

**Commerce Ballarat News Bulletin
29 January – 4 February**

Quote of the week:

“No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new heaven to the human spirit”. Helen Keller

Welcome New Members

[Accent Framing / Gallery on Sturt](#) Andrew & Leigh Tweedie

505 Club

GHMBA & Designer Commercial Furniture

404 Dowling St, Wendouree
Thursday 10 February
5.30pm – 7.30pm
Members Free
Non-members \$16.50

Hear an update from our new Mayor Cr Fletcher and Councillors.

Drinks and savouries provided.

Regional Industry Link Workshops

BRACE, 602 Urquhart St, Ballarat
Thursday 17 February 10 am -12.00noon
Thursday 24 February 1 pm – 3 pm
Members Free
Non-members \$25

Want to know how you can access new business opportunities?

Register now to attend one of our 'Regional Industry Link' workshops and find out how to make the most of this free program that will match your business to relevant supply opportunities across Victoria.

"Mind the Gap: Why EVERY generation just doesn't get it"

Alexandria on Lydiard

30 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat
Wednesday 9 March
12.00noon
Members \$42pp
Non-members \$50pp

Panel discussion about the generation gap, age differences and how to overcome these issues in the workplace. Representing Gen Y: Jessica Saad, Angel Recruitment and Consultancy, and Melissa Abu-Gazaleh, Best Catch Foundation. Representing Gen X: Glen Walker, Maxitrans, and Jeff Pulford, City of Ballarat.

Facilitated by John Fitzgibbon General Manager 3BA & Power/FM.

B.L.E.N.D

Beaumont Tiles

106 Creswick Road, Ballarat

Wednesday 9 March
5.30pm – 7.30pm
Members Free
Non-members \$16.50

Guest speakers: Melissa Abu-Gazaleh, Best Catch Foundation, and Jessica Saad, Angel Recruitment and Consultancy.

Are you 39 and under and looking for an opportunity to share ideas and impressions of today's business world? Drinks and savouries 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. **Early Bird Reward Book** a table before 4th March and go in the draw to win a race name sponsorship.

Members News

Member to Member Link 4 February

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

Newbiz Solutions has made the final 9 in the Optus Ultimate IT Challenge

*"After careful deliberations, the judges have made their picks. Australia's nine most innovative I.T. teams are: Fareshare, Aspedia, 13Cabs, eNerds, **Newbiz Solutions**, Ashmor Plumbing, Luxottica, Luther College and Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Now the fun really begins. On 11 February, the 9 finalists will take part in the Ultimate Sporting Challenge in Melbourne, where Matt Giteau, Chris Judd and Alicia Molik will put them through their paces. And then on to the Optus Business Innovations Awards where at the end of the night our judges will announce which teams will share in \$100,000 of support from Optus for their business."* Congratulations to Newbiz Solutions and good luck to Paul who is up against Juddy! Click to read the [media release](#)

Mentors needed for Lead on Ballarat L2P Learner Driver Program

Lead on Ballarat are looking for 30 mentors who can help our disadvantaged youth gain their P's. Using our little red L2P car, each mentor works with a young person, supervising their 120 hours of driving practice. The L2P Learner Driver Mentor program is a community based volunteer program designed to provide young learner drivers who face significant barriers to successfully obtaining their license with the opportunity to access driving practice under the supervision of a fully licensed driver. To become an L2P mentor, you need a full licence, be over 21 and obtain a Working with Children check (we pay for this). Full training is provided to mentors over 3 sessions, with the next training commencing on Tuesday 8th February. For more information about the program visit <http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/Licences/GetYourPs/PreparingForYourLicenceTest/L2P.htm>

Regional Victoria switching to digital TV

The way in which free to air television is transmitted to almost half a million households across regional Victoria and parts of southern New South Wales will change on 5 May 2011. On that day, analog signals that have been used for television since its introduction to Australia in the 1950s will be switched off for good.

