

**Commerce Ballarat News Bulletin
9 – 15 July**

Quote of the Week:

"What would you attempt to do if you knew you would not fail?" **Robert Schuller**

B.L.E.N.D

GMHBA & Quest

7-11 Dawson St Nth, Ballarat
Wednesday 28 July, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Members Free
Non Members \$16.50

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

WIN Television

Walker Street
Thursday 11 August, 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

New TenderWrite Series

August, October, November
More details soon

Ballarat BIGGEST Ever Bloke's BBQ

Mercure Ballarat Hotel & Convention Centre
Friday 16 September

Ballarat's BIGGEST Ever Bloke's BBQ will provide an entertaining approach to men's health. With all funds raised from the event going to the local national Prostate Cancer Foundation this is a great opportunity for your business.

We are looking for support from a number of local businesses, if you would like to support the event financially or through in-kind support please contact Jodie Gillett on Jodie@commerceballarat.com.au

Commerce Ballarat Ambrose Golf Day

Midlands Golf Course

Friday 11 November
\$300 (includes Golf, BBQ and drinks on course)
N.B Teams can only be hosted by Commerce members
Novelty holes and raffle to benefit
Limited numbers

Members News

Free Member Advertising

Have you been a member of the week? Free home page advertising spot for members just email bridget@commerceballarat.com.au a maximum 30 word description of your business and a copy of your corporate logo in jpeg format.

After 18 years, Godfrey's Vacuums are now trading as Vacuums Ballarat. Vacuums Ballarat are still located in Norwich Plaza in the Bridge Mall and still offer their great service and great value!

Small business neglected in carbon tax announcement

Source VECCI 14 July

While a minority of small businesses, particularly in the green technology sector, will benefit, Sunday's carbon price announcement will leave a sour taste in the mouths of most Victorian small businesses. While we now know the carbon price and the exemptions, Victoria's 500,000 small businesses were effectively ignored in Prime Minister Gillard's announcement. Most households and some large businesses will receive compensation but small business will not receive anything meaningful in this sense and will have to absorb flow-through power costs. Small business risks being left as 'the forgotten sector', while already operating on low margins in the wake of soft consumer sentiment, interest rate rises and a high Australian dollar.

Source VECCI 14 July

Small business begrudgingly wishes the Fair Work Act a happy second birthday

1st July marked the Fair Work Act's second birthday but Victorian small business were singing 'happy birthday' through gritted teeth.

VECCI Manager – Workplace Relations Policy, Alexandra Marriott says the Fair Work reforms have caused consternation to business, to industry and to employers from the get-go. "What we have now is a very unwieldy industrial relations system in Australia," says Ms Marriott. "Many employers feel the clock has been turned back. And while not all businesses have been directly impacted by some of the more contentious aspects of the Act – all businesses are sensitive to the fact that the industrial game has changed.

"Decisions by Fair Work Australia on key aspects of the architecture of bargaining in the Fair Work system, ranging from industrial action to representation rights, demonstrate that the system is, indeed, precarious. "This precarity will only continue while unions continue to seek to test the parameters and intention of the Act. "In the workplace, the Act has proven to be proscriptive with modern awards continuing to trouble employers – in some cases, increasing costs (transitional provisions notwithstanding) and often causing confusion.

"Rather than a return to the politics surrounding the industrial relations debate, both the Federal Opposition and Government must begin to acknowledge the elephant in the room, or continue to watch our productivity, and indeed, international competitiveness, dwindle. "The Federal Government must make good on promises of a post-implementation review articulated in the Explanatory Memorandum," says Ms Marriott.

Today also marks a 'perfect storm' of headaches for business with employers becoming the Federal Government's pay clerk, administering its Paid Parental Leave scheme in addition to facing cost pressures caused by an increase to the minimum wage and modern award transitional arrangements.

Business Tips – how to handle “hot desking”

With communal work stations an increasingly attractive option for businesses, sharing space is now a daily reality for many. But if ‘hot desking’ has you hot under the collar, here’s a few tips to keep the workplace peaceful and productive.

Don’t mark your territory

You might find it hard to adapt at first if your office has a communal desk policy, but trying to stake your claim to a space through pinning up photographs or leaving personal knick-knacks permanently on display is poor form. Your honeymoon snaps or quirky toys are going to distract and alienate colleagues who have to use the work area after you. Bringing in personal items is fine, but you need to remove them at the end of your shift.

Come prepared

If you’re worried about having nowhere to store your work essentials, consider preparing a small kit (a handy container or bag) holding everything you will want to move around with you, be it any pens, notebooks or personal items. This will guarantee you’re organised and ready for work at the start of each shift and save valuable time and effort that would otherwise be spent tracking down stationery and materials.

Be flexible

One of the keys to sharing space harmoniously is acknowledging and respecting the fact that all employees are unique. Making a fuss if your chair settings are changed or a communal desk is rearranged is unnecessary. Take a few minutes at the start of each day to ‘re-set’ the area to suit your personal tastes.

Keep it clean

Playing fair when you have to share is all about respecting your colleagues. A quick desk tidy at the end of the day will ensure co-workers who use the desk after you can hit the ground running.

Make the most of it

Many employees grumble about the upheaval of hot desking, but try and focus on the positives. Changing seats each day and working alongside and interacting with a range of different colleagues could get the creative juices flowing and help to create a better sense of a team.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

5671.0 Lending Finance, Australia, May 2011

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/5671.0?OpenDocument>

6291.0.55.001 Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jun 2011

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6291.0.55.001?OpenDocument>

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Carbon Tax: Big Effort, Little Gain, Big Pain

<http://acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/Carbon-Tax--Big-Effort,-Little-Gain,-Big-Pain>

Treasury Modelling Highlights Decline In Living Standards

<http://acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/Treasury-Modelling-Highlights-Decline-In-Living-St>

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

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Thursday 14 July

Creswick will host the Victorian PGA Championship for the next five years as the Ballarat region gears up to become a regional capital for golf in the state. The PGA announced Forest Resort Creswick would host the championship from February 16-19, bringing a field of 144 professional golfers to the region.

The Guide Andrew Eales, The Courier