

Ballarat ICT Cluster Newsletter

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Welcome

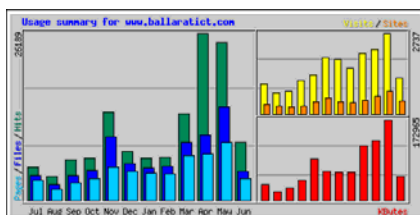
On behalf of the Ballarat ICT Cluster Project Team, welcome to the second of our regular newsletters for 2007. This newsletter and the www.ballaratict.com.au website provide opportunities for members of the Ballarat ICT Cluster to promote their capabilities, share success stories, find out about upcoming events, exchange information or report on industry developments as they occur.

Ballarat ICT Cluster update

Firm and Stakeholder visits

Individual ICT firm and stakeholder visits are a core part of the engagement program for the Ballarat ICT Cluster. These meetings provide an opportunity to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the needs, wants, challenges and opportunities facing local technology providers. In the period between March and June 2007 the Project Team has met with 35 ICT Firms and 14 stakeholders.

Feedback from ICT Firms visits has been positive with all businesses identifying the visits have either been very useful (34%) or useful (64%). For 77% of firms the visit changed their perceptions about the Ballarat ICT Cluster either significantly (23%) or marginally (54%). For further information or to arrange a visit please contact Helen h.thompson@ballarat.edu.au.



BallaratICT.com.au website

This Ballarat ICT website profiles members of the Cluster, promotes local activities and provides easy access to information and resources. During June 2007 the daily average visits for the Ballarat ICT website has increased to 100, up from 27 in the same period last year. In the 12 months to June 2007 the website has received 19,781 visits and provided 60,245 page views.

University of Ballarat 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, Prof Julian Lowe and Dr Patrice Braun. Due to an increase in his commitments with the Adelaide Crows, Corey Saitta has decided not to renew his contract. We wish Corey well in the future and thank him for contributing to cluster engagement and profiling activities over the last four months.



Ballarat ICT



Panel events

In the period since November 2006, seven Panel Events have been held. These events have covered topics including ICT infrastructure and services, ICT adoption and Innovation, successful tendering and the fostering of research and development through the Ballarat ICT Cluster. More than 150 people have participated across the series with an average of 21 participants involved in each event. Panel summaries and photos are available on the Ballarat ICT Website.

Ballarat ICT for Women Luncheon

A date for your diary! Friday 27 July 2007 – 12.30 (sharp) to 2pm at the Greenhill Enterprise Centre Conference Room.

Enjoy a delicious lunch and network with like-minded women before joining in a panel discussion facilitated by Margo Ingolby (Multimedia Victoria) with Judy Verlin and Jo Stevens.

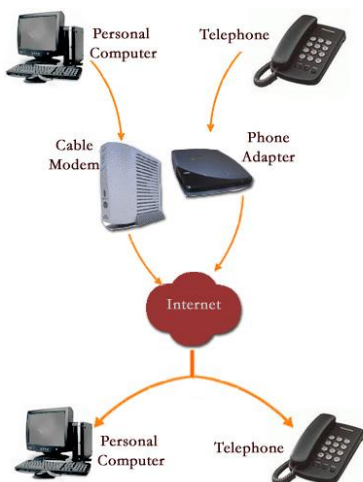


- :: How can business networking benefits be maximised?
- :: What are the tips, tricks and traps?
- :: Why are some people more effective at networking than others?

For more information or to register telephone 5327 9314 or email Kara at k.hodgson@ballarat.edu.au.

Ballarat ICT expo

Are you interested in showcasing the capabilities of your firm? Planning is underway for a Ballarat ICT expo which will be held in conjunction with the launch of Ballarat ICT Ltd (previously cBallarat) and the Ballarat ICT 2030 Strategy. Dates and other details are currently being finalised. To find out more email Rebecca at r.lubeek@ballarat.edu.au.



Source: wikipedia.org

BITS breakfast

Twenty-eight (28) people recently gathered at the Barkly Motor Inn for the Ballarat Information Technology Specialists (BITS) Breakfast where internet telephony was the topic of conversation.

Panel members Prof Julian Lowe (University of Ballarat); Peter Zibell (GRAHnet); Paul Mannix (Grampians Health Information and Technology Alliance) and Col Littlejohn (Neighbourhood Cable) discussed the benefits and challenges of utilising a single network to carry voice and data. For a full report and to review participant feedback visit the Ballarat ICT website.

The next BITS Breakfast is scheduled for 26 September 2007. For more information or to register contact Ainslie from Commander Centre: avanstan@commandercentre.com



Ballarat ICT Directory

Is your business listed in the Ballarat ICT Directory? The Ballarat ICT Directory has been established to:

- Showcase the local ICT community.
- Profile available products, services, skills and expertise.
- Build an accurate profile of the Ballarat ICT sector.
- Promote further development of Ballarat as a location for ICT suppliers and users.

