

Commerce Ballarat News Bulletin
14 – 20 May

Quote of the Week:

"Most **awards**, you know, they don't give you unless you go and get them - did you know that?." Barbra Streisand

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.

505 Club

Adroit Insurance Group & Butler Chartered Accountants

18 Doveton St Nth, Ballarat
23 June, 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

Members News

Commerce Ballarat Annual Member Survey

It is important that our members participate in this survey as it assists in improving and developing our services.

City of Ballarat New Residents Function

City of Ballarat Youth Services and Rotary Club of Ballarat Young Ambition have joined forces to create Ballarat's first New Residents function aimed specifically at 18-25 year olds. The function is aimed at providing new residents with an opportunity to connect to local community groups, volunteering opportunities and sporting connections. As well as showcasing local organisations to new residents the function will assist community and sporting groups to promote their activities and connect with potential new members. The function will occur on Thursday 26 May, in the function room at Phoenix Brewery, 10 Camp Street, Ballarat. Finger food will be provided and beverages will be available at bar prices. Please register your attendance to Larelle Kuczer on 5320 5644, or email larellekuczer@ballarat.vic.gov.au by Wednesday 18th May 2011.

Less than 100 Days until BIFB 11

More information <http://www.ballaratfoto.org/bifb11>

Fitness Boot Camp for Ballarat Women

What if I told you there was a FAST, FUN way to burn off fat and get the lean, firm, feminine figure you've always desired? You see, here at **Bodyconnect Personal Training** we have a brand new service for you which is so effective and so proven at getting results, it's literally TAKING THE NATION BY STORM! www.ballarateastbootcampforwomen.com

Get paid to write a business blog!

A unique and profitable writing competition will see one lucky Victorian employer paid to share their experiences on a new Business Victoria blog. The popular Department of Business and Industry (DBI) online resource is seeking a writer for a new employment blog, which will also answer reader questions and provide expert advice. The six-month position comes with its own pay packet, with the competition winner to receive \$150 per monthly blog for giving feedback, sharing advice and providing business insight.

Entries close next Wednesday (25 May 2011), so head to http://www.business.vic.gov.au/BUSVIC/STANDARD/PC_64293.html for more details on how to enter.

More VLine service changes

Following last week's link to the revised Melbourne-Ballarat [timetable available here](#), VLine have also announced there will be service disruptions during the school holidays in July to prepare for works for the Regional Rail Link.

Services between Melbourne and Ballarat will be replaced by buses - [more information here](#). If you would like to know what maintenance V/Line will perform during this time follow [this link](#).

Last Chance to Nominate: You could win \$10,000!

Nominations for the Victorian Employer Award for Apprentice Development close at 5pm today.

The Employer Award for Apprentice Development award is designed to recognise those employers who are developing innovative ways to add value to their apprentices' training. This award is open to employers of one or more apprentices and employers can be nominated by industry training boards, employer associations, registered training organisations, the Australian Apprenticeship Centre, apprentices or themselves.

A prize of \$10,000 will be awarded to the winner of this category! The Victorian Training Awards are the premier event on the vocational education and training calendar. They reward outstanding achievement and innovation, and recognise the valuable contribution apprentices, trainees, students, teachers, employers, and training providers play in ensuring our state has a strong skills base – both now, and in the future.

Awards will be presented in 14 categories including our new award for 2011, the Victorian Employer Award for Apprentice Development.

Nominees can also gain recognition for outstanding achievements, increase their profile, generate publicity for their business and gain valuable networking opportunities with senior industry and business leaders.

The online nomination form is quick and easy to complete. Visit [the Skills Victoria website](#) by 5pm Friday 20 May 2011 to enter your business.

Interest rates - the only way is up... or is it?

Following the [release of the minutes](#) from the RBA's May meeting, some major banks are factoring in an interest rate rise for June. Is this a *fait accompli*? One commentator doesn't believe so.

Read *The Age's* Michael Pascoe's comments on the next interest rate movement [here](#).

Australian Bureau of Statistics

3106.0 Demography News, May 2011
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3106.0?OpenDocument>

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

5609.0 Housing Finance, Australia, Mar 2011
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/5609.0?OpenDocument>

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[Small Business Conditions Remain Weak, 17 May 2011](#)

[ACCI Welcomes Austrade Reforms, 17 May 2011](#)

[Patchwork Economy & Weak SME Sector Demands Award Wage Moderation, 16 May 2011](#)

Regional Industry Link

If you're not on it, how are you going to know about it?
Register on www.regionalindustrylink.com.au

Click [here](#) for current opportunities

Media

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

Monday 16 May

Martin 'Rex' Drinkwater says he nearly fell off his chair when he was named Ballarat's Volunteer of the Year on Saturday night. Mr Drinkwater received the top recognition in front of more than 200 people at the second annual **United Way** Volunteer Recognition Awards at the **Novotel Forest Resort** at Creswick.

The new **UFS Dispensaries** medical clinic in Doveton Street North will now open in mid-June after a two-month delay. The \$5.5 million medical clinic that is funded solely by UFS, is now expected to open in about one month.

Tuesday 17 May

It's well-known that sitting at your desk all day is bad for your physical and mental health. That may not come as much of a surprise to the average employee, and yet our work patterns could be hard to break. **Ballarat YMCA** has added its support to the Victoria Walks campaign, calling on all Victorian workers to walk around the block today.

Karen McCraw believes working in disability services for 22 years has taught her a lot about herself. "It pushes me out of my comfort zone every day", Ms McCraw said. The **Karden Disability Support Foundation** founder and chief executive officer was recently recognised with a Victorian Disability Sector life achievement award.

People and Places

Tasha & Grant Mesley, **Beaumont Tiles**, Peter Kane, **Metricon Homes**

Thursday 19 May

Ballarat City Honda & European has raised the proverbial bat when it comes to looking after the environment. The car dealership recently sold its 100th car that will be carbon neutral as part of an arrangement with local environment group **Fifteen Trees**. Fifteen Trees encourages local businesses to offset their carbon emissions by planting 15 trees for every car they sell.

The Guide:

Five minutes with... Mal Healey, **Ballarat YMCA**

My Favourite Things: Kate Moran, **City of Ballarat**

Friday 20 May

The three shortlisted Civic Hall architectural firms have submitted their design tenders. Ballarat mayor Craig Fletcher said yesterday the final project architect would be chosen by **Ballarat City Council** in July.

Who's in it today?

Cr Cheryl Bromfield, **Ballarat City Council**; Anthony Schinck, **City of Ballarat**; Cr Samantha McIntosh, **Ballarat City Council**; Dr Patrice Braun, **University of Ballarat**; Cr Judy Verlin, **Ballarat City Council**; Gerry Carr-MacFie, **KIDS Foundation**; Andrew Drummons, **Location Home Loans**; Cindy Burke, **City of Ballarat**; Colleen Thompson, **Support4Cancer**; Laura Martin-Niall & Sarah Walter, **P&P Events**; Gavin Stephens, **Action Ads**; Steve Pinson, **Commander Centre**; Bill Mundy, **Telstra Countrywide**; Craig Willian, **RU Advertising**; Mark Wall, **Newbiz Solutions** & Janelle Yates, **Ballarat Cancer Research Centre**