

**Commerce Ballarat News Bulletin
15 – 21 January**

Quote of the week:

"The true Aussie battler and his wife thrust doggedly onwards: starting again, failing again, implacably thrusting towards success. For success, even if it is only the success of knowing that one has tried to the utmost and never surrendered, is the target of every battler" Michael Page & Robert Inapen" - authors

Happy Australia Day!

Let's do Business in 2011

Mercure Hotel and Convention Centre
Main Rd, Ballarat
Friday 4 February from 2pm
Free for CB Members and their Guests

Commerce Ballarat thanks to the generosity of the **Mercure Ballarat Hotel and Convention Centre** invite CB members and guests to a FREE barbeque to welcome in the new business year. A great opportunity to develop new relationships and strengthen current ones.

A note donation is requested to assist flood victims throughout Australia.

***Donations of raffle items and auction items would be appreciated, email Jodie@commerceballarat.com.au if you would like to assist.**

505 Club

GHMBA & Designer Commercial Furniture

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

Hear an update from our new Mayor Cr Fletcher and Councillors.

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 \$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
All those you have attended our race days know this is the fun way to do business. **Early Bird Reward Book** a table before 4th March and go in the draw to win a race name sponsorship.

Members News

Member to Member Link 28 January

Take a look at what's on offer this week!

CGU Commerce Ballarat Business Excellence Awards Sponsorship is now open, this sponsorship opportunity is proving to be much sought after by Ballarat business. In 2011 only two categories are available, if you would like to know more please contact Jodie@commerceballarat.com.au

PETstock, Advance and Star Track Express have partnered together to provide much needed supplies to QLD and Victorian Flood affected areas. PETstock and Advance are donating more than 180 bags or 1.6 tonne of dog and cat food. PETstock urges the Ballarat community to help with the drive by donating collars, leads, animal health and bedding in store at 909 Latrobe Street prior to the 27th of January. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

City of Ballarat Public Workshop - Ballarat Activity Centres Strategy

The City of Ballarat is pleased to invite you to attend a public workshop session for the Ballarat Activity Centres Strategy. The City of Ballarat has recently commenced the preparation of the Ballarat Activity Centres Strategy. The principal purpose of the Strategy is to ensure that the City of Ballarat develops a robust policy environment to support the long term planning and viability of retail, commercial and social activities and residential development within each activity centre of Ballarat over the short, medium and long term. Click [here](#) for dates and times for these workshops

3BA Skyworks dedicated to Australia's Flood victims!

The 21st anniversary of Skyworks on Wednesday January 26, comes at a time when the east coast of Australia recovers from the most devastating and widespread flooding the country has ever seen. Ballarat's own 3BA FM 102.3 has taken the decision to dedicate the event to all flood victims across the country. 3BA has joined forces with The Courier and The City of Ballarat to allow the people of Ballarat to help in a very practical way. A collection point will be

established at next to the Ballarat Yacht Club, near Pleasant Street Lake Wendouree on Australia Day from 3pm-9pm to accept donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, cleaning products and household items to help Ballarat charities aid local families affected by the floods to start to recover.

Click to read the [media release](#)

Lawson Creative is looking for a share work space

Lawson Creative is looking for a share work space with like minded people. We need a small area that would have access to internet and allow us to put a desk and a few other bits for our small 2 person run business. Contact Debra on 03 9005 6626 or production@lawsoncreative.com.au

Ballarat Turf Club Family Fun Race Day

Get the whole family racing at Ballarat's Family Fun Day Out on Sunday 23 January. Grab some friends, grab the kids and grab a picnic. There's loads of entertainment for everyone including loads of free Camp Australia activities for the kids! It's a fun and affordable day out for the whole family. Admission is \$10 for adults, and kids under 17 are FREE! Gates open at 11am.

Ballarat & District Trotting Club Primetime Sports Breakfast

Date: 25 January

Time: 7am to 9am

Venue: Bray Raceway, Ballarat

Cost: \$20

Click [here](#) for more information

Ballarat & District PETStock Ballarat Pacing Cup

Date: 29 January 2011

Venue: Bray Raceway, Ballarat

Cost: Adults \$12, Concession \$8, Children U/18 FREE

Dinner packages available

Click [here](#) for more information

Parental Leave Entitlements, Paid Parental Scheme and Managing Return to Work Requests

Do you understand your responsibilities under the new Paid Parental Leave Scheme?

Employer's obligations drastically changed with the introduction of the National Employment Standards (NES). THE NES contains matters relating to family obligations, leave and safe job provisions. Employers will now also need to be aware of and comply with obligations in relation to the Paid Parental Leave (PPL) Scheme.

