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December Technology Park Newsletter

Dear all,

Welcome to the Summer edition of the University of Ballarat Technology Park newsletter. 2008 has been a highly productive and satisfying period with strong gains in all areas of business within the Technology Park. In summary terms, some of the 2008 significant achievements and successes are as follows:

- Creation of new marketing and promotional collateral
- Significant investment in facilities and infrastructure improvements
- All office space leased within the Greenhill Enterprise Centre and Global Innovation
- New IBM IT Services Centre being constructed in University Drive
- Significant focus on strategic planning, specifically in relation to accessing additional land to facilitate the future expansion of the Park
- Enhanced business relationships with local government authorities and State Government departments



IBM IT Services Centre

I reported on the proposed IBM IT Services Centre in the last edition of the UBTP Newsletter. It is pleasing to report that construction commenced on this new facility some months ago and that the building program is on schedule. It is anticipated that a percentage of the structural steel will be erected by the end of this calendar year. The base building is anticipated to be completed by mid 2009, to be followed by building 'fit out' over another 2 to 3 month period.



The new IBM IT Services Centre is expected to accommodate 300 plus IT staff. Whilst the business functions within the building will be determined over time, it is anticipated that the IT Services Centre will undertake:

- Business processing and business transformation services
- Software application development and management
- Product operations (storage, security, data base management)
- Call Centre and technical support

The Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF)

In the last two editions of the UBTP Newsletter I have reported on the University's bid to the Federal Government for capital works and infrastructure development funding under the Higher Education Endowment Fund (Education Investment Fund). I can now report that despite a very significant effort from the University, we have been unsuccessful.

The University's application centred on the establishment of an Innovation and Enterprise Centre (IEC) within the University of Ballarat Technology Park (UBTP), comprising three major capital works projects, namely:

- An IT Professional Practice Facility – a centre for educational and pedagogical excellence for the education and training of the University's TAFE, undergraduate and postgraduate students for professional practice in information technology, linked with:
- An Innovation and Research Hub incorporating the University's Centres and Laboratories for:
 - Informatics and Applied Optimization
 - Internet Commerce Security
 - eHealth
- An IBM IT Services Centre

Where to from here? Obviously we are all disappointed however we will explore other means to mount this exciting and innovative project.

New Commercial Tenants

Westwind Energy will move into the Global Innovation Centre in February 2009. Westwind Energy is an Australian company dedicated to the development, construction and operation of wind farms in Australia.

Grampians Rural Health Alliance (GRHA) will move into the Global Innovation Centre in mid January, 2009. GRHA is one of five alliances of Victorian rural health agencies that are responsible for the delivery of the Victorian Information and Communications Technology (ICT) strategic planning and development within each rural health region. The Grampians ICT Alliance covers the Victorian Department of Human Services Grampians Region of Western Victoria

Triton Commercial Systems will move into the Greenhill Enterprise Centre in February 2009. Triton are specialists in production recording, weighing, labelling, and inventory control systems for the Meat and Food Processing and Cool Storage industries. Triton recognises the benefits of moving into the Technology Park, particularly from the longer term perspective of software development.



Planning for Growth of UBTP

In the last edition of the UBTP Newsletter I indicated that two key planning strategies were being pursued in relation to projected growth of the UBTP, namely:

- A need to acquire additional land to ensure the planned expansion of the UBTP. At the October 22, 2008 meeting of the City of Ballarat, the Council agreed to the concept of the UBTP being able to expand north to Greenhills Road. Any proposed expansion is conditional upon appropriate University Master Planning. This Council decision is very important and provides a sound basis for further growth and development of this important precinct.
- A need for additional office accommodation for technology based 'start up' businesses and emerging small to medium sized enterprises. Currently I am working on a capital works project proposal involving a possible building extension at the Greenhill Enterprise Centre (GEC). Whilst the financing of this project still needs to be resolved, significant progress has been made on building concept plans. The intention is to develop a 1000 square metre building extension on the southern side of the GEC.

Technology Park Breakfasts 2009

It is intended that the monthly Technology Park and Ballarat IT Specialists Breakfasts will continue in 2009, commencing on Tuesday, February 17 at 7.45 am. Please diarise this event. Whilst the details have not yet been finalised, it is expected that a senior representative of Microsoft will be the Guest Speaker.



New Employee

Ms. Marianne Drake has been appointed to the role of Personal Assistant – Business Development and Technology Park, and located at the Greenhill Enterprise Centre. Marianne has been appointed to this administrative role from the University's Project Office. If you have not met Marianne, please call her on 5327 9893 and introduce yourself.

UBTP becomes 'BizSpark' Network Partner to Microsoft

UBTP has become a Microsoft 'BizSpark' Network Partner. BizSpark is uniquely designed to assist Startups engaged in software development, by:

- providing them with 'express access' to Microsoft tools and technologies, for their immediate use in design, development, testing, demonstration, and hosted application production and deployment;
- connecting them with Network Partners and a united, global community of support resources; and
- offering them global visibility on the MicrosoftStartupZone website via the BizSparkDB, an online Startup directory, hosted on the MicrosoftStartupZone website.

Require more information on the the BizSpark offer? Contact my office on 5327 9711.

Internet Protocol Version 6 (Ipv6)

It is pleasing to report that the State Government (Technology and Innovation, Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development) is providing project funding to IPv6 Now Pty Ltd, of which Lateral Plains is a founding member. The funding is provided via the AI Group to establish and operate an IPv6 Test Laboratory.



The \$350,000 in funding will be directed towards a program to encourage industry to move across from IPv4 to IPv6. The new Internet Protocol will provide industry with an unlimited number of IP addresses to cater for business expansion, and the potential to innovate in relation to new products and services. Please call George on 5335 2243 if you require more information in relation to this important initiative.

Please call or email me if you require additional information or advice in relation to the above.

In closing, I would like to extend Seasons Greeting to all and trust that the holiday period will be good for you, your family and friends. I look forward to seeing you in a refreshed and revitalised state in 2009.

Mal Vallance

Director – Business Development and Technology Park