS. have plain (Black or white page and a simple border).

Once you have decided on the cover, number of pages and layout, it is simply a matter of dragging the images from the side into the page. There are options such as fitting the image to the box or the box to the image.

Resize the images by using the blue dots to expand or contract them.

If you get a yellow warning come up on the image it means the resolution is too small and the result in your book may be pixelated.

In the drop down menu, you can select to insert a picture, shape or text box.

The best way to insert images is just to simply drag them onto the page. Resize them with the blue dots and move them wherever you like.

Right clicking the image gives you options to centre the image horizontally or vertically, scaling the image and fit the image to the box, frame or page.

OK

You do not have to do the book all in one go. As you complete each page or whenever, Go to File and save. Close down and when you come back to work on it, open the program and the open an existing project. (You may have other projects on the go at the same time).

Once you have completed the project we have to send it off via the internet.

Click the "Add to Cart" button. You will be asked to save it.

You will then be directed to the checkout, where if you have prepaid, enter the codes you have, If there are two or more of the project, you will be able to combine your order numbers.

It is then a matter of downloading the project by following the instructions in the program. Depending on the size of the book and the size of images it may take quite some time to download.

With in a week, it should be delivered to your door.

Robert roblinmc@gmail.com