

Ballarat ICT Cluster Newsletter

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Welcome

On behalf of the Ballarat ICT Cluster Project Team, welcome to the first of our regular newsletters for 2007. This Newsletter will provide a vehicle for Ballarat ICT Cluster firms to share and exchange information, promote upcoming events, and report on business activities as they occur throughout the course of the year.

The University of Ballarat Project Team looks forward to working with local and regional ICT firms as we implement the Stage 2 Ballarat ICT Cluster activities which have been funded through the Victorian Government's Regional Innovation Clusters Program.

Ballarat ICT Cluster update

Stage 2 Activities

Current activities are focused around themes including:

- Rollout of an engagement program
- Establishment of business intelligence services
- Profiling and marketing of the Ballarat ICT Cluster
- Support for ICT demonstration projects
- Professional development opportunities
- Export assistance.

Website

Keep up-to-date on all Ballarat ICT Cluster related happenings by regularly visiting the Ballarat ICT website at www.ballaratict.com.au. To contribute news items and success stories contact Corey Saitta c.saitta@ballarat.edu.au.

Steering Committee

Contribute to the development of the Ballarat ICT Cluster by joining the Steering Committee or one of the Project Working Groups. Your participation will support the UB Team in regularly reviewing progress and in identifying and implementing strategies to encourage business development, partnerships and new opportunities for Ballarat's information technology and other related sectors. To find out more contact Helen Thompson h.thompson@ballarat.edu.au.

UB Team

The UB Team draws expertise from the Centre for eCommerce and Communications and the Centre for Regional Innovation and Competitiveness. Key individuals involved in the Ballarat ICT Cluster include: Helen Thompson, (Project Manager); Corey Saitta (Project Officer) Prof Julian Lowe and Dr Patrice Braun.



ICT firm and stakeholder visits

During March 2007, Helen and Corey have met with a number of ICT firms and stakeholders as part of the Ballarat ICT Cluster engagement program. Visits have included Local, State and Federal Government Departments, representatives from the local private ICT industry sector and others.

The meetings provide an opportunity for the UB Team to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the needs, wants, challenges and opportunities, facing local technology providers.

They also provide an opportunity to enhance and improve local awareness of the Ballarat ICT Cluster and to outline the type of support and assistance that can be provided by the Centre for eCommerce and Communications and Centre for Regional Innovation and Competitiveness.

The ICT firm visits will be continuing in April 2007. For further information or to make an appointment please contact Corey c.saitta@ballarat.edu.au.

Ballarat ICT Directory

Is your business listed in the Ballarat ICT Directory? We encourage you check and register or update your business details prior to the official launch of the Ballarat ICT Directory during April 2007. Simply visit www.ballaratict.com.au and click on the heading 'ICT Directory' which appears on the left hand side of the home page and then follow the prompts. If you need assistance, please contact Corey c.saitta@ballarat.edu.au.

Ballarat Innovation Festival

Innovation is critical to Ballarat's social and economic well-being. The Ballarat Innovation Festival will focus the spotlight on our region's skills in research and development and encourage the growth of innovative companies that produce internationally competitive goods and services. More than 14 events have been scheduled during the week commencing 21 May 2007. These include:

- 22 May Speed dating for Business
- 23 May Partnering with your ICT Professional for Business Innovation
- 24 May Dinnervation
- 25-26 May Games Expo

For further information visit the www.ausinnovation.org website or contact Peter Forbes peterforbes@ballarat.vic.gov.au at the Economic Development Unit of the City of Ballarat.

Ballarat Women in ICT Network

The Ballarat Women in ICT Network has been established with the support of the University of Ballarat, Multimedia Victoria and Victorian ICT for Women. The network aims to provide opportunities for personal and professional networking, knowledge and skills development, career and business development and access to and connection with others in ICT. If you are interested in joining this network please contact Kara Hodgson k.hodgson@ballarat.edu.au. See below for details of the next luncheon event.

What's on?

Did you know that the www.ballaratict.com.au website has comprehensive information about upcoming networking events and professional development opportunities? Here's a selection from the events that are listed for April 2007.

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| April 3 | BisNet - Ballarat Business Network Breakfast
For more information contact: debra.thomson@rdv.vic.gov.au |
| April 17 | University of Ballarat Technology Park Executive Network
Greenhill Enterprise Centre, 8 am.
For more information contact: j.barnes@ballarat.edu.au |
| April 19 | Roadmap to Successful Commercialisation Workshop
Victorian Business Centre, 10 am - 3 pm
For more information contact: debra.thomson@rdv.vic.gov.au |
| April 20 | Ballarat ICT for Women Luncheon,
Greenhill Enterprise Centre, 12 Noon.
For more information contact: k.hodgson@ballarat.edu.au |

If you would like to promote an upcoming event via the Ballarat ICT website please send the details through to Corey c.saitta@ballarat.edu.au.

Next newsletter and more info

The next Ballarat ICT Newsletter will be distributed during June 2007. If you have news or information that you would like us to include simply contact either Corey Saitta c.saitta@ballarat.edu.au or use the feedback forms on Ballarat ICT website www.ballaratict.com.au. For further information on the Ballarat ICT Cluster contact:

Project Manager Helen Thompson h.thompson@ballarat.edu.au

Project Officer Corey Saitta c.saitta@ballarat.edu.au