The aim is to provide comprehensive, up-to-date and searchable information about Ballarat's ICT capabilities and services.

Visit www.ballaratict.com.au to confirm your business is profiled. If not register your business today.

Corporate Windows profile



www.corporate-windows.com

Corporate Windows relocated to Ballarat in 2001 after many years delivering services in metropolitan Melbourne. Managing Director, Kim Sumner explains: 'The company formed to offer database integration services during the emerging Client/Server market in the early 1990s. We had expertise building multi-tiered systems supporting multiple platforms, such as PC and Mac, so we established a consultancy team to service this market niche'.

In 1995 the business focused on the Internet explosion by developing TCP/IP-based systems that could be deployed into a vast variety of hosting environments. The company's flagship product, WebPublisher Studio (WPS), has been used to author on-line web services coupled with 'thick client' data entry portals that can enforce 128 Bit DES transfers between remote clients and host servers.

'Our systems are perfect for companies who need to transact business securely from remote points-of-presence, like branch-to-branch activity', Mr Sumner said. 'The advantage our systems have is the rapid project development timeframe and design flexibility that lowers the cost of entry for this technology'.

Corporate Windows has written systems to support enterprises in south east Asia and Europe, including a WPS powered database portal in Jakarta that delivers timely tender information as daily e-mail to customers within Indonesia, but is permanently hosted and maintained in Ballarat.

'And we like to build 'em tough and make 'em last', Mr Sumner added. 'It's important that our customers obtain real value for money from a reliable system that will serve them for a long time'. In fact, some of Corporate Windows' information systems continue to operate after over 10 years of service, thereby preserving investment costs and, remarkably, surviving the bumps and scratching caused by successive migrations from Windows 3.1 all the way up to Windows 2000 and XP.



www.strongconsulting.com.au

International business linkages

Are you interested in building business linkages in Europe?

Wayne Strong, founder of Strong Consulting; will soon be heading to Europe for around two months and may be able to do some work for members of the Ballarat ICT Cluster during his travels.

While teaching Wayne could get students to undertake market research to identify trends and opportunities for the Ballarat ICT Cluster. Typically Wayne has about 150 international students from both Eastern and Central Europe, The Baltic States, Pakistan and India and Spain.

He might also be able to identify potential contacts/people/groups for collaboration with the Ballarat ICT cluster or promote Ballarat ICT Cluster profile information to groups in Scandinavia and Germany.

To discuss these or other possible opportunities contact Wayne Strong via email wayne@strongconsulting.com.au or telephone on 5331 4444.

Horizon enters broadband debate

HORIZON

Broadband Communications Pty Ltd

The Chairman of HORIZON Broadband Communications, Peter Moon, is calling for Federal Government to 'step out of the dark and deliver on a 100% broadband coverage' to enable a fully connected community.

In questioning the quality of the debate on broadband in Australia; Horizon takes issue with the suggestion that FTTH (fiber to the home) is the way forward, or 'the' solution. Peter Moon believes it is a flawed argument. The debate needs to be 'how' we deliver affordable *symmetric* broadband to all of Australia's (100%) households and businesses.

HORIZON Broadband Communications is located at the Greenhill Enterprise Centre. It is a small R&D wireless communications company that is developing very long distance wireless broadband NLOS solutions, 0-150km in any direction at very high symmetrical data rates (>30Mbps+). Its core capabilities are: Smart antenna development; Software defined radio development (Cognitive direction); Network (IP/NGN) management; RF engineering; HF/VHF and other spectrum expertise and knowledge.

Visit www.ballaratict.com.au/horizon for a full copy of the Horizon Press Release.



IR Gurus Studio Opening

On 28 June 2007, Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Tim Holding announced that Ballarat is set to become Victoria's first regional hub for computer games development with Melbourne-based developer IR Gurus opening a studio at the University of Ballarat Technology Park.

From its new base in the Global Innovation Centre, IR gurus, who will be employing 20 people over two years, will create new titles and develop software for multiple platforms, including PC, Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, Sony PSP and PS3.

IR Gurus has received international acclaim for its popular game titles that include Heroes of the Pacific, Saddle Club and Gaelic Games Football.

For more information on IR Gurus visit www.irgurus.com.

IBM celebrates major milestone

'The University of Ballarat Technology Park is going from strength to strength and becoming a multimillion dollar focal point for the city'.

'Today we are celebrating a major milestone for the Technology Park, congratulating its leading partner IBM, for growing its workforce to more than 700 people since establishing its presence here in 1995', Tim Holding, Minister for Information and Communication Technology, announced on 28 June 2007.

Minister Holding also identified that 'According to the Western Research Institute report in March this year, the University of Ballarat Technology Park contributes up to \$273 million to the regional economy and around 1,740 jobs'.

For further information on the University of Ballarat Technology Park visit www.ballarattechnologypark.com.

Contact us

For further information on the Ballarat ICT Cluster contact Helen Thompson

Email h.thompson@ballarat.edu.au

Website www.ballaratict.com.au