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Autumn Newsletter – Technology Park

Dear all,

Welcome to the 2010 Autumn edition of the University of Ballarat Technology Park Newsletter. Some of the current news in relation to the Park and ICT more broadly is as follows.

Proposed Technology Park Stage 2

The University recently appointed BECA Pty Ltd, Melbourne based planning consultants to prepare a Master Plan for the expansion of the Technology Park. This work will be undertaken across the next 12 weeks and focus on 18 hectares of land to the immediate east of the Park (within the Mt Helen Campus of the University).

The research and investigation, as the precursor to the development of a Master Plan, will focus on the following areas:

- Flora and fauna
- Traffic and transport
- Geotechnical
- Cultural heritage

It is expected that the first stage of this work will be completed by the end of June 2010.

The existing Technology Park comprises 9 buildings, providing quality office space for 30 enterprises and 1400 people. It is anticipated that the proposed Technology Park expansion would enable a minimum of 7 new development sites and the potential to provide employment for another 1500 people.

IBM Data Centre Upgrade

The IBM Data Centre, corner of Geelong Road and Gear Avenue, was established in the Technology Park in 1995. Over the past 15 years, a range of improvements and upgrades have been undertaken to facilities and supporting infrastructure. The University and IBM have recently agreed to work together on a \$1.5 million upgrade to the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) to this very important local facility.

It is expected that in 2010 there will be continued growth in the demand for data centre facilities, due to a nation wide shortage. The UPS upgrade project will ensure that the IBM data centre continues to provide consistently high quality services to its diverse customer base.



IBM and Managed Business Process Services

The Managed Business Process Services (MBPS) division of IBM is proactively working to build its operations within the Technology Park. As a result of MBPS securing a major contract with a leading Australian automotive company, IBM will employ a further 25 people locally.

It is important to acknowledge that most of these employees will be undergraduate students from the School of Business, University of Ballarat.

The University was recently approached by the Managed Business Process Services division of IBM in relation to the development of an 'Earn as You Learn' program with the University's School of Business. Whilst the initial IBM intake of University students are not involved in an 'Earn as You Learn' program, the objective is to establish this type of Work Integrated Study option in 2011.



IBM IT Services Centre, University Drive

The new IBM IT Services Centre is currently operating with a small but growing workforce of 35 people, associated with the Software Platform Managed Services (SPMS) division of IBM. The principal business focus of SPMS is the creation and maintenance of standard operating environments for corporate clients. It is expected that as the Managed Business Process Services division of IBM expands, new contracts will be managed and staffed through this facility.

IBM is currently undertaking a national assessment of additional business functions and activities that will be ultimately located within this new facility.



Ambulance Victoria

Since July 1 2008 ambulance services across Victoria have been provided by a single provider known as Ambulance Victoria. The new entity was formed from three previous providers of services, namely: Metropolitan Ambulance Service; Rural Ambulance Victoria; Alexandra District Ambulance Service.

Ambulance Victoria currently employs a workforce of approximately 120 people within its Technology Park offices. As part of the new organisational arrangements, all Information and Communication Technology (ICT) functions for Ambulance Victoria, are provided from the Ballarat office. In this regard, the office provides a 24 hour 'Service Desk', as well as a core ICT workforce to support the extensive and important emergency operations of the state-wide service.

000 emergency call taking and dispatch for ambulance is gradually being transitioned across to the Emergency Services Telecommunication Authority (ESTA). The training of ambulance duty managers and clinicians (who will ultimately be located in ESTA) is being undertaken by Ambulance Victoria, within leased office accommodation at the Global Innovation Centre.



Ballarat – Buninyong Road

As previously advised, the City of Ballarat has established a Working Group to proactively address current traffic engineering shortcomings associated with the Ballarat-Buninyong Road. The Working Group comprises representatives from the City of Ballarat, Shire of Moorabool, Road Traffic Authority, VicRoads and University of Ballarat.

