

Commerce Ballarat News Bulletin
30 October – 5 November

Welcome to the end of another busy week. Find out below what is happening in and around Ballarat, useful website links, members news and who made the media this week.

Quote of the week:

Welcome New Members:

[Buninyong Golf Club](#) Sally Pope

[Spring H20](#) Matt McCann

Info Comm Breakfast

Fair Work Laws and Modern Awards supported by Eureka BEC

Pipers by the Lake

Wendouree Pde

Tuesday 16 November, 7am

Members \$15

Non Members \$25

Stephen Mastwyk from the Fair Work Ombudsman's office and Peter Wilson, Managing Director at Nevett Ford Lawyers and accredited specialist in mediation, will speak on the new Fair Work laws and Modern Awards and the importance of complying with them.

The new laws and Modern Awards are proving to be extremely challenging and there are no easy shortcuts. If ever there was a time for company directors to ensure compliance with the Fair Work laws and Modern Awards, it's now.

Come along to this informative breakfast and learn more about this important topic.

B.L.E.N.D

CGU Insurance Ltd

1-3 Bath Lane, Ballarat

17 November

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Members free

Non-members \$15

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

Paul Brick, director of Newbiz Solutions Pty Ltd, and winner of the 2010 CGU Commerce Ballarat New & Emerging Business Award will speak about his road to starting a successful company and the impact of winning a prestigious award.

Commerce Ballarat Ambrose Golf Day

Midlands Golf Course

Friday 26 November

\$280 + GST (includes Golf, BBQ and drinks on course)

N.B Teams can only be hosted by Commerce members

Novelty holes and raffle to benefit **United Way Ballarat**

Limited numbers

[Print Flyer](#)

Members News

VECCI Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 23 November 5pm

RSVP: By 12 November to lkeenahan@vecci.org.au

[2009/2010 VECCI Annual Report](#)

[More information](#)

Business creation levels fall – is lack of access to finance to blame?

Source: VECCI www.vecci.org.au

Recent Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures show fewer businesses were created in the 2008-09 financial year, but there remained more than two million businesses operating as of June 2009 – about one business for every 11 Australians. The entry rate for new businesses decreased to 14.4 per cent from 15.3 per cent (as a percentage of all businesses operating), while the business exit rate (the number of businesses ceasing operations) remained at 15.4 per cent. There are some interesting raw numbers on Australian business operations included in the [report](#), such as more than a quarter of the businesses operating in June 2007 had closed by June 2009. [Read more](#)

Fair Work update

Source: VECCI www.vecci.org.au

A Senate Estimates Committee heard this week that three quarters of all unfair dismissal cases sent to Fair Work Australia for conciliation have resulted in payouts to employees, many of them consisting of no more than a few thousand dollars in 'go away money'. Bernadette O'Neill, the director of Fair Work Australia's unfair dismissal branch, said 58 per cent of the payouts since 1 July this year were less than \$4,000, and only five per cent were more than \$15,000. Ms O'Neill said Fair Work Australia did not keep statistics on the reason for the payments, and could be related to back payment or entitlements. [Read more](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistics

[House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Sep 2010](#)

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[MR135: RBA Makes Things Difficult for Mainstream Business](#) - 2/11/10

[MR134: Commonwealth Bank - ACCI Business Expectation Survey - Private Sector - Led Recovery Slow to Emerge](#) - 2/11/10

[MR133: Business Organisations Unite to Call for Necessary Industrial Relations Reforms](#) - 29/10/10

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 1 November

After 14 weeks the **Royal South Street Society's** annual eisteddfod came to an end with last night's showcase. The evening featured 130 performers who had been invited back after performing previously throughout the event.

Wednesday 2 November

The Ballarat Mining Exchange could become a centre for the city's youth under a new proposal. **The City of Ballarat** will investigate whether the council's youth services and other independent services for young people could be relocated to a permanent youth space at the historic Lydiard Street North location.

Thursday 4 November

A dream for an equestrian centre at Ballarat came to fruition yesterday when a \$3 million world class facility officially opened. The equine centre at Mt Rowan is a joint venture between the **University of Ballarat** and the Riding for the Disabled Association.

Friday 5 November

Some of the region's best fresh produce will be on offer this weekend at the inaugural Town Hall Fresh Produce Market. An initiative of the **City of Ballarat** about 40 marquees will line Armstrong Street South selling fresh fruit and vegetables, baked goods, preserves and specialty products.

Who's in it today?

Melbourne Cup Luncheon as a fundraiser for **Ballarat Cancer Research Centre**