To make sure you're equipped to juggle complex new requirements and legislation, VECCI, in partnership with CCI Lawyers is running comprehensive Business Briefing sessions throughout Victoria. This first series of Business Briefings will cover everything you need to know about the Parental Leave aspects of the legislation and the new Paid Parental Leave Scheme including:

- Paid Parental Leave Scheme & unpaid parental leave entitlements
- The Return to Work Guarantee & new legislative requirements
- Managing Return-to-Work and Flexible work requests, from both a legislative and HR perspective
- Payroll implications and policy requirements

- Notice and evidence requirements
- Safe Jobs

VECCI's Business Briefings combine expert guest speakers with targeted Q&A sessions and are the ideal forum for you to get key information and tips on what you must do and how to best position your business in managing risk. Business owners, HR staff and payroll staff are encouraged to attend, as is anyone who is responsible for managing staff. Don't drop the ball. VECCI and CCI Lawyer's Business Briefings are a cost-effective way to help ensure your business complies. There is a Parental Leave Briefing scheduled in Ballarat on 16 March, for bookings and more information contact VECCI on 8662 5333 or visit www.vecci.org.au

Flood recovery assistance

Has your business suffered flooding in the recent deluge? Do you know a business that has been affected?

At present information on the relief and recovery effort in Victoria is being hosted on the Dept. Human Services website - click [here](#) for information.

This site has some information relating to business recovery including grants of \$15,000 for primary producers, small business and NFPs. The recovery information relates to the floods from December 2010 at present, but more information will be posted over the coming weeks on this site.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

5671.0 Lending Finance, Australia, Nov 2010

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

5439.0 International Merchandise Imports, Australia, Dec 2010

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/5439.0?OpenDocument>

6291.0.55.001 Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Dec 2010

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

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Budget Impact on Flood Reconstruction, 19 Jan 2011

<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/Budget-Impact-Of-Flood-Reconstruction>

ACCI Welcomes Business Taskforce to Assist Qld Flood Recovery, 18 Jan 2011

<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/ACCI-Welcomes-Business-Taskforce-To-Assist-Qld-Flo>

Transcript - Peter Anderson on CNN - Australian Economy Drowned by Floods, 13 Jan 2011

<http://www.acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Media-Centre/Media-Releases-and-Transcripts/Economics-Industry/Transcript---Peter-Anderson-on-CNN---Australian-Ec>

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

Wednesday 19 January

Fruit and vegetable prices are set to rise as a result of flooding in Queensland and Victoria, but the extent of it will remain unclear for some time. Ballarat fruit shop owners were reluctant to estimate how much prices would rise, saying it would take time to find out exactly how the market will settle. Trevor Wilson, owner of **Wilson Fruit and Vegetables**, said the coming months would be telling for the industry.

Ballarat council workers will continue to conduct post-impact assessments on flood-affected households this week. Mayor Craig Fletcher said the assessments ensured residents were provided with the services they needed, including emergency accommodation.

Thursday 20 January

The Ballarat community has the opportunity to help Victoria's flood victims in a practical way. **The Courier, 3BA and Ballarat City Council** have joined forces to establish a collection point for household and food items, which can be donated to the greater Ballarat region.

Well-known and much-loved businessman Brian Messer died last weekend after a 13-month illness. He was best known as an owner of **Messer and Opie** in the Bridge Mall where he worked for almost 60 years.

Friday 21 January

Ballarat's youth gathered at the Civic Skate Park yesterday to learn some new and exciting skills. A skate and DJ clinic was held as part of the **City of Ballarat** Summer in the City program. Young people from all around showed-off their skills on the skate ramp while others learned to ride for the first time.

The City of Ballarat plans to build an annexe at the rear of the Art Gallery of Ballarat, in a bid to provide an exhibition and event space in the Camp Street precinct. It is part of council's bid to revitalise the area, after the previous vision for Camp Street never reached its potential.

For the **University of Ballarat**, the Camp Street Arts and Educational Precinct has been a big success. Vice-Chancellor David Battersby said the number of exhibitions held over the precinct's 10-year history, and the number of students that had come through the academy was proof of that.

Job seekers preparing to attend that crucial job interview will be able to buy an affordable outfit at Ballarat Bargain Browser. **Hip Pocket Workwear** Ballarat has donated discontinued and clearance stock to the opportunity shop for those attending an interview or starting a new job. Operated by **BRACE**, the Ballarat Bargain Browser opportunity shops are reliant on donations to continue to operate.