

Commerce Ballarat News Bulletin
12 – 18 March

505 Club

WHK

21 Armstrong St Nth, Ballarat
Thursday 7 April, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Members Free
Non Members \$16.50

An evening of networking and fostering relationships to grow your business.
Drinks and Savories provided

Commerce Ballarat Race Day

Ballarat Turf Club

Thursday 14 April
\$55pp or \$550 for a table of ten

All those who have attended our race days know this is the fun way to do business.

B.L.E.N.D

WHK

21 Armstrong St Nth, Ballarat
Wednesday 25 May, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Members Free
Non Members \$16.50

Guest speaker: Damien Lubeek, Interpath Pty Ltd, winner of the Business of the Year Award at the 2010 CGU Commerce Ballarat Business Excellence Awards.

Are you 39 and under and looking for an opportunity to share ideas and impressions of today's business world?

Drinks and savouries provided.

Members News

Member to Member Link 18 March

Take a look at what's on offer this week!

All CB members are invited to participate in this initiative. Do you have stock you would like to move quickly, would you like more people to visit on a particular day or time?

Member of the Week Submission

To be included in the Members of the Week section of the newsletter please email your business description of no more than 30 words and your logo as a JPG format to sofie@commerceballarat.com.au

B.L.E.N.D Subcommittee Expression of Interest Open

Expression of Interest is now open for CB members interested in becoming a member of the four person subcommittee. BLEND is an opportunity for like

mindful young business people share ideas. More information to come; if you are interested please email sofie@commerceballarat.com.au

Leading Teams "Grow Your Business" Program 2011

The internationally recognised Leading Teams program is again being made available to Commerce Ballarat members as a result of funding by Regional Development Victoria.

Leading Teams currently work with Powercor, Quiksilver, Bendigo & Adelaide Bank, Tennis Australia plus the Sydney Swans, Essendon and Carlton AFL teams, just to name a few. This is a chance for local businesses to participate in the same program and share in the experiences Leading Teams has gathered from their work with successful sporting and business teams.

The program consists of 4 x ½ day group sessions, practical applications in your own business and one-on-one mentoring sessions over a 3 month period. As a result of the funding subsidy the cost to participants is only \$450 plus GST. For more information about the program click [here](#). There is limited spaces on this program, if you are interested in participating email Jodie@commerceballarat.com.au

Australian Active Aim has published a book 'It just clicked!'

Belinda Pearl from Australian Active Aim has published a book and is having a book launch, signing and author reading at Book city, Sturt Street Ballarat on the 24th of March at 6pm. Click to read the [press release](#)

Black Caviar Express

The Moonee Valley Racing Club will be offering the Black Caviar Express bus package for country based racing fans. On the 25th of March, Moonee Valley will run a bus package from the Golf House Hotel in Ballarat to the Night Season Finale meeting.

When: Friday 25th March

Where: Leaving 4.30pm from Golf House Hotel – 920 Doveton St Nth Ballarat

Cost: \$30 per person including admission, race book and bus to and from Moonee Valley.

Bookings are essential & can be made by calling Moonee Valley Racing Club on 1300 79 79 59.



B31 Ballarat Business Month

Applications to host are now open, if your business or organisation is interested in participating please complete this [application form](#). Please note that in order to be included on the Energise Enterprise website and marketing materials **applications must be submitted by 23 March.**

Federal government calls for comment on national business names scheme

The Federal Government has released draft bills that will, if passed, bring about a new national business names scheme.

At present, businesses have to register their name in each state, a time-consuming process that can result in disputes over names.

The proposed federal scheme will cost \$70 to register a name nationally for three years.

"Businesses operating in every State and Territory currently face a cost of more than \$1,000 to register their business name nationally for three years," according to Small Business Minister Nick Sherry, who says five percent of small businesses operate in more than one state and points out the new national scheme will be cheaper than most state schemes.

If you'd like to comment on the proposal, the draft bills can be found at www.innovation.gov.au/businessnames. You have until April 24 to comment.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

5671.0 Lending Finance, Australia, Jan 2011
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/5671.0?OpenDocument>

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ACCI Westpac Survey Shows General Business Sentiment & Expectations Rising, 17 March 2011
<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/ACCI-Westpac-Survey-Shows-General-Business-Sentime>

Resources & Construction Skills Critical to Sector Growth, 15 March 2011
<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Human-Capital/Resources---Construction-Skills-Critical-To-Sector>

Independent Contractors in the Building & Construction Industry Should be Respected, 9 March 2011
<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Workplace/Independent-Contractors-In-The-Construction-Indust>

Regional Industry Link

If you're not on it, how are you going to know about it?
Register on www.regionalindustrylink.com.au come to the free Information Sessions, details at the top of this bulletin.

Click [here](#) for current opportunities

Media

Publication: *The Courier* www.thecourier.com.au

Saturday 12 March

The McCallum Foundation joined forces with a local trotting event this week to raise vital funds to support people with disabilities. The Ballarat and District Trotting Club hosted the annual fundraiser, attracting a healthy mixture of regular punters as well as those keener to socialise and enjoy the spectacle.

Wilson's Fruit and Vegetables has been recognised as the Regional Retailer of the Year. The award, from the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Markets award, is one of the highest levels of recognition in the fruit and vegetable industry.

Tuesday 15 March

Mars is going green on cocoa, announcing a new partnership with international environment organisation Rainforest Alliance. From June, the cocoa used to

produce the iconic chocolate bar will be sourced from Rainforest Alliance certified farms in Western Africa, with other products to follow in the next three years.