The City contracted CPG Australia to undertake a study to examine the projected economic benefits of undertaking a significant engineering upgrade of Ballarat – Buninyong Road. The study revealed that if the road was upgraded (investment of \$7 million approx) that there would be a 7 fold return on investment outlays over a 2 year period.

The Working Party has now forwarded the Report to the Minister for Roads and Ports (Tim Pallas, MP), the Regional Director of VicRoads and Mr. Geoff Howard, MLA Member for Ballarat East. The Working Party is optimistic that the State Government will appreciate the contents of the report and see the wisdom in investing in the upgrade of this important road infrastructure.



iGlass secures \$1.5 million in State Government funding

Congratulations to Dr Johny Pak and the team at iGlass, Enterprise Grove, Technology Park, for securing a grant of \$1.5 million from the State Government's Victorian Science Agenda. The research and development project will focus on the 'Development of Variable Electro Responsive Materials (ERM) for the automotive industry'.

There are various types of ERM that have been developed over the past 50 years, that have been applied to optical media such as glass. This project will focus on the development of switchable glazing. The initial target applications are car sunroofs, followed by privacy glass for Sports Utility Vehicles and larger vehicles.

If you would like to learn more about this exciting research and development project, please contact Peter Gray, Project Manager on 0400 494 633.

Infrastructure Improvements in the Park

As part of the University's obligations to the City of Ballarat in connection with the new IBM IT Services Centre, a new traffic round-a-bout has been constructed in University Drive. These works were recently completed by Wayne Horne Earthmoving, under the engineering oversight of the TGM Group. The value of these works approximated \$200,000, with the City of Ballarat providing some very valuable support. The traffic round-a-bout will enable IBM employees to safely enter and exit their car park. Further, the round-a-bout will help reduce traffic speeds in University Drive.

Based on the success of the above developments, investigations are underway in relation to improving the traffic round-a-bout at the State Revenue Office, intersection of Wetlands Drive and University Drive. I will report further on this matter at a later time.

In response to the demand for quality office accommodation for technology 'start ups' and SMEs, I am currently exploring the possibility of converting the Residential Units (south side of Greenhill Enterprise Centre) into office space. More information will follow on this proposed strategy.

New Biz Solutions Secures Commonwealth Grant

NewBiz Solutions Pty Ltd is a small technology based business within the Park committed to assisting small and home-based businesses embrace new technology. Paul Brick of New Biz Solutions has secured a Commonwealth grant through the Small Business Online program, to the value of approximately \$300,000. The funding will support the implementation of Paul's program known as *ezEonline!* : 'websites made easy'.

Paul is of the view that there are many barriers that currently stand in the way of Small Businesses establishing themselves online. These barriers include high start up costs for a website, lack of skills to maintain a website and a lack of knowledge on the benefits/cost savings of having an online presence.

This project initiative will be formally launched by Federal Government representatives on Wednesday, April 14, 3.30 pm at the Neighbourhood Cable Conference Centre, Greenhill Enterprise Centre, Technology Park. All are welcome.

Well done Paul, a magnificent achievement.

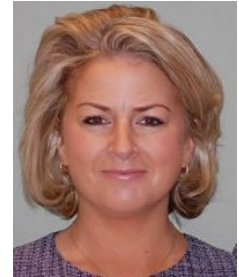


Ballarat ICT Breakfasts 2010

The Ballarat ICT Breakfasts resumed in February after solid support during 2009. The next Breakfast will be held on Tuesday April 20, 2010 at the Neighbourhood Cable Conference Centre, Greenhill Enterprise Centre, Technology Park. The guest speaker will be Mr. Tobias Geiger, General Manager, WestWind Energy. Please see invitation attached.

New Personal Assistant to Director

Ms Genevieve Daffy has been appointed as my Personal Assistant. Genevieve has extensive experience in office administration, specifically within the legal profession. Please make yourself known to Genevieve when you next visit the Greenhill Enterprise Centre.



