

From the Executive Officer

The vision of the Bendigo Business Council is for Bendigo to be the regional business capital of Australia. A robust and growing membership base and effective representation is a key to achieving this vision.

The Bendigo Business Council is a member services organisation. It exists because of its members and it exists to grow business in Bendigo by serving and representing its members.

As your executive officer, I am eager to strengthen the organisation in 2009, and to gain credibility and regard for the BBC within the community. The foundation for this will be the services we provide for members: regular meaningful and relevant communications and the opportunity to network and build business through events and forums that provoke interest and attendance.

We will shortly commence a membership drive. A strong membership will enhance the influence we have when dealing with all levels of Government and government agencies and will attract sponsorship and further members. This in turn will allow the BBC to provide additional member services.

Look out for our membership campaign, and if you have an associate or colleague who is not yet a member encourage them to contact the BBC office or visit

www.bendigobusinesscouncil.com.au

Young Professionals Network

The Bendigo Young Professionals Network is a networking group that recognises the important role that young professionals play within the Bendigo business community, and helps to encourage, support, retain and nurture career-orientated individuals in our city.

As well as having a strong social element to its activities, the network is eager to develop partnerships with mentoring and professional development programs for young professionals. The YPN is assisted in this role by the Bendigo Business Council.

One of the corner-stones of YPN social activity is their "Monthly After Work" drinks, you can find out more by visiting the YPN website or joining the YPN Bendigo Group on **Facebook**.

As well as monthly networking events the YPN organises glamorous evening functions and their 2009 cocktail party is coming up.

**Young Professionals Cocktail Party
Hunter House, Queen Street, Bendigo.
Saturday 28 February**

Mark your diaries now, more details will be provided in the February BBC newsletter.

If you fit the YPN demographic, or if someone on your staff does, please consider involvement in the Bendigo Young Professionals Network.

For more information about the activities of the Bendigo Young Professionals Network and the Young Professionals Cocktail Party visit

www.ypn.net.au

Upcoming BBC CVBN networking event - Purana Taskforce

Our first networking event for 2009 will be held on Wednesday 18 February at the All Seasons Quality Resort, Bendigo from 6:30pm.

The evening will feature representatives from the Victoria Police Purana Taskforce speaking on their challenges, achievements and impact.

As well as being a great opportunity to network with your business colleagues, we are excited about the messages for business that our colleagues from the Police will bring on team-building, effective internal communication, achieving organisational change and overcoming challenges.

See the enclosed flyer for booking details or call the BBC office on 5442 7816.

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Member briefs

Bendigo Professional Services Guide



The City of Greater Bendigo and the Professional Services Group launched its Professional Services Guide in December. The guide profiles the depth and breadth of services available locally in fields including: banking, finance, investment, legal, accounting, marketing, health, community, education, ICT, scientific, engineering and technical services.

The aim of the booklet is to recognise the financial contribution that professional services provide to the economy; to capture an increased proportion of these services locally; to encourage local investment in professional services; and to attract additional investors and employees to Bendigo.

For a copy of the booklet, or for more information contact Lisa Farrar at the City of Greater Bendigo on 5434 6247.

Central Victorian Exporters network

Are you involved in the export market? The Bendigo Business Council is a partner with the Central Victorian Exporters Network which delivers a range of education and networking opportunities for exporters. For more information contact Scott McGillivray scottmcgillivray@aiex.com.au on 5442 6522.



New City Councillors' Areas of Interest

The Bendigo Business Council notes a media report that Mayor Kevin Gibbins has allocated 'portfolios' to the new city councillors. Councillors' responsibilities will be as follows:

Cr Rod Campbell	Infrastructure	Cr Peter Cox	Environment
Cr Rod Fyfe	Arts and culture	Cr Barry Lyons	Industry
Cr James Reade	Progressing youth	Cr Keith Reynard	Sustainable energy
Cr Lisa Ruffell	Commerce	Cr Alec Sandner	Finance

BBC Members will immediately recognise the importance of the infrastructure, commerce and industry portfolios, however there is a business element associated with each responsibility. The BBC looks forward to working with each of these councillors to advance and develop business in the city.

MBA at La Trobe University, Bendigo

Did you know that La Trobe University offers an MBA program delivered locally? If you or a staff member are considering post-graduate qualifications in management contact Robyn Lennox at La Trobe University Bendigo on 5444 7905 or visit www.latrobe.edu.au/gsm

Bendigo Airport Strategic Plan

The City of Greater Bendigo is developing the Bendigo Airport Strategic Plan which will incorporate a business case, master plan and a framework for the future operations and staging of development of the Bendigo Airport. To contribute to the strategic plan, or for more information visit the City of Greater Bendigo website: www.bendigo.vic.gov.au and search for "Bendigo Airport Strategic Plan", or contact Bridget Conroy on 5434 6136.

Bendigo Business Council Website

Visit the new BBC Website at: www.bendigobusinesscouncil.com.au

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