Commerce Ballarat News Bulletin
5 – 11 February

Quote of the week:

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

~ Albert Pine quotes (English author, d.1851)

Welcome New Members:

Tiny Agency Kate Vale

Red Strategic Communications Rachael Murnane

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. **E**arly **B**ird **R**eward Book a table before 4th March and go in the draw to win a race name sponsorship.

Members News

Member to Member Link 11 February
Take a look at what's on offer this week!
All CB members are invited to participate in this initiative.

Sponsorship Opportunity
Is your business looking for an opportunity to lift your corporate profile, the CGU Commerce Ballarat Business Excellence Awards offers a six month marketing opportunity. For more information contact Jodie@commerceballarat.com.au Only two categories are available in 2011.

Member of the Week
Is your business booked in to be a member of the week? If not send a profile of 40 words or less and a jpeg copy of your corporate logo to sofie@commerceballarat.com.au

Richard Start Accountants have moved
Their new office is located at 9 Creswick Road, Ballarat and they can be contacted on 5338 7455.

Paid parental leave: New Zealand does it so why can't we?

Victorian employers are asking why the new paid parental leave scheme cannot be administered by Centrelink considering the authority's equivalent in New Zealand manages that country's paid parental leave program. VECCI Manager – Workplace Relations Policy, Alexandra Marriott says the Federal Government is increasing the red tape burden on businesses by making them administer the paid parental leave (PPL) scheme from July 1.

"The Federal Government is unnecessarily burdening small business with the administration of its paid parental leave scheme," says Ms Marriott. "VECCI supports the Federal Government's PPL initiative but has concerns about its burden on small business. "As it stands, employers will become the Government's 'pay clerk' on July 1, inflicting an unnecessary regulatory burden on businesses. "International examples – such as New Zealand – demonstrate that governments can successfully administer paid parental leave schemes. "As business has argued, it is difficult to see why it couldn't be done here.

"This obligation will add a further layer of bureaucracy for many businesses, which are still coming to terms with the complexity of the modern awards system and additional obligations under the Fair Work Act 2009. "A Government administered scheme will allow the scheme to be harnessed to its complete potential, rather than imposing further costs upon small business. "The $33,000

fine employers face for non-compliance if they refuse to process the PPL scheme through their payroll adds insult to injury," says Ms Marriott.

Visit www.vecci.org.au for more information and to register for upcoming Parental Leave briefings in Ballarat.

Small Business Support Line

The Australian Government's Small Business Support Line again can provide assistance and referral on small business issues such as:

- business planning
- registration and licences
- ebusiness and online assistance
- marketing and promotion
- government initiatives, grants and assistance
- employing staff
- importing and exporting
- insurances
- government regulation
- personal stress and hardship counselling
- human resource management

They can be contacted on 1800 777 275 or email sbsl@innovation.gov.au

Australian Bureau of Statistics

8501.0 Retail Trade, Australia, Dec 2010
http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/8501.0?OpenDocument

7307.0 Wheat Use and Stocks, Australia, December 2010
http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/7307.0?OpenDocument

6202.0 Labour Force, Australia, Jan 2011
http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6202.0?OpenDocument

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Research Shows That Up-Skilling Apprentices & Mature-Age Apprentices Is Not About Age, 08 February 2011
http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Human-Capital/Research-Shows-That-Up-Skilling-Apprentices---Matu

New ACCI Apprenticeship Research, 08 February 2011
http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Human-Capital/It-s-Not-Age

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 5 February

UnitingCare is calling on people to register for its annual Pancake Day fundraiser. The event supports the growing number of people suffering hardship in the community. The fundraiser will be held on March 8.

The Ballarat Rural Clinical School at **St John of God Hospital** has opened its doors for the first time. Ten fourth-year medical students from Sydney's Notre Dame University will spend their clinical year in Ballarat, with 32 other students undertaking four week rural rotations.

A $3 million surgical short-stay unit will open at **St John of God Hospital** at the end of June. The unit will include 15 inpatient beds catering for surgical patients requiring a stay of one to four nights.

Wednesday 9 February
Ballarat's koala population is under threat from developments and destruction of their habitats. To help maintain and enhance the existing population, the **Ballarat City Council** has released *Your guide to living with koalas*, a Victorian first.

PETStock Ballarat has lent a much-needed hand to flood-affected pets and families across the country. A range of goods, donated to PETstock's Pet Supplies Drive, will soon be distributed throughout Victoria and Queensland.

Thursday 10 February
It was a glorious end but also a shining new beginning for 26 **St John of God Hospital** graduate nurses on Tuesday. As 11 graduate nurses finished their course, 15 others were looking ahead to this year's program.

The City of Ballarat's "Preserving Our Heritage Strategy" has been nominated in the National Awards for Planning Excellence. The awards are to be held in Hobart on March 9 and will be attended by Cr Samantha McIntosh and council officers.

Friday 11 February
New **Ballarat Turf Club** president Ian Fulton wants the Ballarat Cup on a Saturday within two years. Fulton has the goal of seeing this happen in the spring of 2012.

Who's in it today?
Barry Wright & David Battersby, **University of Ballarat**