

Commerce Ballarat News Bulletin
4 – 10 December

505 Club

GHMBA & Designer Commercial Furniture

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

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

"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 TBC
Non-members TBC

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

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, University of Wollongong.

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
Details TBC

Members News

Member to Member Link 10 December

Membership cards have been mailed to all Weekly Bulletin recipients, to be eligible for these offers you must present your membership card at the place of

business. All CB members are welcome to participate and make a member to member offer; some proactive members are already lined up for January.

City of Ballarat opens boat ramp at Lake Wendouree

The boat ramps at Lake Wendouree were officially opened on Friday 3 December. As at Friday 3 December, the Lake Wendouree water level is 87.9 per cent full, and now for the first time in five years we will see yachts, row boats, canoes and various powered boats return to Lake Wendouree. For more details and boating regulations click [here](#)

New Level Personal Training becomes Body Connect Personal Training

From 20 December, New Level Personal Training will change name and location. The new name is Body Connect Personal Training and the new address is 107 Main Road, Ballarat. Melissa can be contacted on mel@bodyconnect.com.au, her phone number remains the same.

ACCC calls for unit pricing improvements

ACCC Chairman, Graeme Samuel, writes that some retailers need to improve their compliance with unit pricing regulations.

Unit pricing has already given millions of Australians the opportunity to save on their weekly supermarket shopping. On the eve of its first birthday on 1 December, the ACCC has released research showing online grocery retailers have a lot more to do to ensure they are complying with the Unit Pricing Code of Conduct.

Unit pricing is a labelling system that helps you compare prices and values at the supermarket. By using standard units – for example, cost per litre or per kilogram – you can easily compare the price of products, regardless of different sizes or brands. With unit pricing, you can tell that a 2.5 litre bottle of laundry detergent costs \$3.05 a litre, while the 1.5 litre detergent next to it costs \$3.83 a litre. Lots of variety is usually a good thing for consumers; however it can make it difficult for us to quickly and easily compare products. Big or small? Fresh or frozen? Loose or packaged? Generic brand or popular brand?

Unit pricing means you don't have to take a calculator to the shops - the sums have already been done so all you have to do is decide which product is best value that meets your preferences. If you are not yet using unit pricing, you might be missing out on a simple way to make some serious savings.

A recent independent survey commissioned by the ACCC found that grocery retailers around the country have, on the whole, achieved a 98 per cent level of compliance with the Code. However small and independent supermarkets and online traders need to lift their game, with only 35 per cent of online traders compliant with the Code.

The ACCC will be conducting further compliance education focusing on small and independent supermarkets and on online retailers, but one year into the new Code, the message should really have gotten through. Blatant or recurring conduct will cause the ACCC to use its powers under the Trade Practices Act to take swift action. This is necessary to ensure consumers benefit from the reform. You can expect to see unit pricing in large grocery stores and online grocery traders. You might not see it at the corner shop however, as smaller grocery stores can choose whether or not to unit price. Shops such as department and variety stores and shops that sell only a small range of food types are not

required to unit price. Unit pricing is not required for certain items such as stationery, hardware and marked-down perishable items.

Source: My Business e-news www.mybusiness.com.au

Question the Minister

My Business magazine has been offered an interview with Federal Small Business Minister Nick Sherry, they are looking business people to assist them formulate the questions. Send your question to mybusinesseditor@mybusiness.com.au. A selection of the questions will be selected and the interview will be held in 2011.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

5609.0 Housing Finance, Australia, Oct 2010

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/5609.0?OpenDocument>

6202.0 Australia's unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percentage points to 5.2 per cent in November 2010 (Media Release), Nov 2010

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/MediaRealesesByCatalogue/46DFE12FCDB783D9CA256B740082AA6C?OpenDocument>

6202.0 Labour Force, Australia, Nov 2010

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6202.0?OpenDocument>

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[MR163: ACCI-Westpac Survey of Industrial Trends - General Business Sentiment on Hold as Seasonal factors Shore Up Activity Indicators](#) - 9/12/10

[197th ACCI Westpac Survey of Industrial Trends](#) - 9/12/10

[MR161: ACCI Welcomes Release of Model OHS Laws](#) - 8/12/10

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

Saturday 4 December

Looking for an innovative way to market your house? ***The Courier*** and domain.com.au have joined forces to offer a new service for vendors to showcase their homes online with a video tour of the property. Filmed by top metropolitan filmmakers, the clips are edited and music is added to illustrate the atmosphere of the property. **Hocking Stuart** director Tim Valpied said the videos brought the house to life.

Judy Verlin has one piece of advice for incoming Ballarat Mayor Craig Fletcher: "Just be yourself and bring your own style of leadership". During a reflection yesterday on the last two years as mayor, Cr Verlin also looked to the future, saying she believed Cr Fletcher would do a good job leading the **City of Ballarat**.

Monday 6 December

There was a rush of excitement when the hammer went down at the auction of ***The Courier*** charity house in Delacombe at the weekend. The four-bedroom,

energy-efficient home at Sylvan Lodge Estate sold for \$329,000 – a result welcomed by everyone involved.

St John of God Hospital Ballarat has been awarded another four years accreditation status by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. ACHS accreditation – which is necessary for St John's to continue to receive funding – is awarded to hospitals based on an independent, external review process. The review commended several St John's programs.

Thursday 9 December

Ballarat City Council has endorsed a move to increase the number of pokie machines at two city venues. **The George Hotel** made an application to council in September to increase the number of gaming machines from 34 to 42. Under new legislation, the number of electronic gaming machines in Ballarat is capped at 663, and the machines requested by the George Hotel have been sourced via a transfer from the Ballarat RSL Club.

The Guide: Colleen Filippa, **Fifteen Trees**

Friday 10 December

Nearly 800 students at the **University of Ballarat** have graduated in four ceremonies over the past two days. The graduates represent 12 different schools of the university, in courses ranging from engineering to business. Among the graduates are 13 who have completed a PhD, the largest number the university has had in one year.

A generous donation of toys has given a group of Ballarat toddlers more reasons to smile this Christmas. Participants of the **BEST Community Development** Youth Works program yesterday donated handmade wooden toys to children whose mothers are involved with Ballarat Secondary College's Link Up program.

A new gold zone has been found at the Ballarat gold mine, believed to be in an area never searched before. **Castlemaine Goldfields**, which is exploring the mine, recently hit gold minerals in the zone, known as the Basking Fault. The fault is a 30.5 metre-wide zone of quartz and gold minerals. The company said yesterday that it was a good result, with potential for a substantial gold resource.

Two Ballarat organisations were yesterday recognised for their outstanding contributions to the community, receiving grants from the Ballarat Foundation. Community radio station Voice FM and **Lead On Ballarat's** Right Click Records received a combined \$7705 from the Ballarat Foundation in the 11th round of grants. The grants are made to local organisations through the **Telstra Country Wide** Ballarat Community Fund.