The MySwitch tool on the Digital Ready website is a helpful way to find what digital TV services are available at a particular location. The site also provides technical information for transmitters, as well contact information for local endorsed antenna installers and Digital Advisors in retail stores, as well as the availability of the VAST satellite service. For more information on the digital switchover for regional Victoria, or to contact your local Digital Switchover Liaison Officer, please call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13 or visit www.digitalready.gov.au

Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission Survey on Volunteering

Are you a volunteer or do you work with an organisation that involves volunteers in its management, operations or service delivery? The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission is developing resources to help volunteers and organisations that work with volunteers to understand their rights and obligations under Victorian Equal Opportunity law and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

To make sure we understand the issues facing volunteers and organisations, we are asking people involved with volunteering to complete our Volunteer Survey at www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/volunteersurvey. If you are a volunteer, or an organisation that works with volunteers, and would like information about the Equal Opportunity Act 2010, Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, or the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act and how they could be relevant to you, please call 1300 292 153, email us on information@veohrc.vic.gov.au or visit our website at www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au

Donatelifeweek 2011 20 - 27 February

Australia's first national DonateLife Week 2011 will ask all Australians to talk to family and friends about organ and tissue donation to ensure their wishes are known. DonateLife Week 2011 comprises national advertising and local community activities. It is supported by government, community leaders, sporting identities and media. "But we need all Australian families to use family moments as the opportunity to have a memorable conversation about organ and tissue donation." Joanna acknowledges that starting to talk about organ and tissue donation with loved ones can be difficult and believes the new campaign will go a long way towards normalising the conversation. DonateLife Week 2011 will be launched on Sunday 20 February and runs until 27 February. For more information on *DonateLife Week 2011* activities go to www.donatelifeweek.gov.au

Australian Bureau of Statistics

1350.0 Australian Economic Indicators, Feb 2011
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1350.0?OpenDocument>

Impact of floods on ABS data (Media Release), 2011
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/MediaReleasesByCatalogue/9EA28640A806019ECA25781E0080698C?OpenDocument>

6416.0 House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Dec 2010
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6416.0?OpenDocument>

8731.0 Building Approvals, Australia, Dec 2010
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/8731.0?OpenDocument>

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Resource Industry Survey Points to Rocky IR Road, 2 February 2011
<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Workplace/Resource-Industry-Survey-Points-To-Rocky-IR-Road>

Business Confidence Deteriorates, 1 February 2011
<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/Business-Conditions---Confidence-Deteriorate>

Superannuation Reform Consultation Welcome, 1 February 2011
<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/Superannuation-Reform-Consultation-Welcome>

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 29 January

Ballarat Regional Industries staff had a flipping good time yesterday raising funds for flood victims. BRI's packaging department held a pancake morning tea which is expected to sweeten the flood relief appeal by an extra \$200.

Two **University of Ballarat** students are teaching English and Australian culture in China as part of a sister city initiative with Ararat City Council. Council, UB and Taishan No.1 High School formally signed off on the partnership agreement last year.

Regional telecommunications company **Neighbourhood Cable** will be renamed TransACT this year. The re-branding move comes after TransACT purchased Neighbourhood Cable in 2008.

Tuesday 1 February

Ballarat sporting clubs will benefit from a liquor licensing seminar this month. The Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports Program seminar will be held on February 7 at the City Oval Bowling Club from 7pm. **SportsCentral** program co-ordinator and seminar organiser David Fox said it was a way for clubs to get information about alcohol management.

Wednesday 2 February

Free Home Energy Assessments are now being offered to help local residents cut down their electricity bills and reduce energy use. Households across the municipality are now able to sign up for a free 90-minute energy assessment through their nearest participating **Bendigo Bank**.

Thursday 3 February

Expressions of interest closed yesterday for the Civic Hall site, with 26 applications received from around Australia. **Ballarat City Council** destinations and connections director Jeff Pulford said a shortlist of up to five companies would be compiled within a month to take part in the next stage's design competition.

Ballarat residents looking to up-skill and improve their career prospects will pay as little as \$100 to enrol in university-level courses thanks to the state government's fee reduction scheme. **BRACE Education Training and Employment** VET services manager Jen Mann said that the new changes would now cover diploma and advanced diploma courses as well as certificates one to four.

Friday 4 February

Who's in it today? Melissa Studzinski, **Bodyconnect Personal Training** & Tim Valpied, **Hocking Stuart**