

Commerce Ballarat News Bulletin
7 – 13 May

Quote of the Week:

People are lucky and unlucky... according to the ration between what they get and what they have been led to expect."

Sam Butler



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.

Shave For Karden Fundraising Event

Glenn Hateley is committing to shaving his beard and hair for **Karden Disability Support Foundation!** Glenn has had his beard for 16 years and as you can see by the photo, shaving his hair and beard is a major commitment!

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. To pledge contactus@karden.org.au.

Glenn's shave will be held on Friday the 3rd June 2011.

Southern Cross Media's Give Me Five for Kids Fundraiser

Date: 18 June
Time: 7pm
Venue: Alexandria on Lydiard
Cost: \$85
[Click here for more information](#)

Free Work Health Checks in Ballarat 18-19 May

If you're a small business or sole trader, you and your workers will find it convenient to come along to a central location for a free and confidential health check. Health checks will be on offer on 18 and 19 May 2011 at VECCI's Ballarat office.

To book Telephone: 03 8662 5132
Email: jwigg@vecci.org.au

Mentors Needed

Lead On Ballarat is looking for mentors with a business/finance background to support a pilot program for young people aged 18-24. For more information contact Vicki Coltman on vickic@leadon.com.au or 0409 023 373

Customs yet to model impact of GST threshold changes

The [Customs and Border Protection Service](#) has not investigated the feasibility of a lower GST threshold on imports, says the Fair Imports Alliance.

In a press release issued today, the [Fair Imports Alliance](#) (a group of industry associations formed in response to debate about GST-free imports) says it has received an email stating "Customs and Border Protection has not undertaken analysis of which threshold level will be administratively feasible."

The extra workload expected to be imposed on the service if more incoming parcels were to be inspected and GST payments collected has been cited as a reason to retain the current \$1000 threshold for GST-free imports. Fair Imports Alliance spokesperson Brad Kitschke seized on that assumption in the release.

"The Government, from the Prime Minister down, has said it cannot lower the threshold because it would be economically or administratively unfeasible. It is now clear the Government and industry has been lead down the garden path by the bureaucrats in Customs," Kitschke said.

"It is staggering to think a Government agency like Customs cannot implement an efficient system to collect this revenue and even more impossible to understand how it advised the Government that something is not economically feasible to undertake, when they have never carried out any modelling to prove so." Kitschke said.

The Alliance's release says it also wrote to the Minister for Customs, Brendan O'Connor last month seeking answers to a series of 15 specific questions related to research, data and modelling around the Low Value Threshold, but says the Minister is yet to respond.

The revelation that Customs has not done any work in this area comes as the deadline for submissions to [the Productivity Commission's inquiry into the retail industry](#) nears.

Source: *My Business* magazine www.mybusiness.com.au

Five Online Essentials for Every Business

Nancy Georges says business has changed forever, and that to thrive you need to be doing five things online. Read on to learn the five, and why she says business owners need more skills than ever before to be effective leaders.

The rules are different and the playing field has totally changed leaving business owners with the options of adapt or perish. Australian business owners have never had to be as skilled as they need to be today; education, knowledge, skill and marketing prowess, are all needed by business owners.

The need to change and adapt and the shift that needs to occur in the outlook and the thinking of the business person/owner. Business in 2011 is not for the timid. Businesses must put a bigger focus on marketing and ensure that their Marketing Manager (or external consultant) is across the entire business. Business owners need to understand the entire scope of marketing and think more like marketers and less like 'the accountant' or 'the HR manager' or 'the production manager' or 'the sales manager'.

The biggest change of all is the connection the consumer has with brands and businesses, thanks to the internet and technology. This in turn, has resulted in innovative businesses using the tools at their disposal to connect with their customer: technology, the web and social media. [Click here to read the full article](#)
Source: *My Business* magazine www.mybusiness.com.au

Australian Bureau of Statistics

5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, Mar 2011
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/5368.0?OpenDocument>

3401.0 Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, Mar 2011
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3401.0?OpenDocument>

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

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Budget Workmanlike but More Ambition Needed, 10 May 2011
<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/Budget-Workmanlike-But-More-Ambition-Needed>

Transcript – Peter Anderson Doorstop on Federal Budget Parliament House Canberra, 10 May 2011
<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/Transcript---Peter-Anderson-Doorstop-On-Federal-Bu>

Business/School Partnerships Help Build Better Prepared Students, 9 May 2011
<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Human-Capital/Business-School-Partnerships-Help-Build-Better-Pre>

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 7 May

There is a certain shine about these three. Peter Clohesy, Les Manning and Peter Manning were the recent recipients of Rotary Southern District's *Shine On* awards, which recognise active involvement in the community. The trio are valued employees at **Ballarat Regional Industries** and between them, have clocked up 75 years of work at the company.

A support group for parents with children affected by bullying begins in Ballarat next week. Sue Anderson from **Good2Gr8 Coaching** will hold fortnightly meetings of FAB (Families Affected by Bullying) during which participants will learn strategies for dealing with bullying.

Monday 9 May

After only a few years in the market, Ballarat-based **UFS Dispensaries** is now officially the best business in the Melton Shire. At the Recent Melton Business Excellence awards ceremony held by the shire, UFS won the prestigious Business of the Year award and for the fourth year in a row, the Best Retail Business.

Thursday 12 May

It's time to dust off the cocktail suit and don your mask to raise money for one of Ballarat's most worthy causes this weekend. The inaugural Ballarat City Masquerade Ball will be held on Saturday and all money raised will go towards local group **Support4Cancer**.

Ballarat mayor Craig Fletcher experienced first-hand the skills **Lead On Ballarat** teaches young drivers as he took a back seat to learner driver Peter Black yesterday. The drive was part of Volunteer Week and the L2P involves a range of volunteers that mentor and teach young people to drive.

Friday 13 May

Sovereign Hill chief Jeremy Johnson's young grandchild looked lovingly up to him the other day and said "You're wearing a funny hat, Pa." Mr Johnson who is also **Central Highlands Water** chairman, may have been wearing a funny hat, but he felt humbled to do so. That "funny" attire he was actually wearing was for the recent **University of Ballarat** graduation ceremony, where Mr Johnson received an honorary doctorate for distinguished and eminent service to business in Ballarat.

Who's in it today?

Paul Stephens, **Nevett Ford Lawyers**; Jennifer Kelly, **JK Personnel**; Andrew Rowan, **Andrew Rowan Wealth Management**; Margot Cosgrave, **Harcourts** and Cr Craig Fletcher, **City of Ballarat**