COURTESY: WESTPAC

Westpac Bank Developments

The Technology Park is sponsoring a number of new and exciting developments with Westpac Bank. Firstly, Westpac Bank will install an automatic teller (lobby unit) in the Greenhill Enterprise Centre. This facility will provide an important service to employees of the Park, as well as staff and students of the University.

Secondly, Gail Kelly, Chief Executive Officer of Westpac, will be a special guest of the Technology Park in late June this year. Gail has been invited to Ballarat to speak at a Business Luncheon sponsored by Westpac and the Technology Park. More details to follow.

Stop Press Announcement – Alliance between Aviarc and IBM

IBM recently made an announcement in the United States that will have ramifications for the Technology Park. In announcing their Development and Test Cloud capability, Aviarc-Ballarat was listed as one of the key Cloud software development offerings and in fact Aviarc Australia's parent company, Core Technology, is a Global IBM Cloud Launch Partner.

Watch this space for the Australian launch.

If you would like any additional information in relation to any of the above, then please email me on m.vallance@ballarat.edu.au or telephone 03 5327 9711.

Mal Vallance
Director – Technology Park

Invitation



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Ballarat ICT Breakfast

The University of Ballarat Technology Park and Ballarat ICT Ltd breakfast brings together information and communications technology (ICT) professionals and other stakeholders from Ballarat and the broader region.

'The power, politics and passions of wind'

This will be a Breakfast with a difference. Tobias Geiger will candidly speak on a wide range of topics in connection with wind energy including:

- Development of modern wind energy technology across recent decades
- Wind energy and the cost of electricity
- Global developments with wind energy and the subsequent uptake of the technology
- Wind energy in Australia and the international context
- The politics of renewable energy. Is going Solar a tale about the guilty conscience of politicians or the fear of the fossil fuel lobby from cheap wind power?

Guest speaker: Tobias Geiger, General Manager, WestWind Energy

Over the past 15 years Tobias has been working in various fields in the area of wind energy, ranging from the design of rotor blades and material science over manufacturing to project management and wind farm development.

Tobias holds a degree and a Masters of Science in Aerospace Engineering. Already considered an industry veteran, he has been deeply involved in wind energy in Europe, Canada and Australia. Tobias has gained relevant experience on wind farm planning issues in Victoria, primarily managing the planning permit application of the Mt Mercer wind farm for WestWind Energy.

Tobias has been General Manager of WestWind Energy since 2007. He has obtained planning permits for over 250 mega watts of wind energy projects, with another 300 mega watts in the planning application phase, and several hundred mega watts of further potential projects in the early feasibility phase.

Tuesday, 20 April 2010

7.30 for 7.45 am (sharp) • Neighbourhood Cable Conference Centre

Greenhill Enterprise Centre • UBTP

RSVP is essential prior to Friday 16 April 2010

Genevieve Daffy g.daffy@ballarat.edu.au

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Registration

Ballarat ICT Breakfast > Tuesday 20 April 2010 at 7.45 am (sharp)

TAX INVOICE

University of Ballarat ABN: 51 818 692 256

This registration form will become a Tax Invoice for the purposes of the Australian Goods and Services Tax (GST) once payment has been made. Please keep a copy for your records.

Name	Position	Per person
		\$20.00
Total (GST Inclusive)		

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: (1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Payment Details

Payment on the day and in advance:

Cheque (payable to: University of Ballarat)

Credit Card:

Visa **MasterCard**

Cardholder name (as it appears on card): _____

Card Number: _____

Card Expiry Date: ____ / ____ Amount to be charged: \$ _____

SIGNATURE: _____

RSVP is essential prior to Friday 16 April 2010 > Genevieve Daffy g.daffy@ballarat.edu.au
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Numbers are limited. If you book and don't attend we will unfortunately have to invoice you.

