



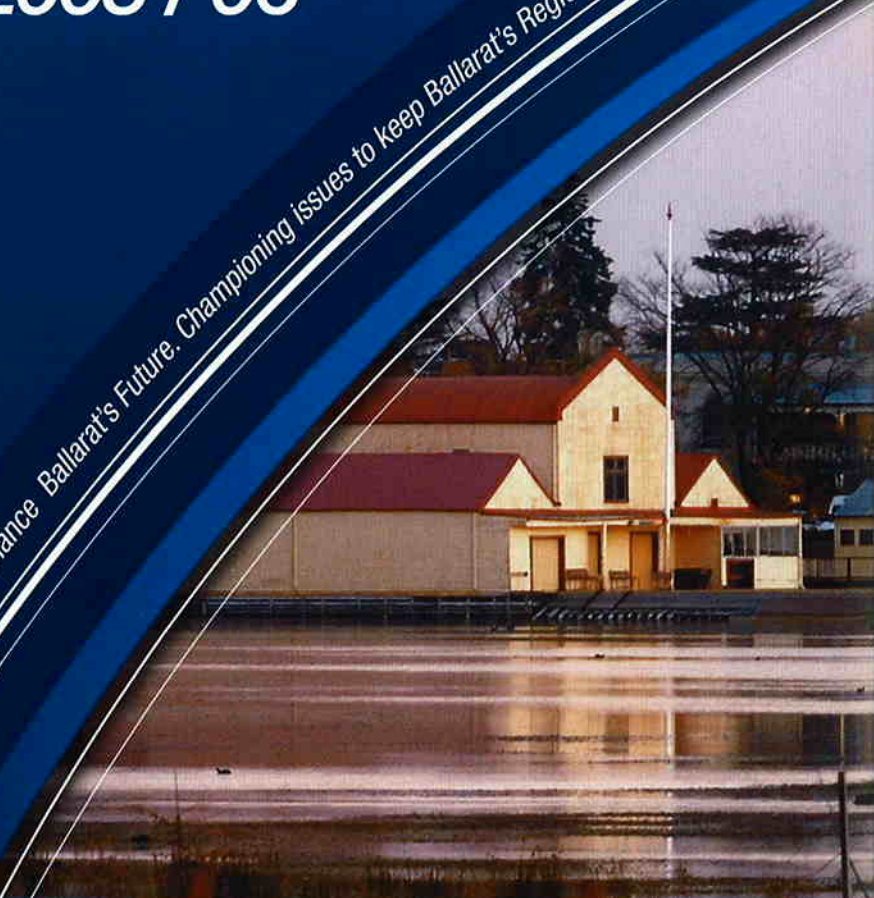
Committee for
BALLARAT

Committee for Ballarat

Annual Report 2005 / 06



Working together to enhance Ballarat's Future. Championing issues to keep Ballarat's Region successful.





Executive Director's Report

Executive Director: Ross Haby
Photo courtesy of The Courier.

It has been a busy, at times frantic, but ultimately extremely satisfying year from the perspective of the executive director's office. Kind thanks to all for your support and encouragement throughout.

Deer Park By-Pass

The Committee for Ballarat was instrumental in helping secure the \$265m Federal Government funding commitment to allow the early commencement of construction of the Deer Park By-Pass. This was a significant early achievement by the Committee, demonstrating the effective leadership it provides in securing major economic and infrastructure outcomes for the city and region.

The fact that Treasurer Peter Costello specifically thanked the Committee for Ballarat for its involvement in securing the funding was a great endorsement for us.

LEADERSHIP – Ballarat and Western Region

This important initiative has brought the successful establishment of the Ballarat and Western Region's first formal development program for emerging leaders. This annual program began this year and has already developed great momentum. It provides the region with a leadership succession plan that ensures diversity.

A total of 36 applications were received for 26 available positions in the first intake. The participants have since been at a number of formal and informal get togethers and are establishing topics which they would like to explore through the duration of the program.

jobsballarat.com.au

Designed and successfully launched in February 2006, this is the Ballarat Region's innovative "online" answer to finding jobs and information on Ballarat's liveability options. The project is supported by key Ballarat employment agencies and businesses. During the first month of operation, the site was attracting an average of 250 visitors per day. Nearly 60% of all visitors to the site are "book-marking" it, indicating their intention to return to it. Major employers and recruiting agencies from across Ballarat are using the site.

Lake Blitz

The Committee has formed a successful partnership with the Lake Foundation and City of Ballarat to develop a strategic marketing campaign to attract the \$3.42m funding required to implement the Lake Wendouree Foreshore Redevelopment Masterplan. Timeline for funding guarantees is December 31 this year. Applications are being made to the Federal and State Governments for their support under relevant funding programs and business from around Ballarat is increasingly becoming involved through a variety of innovative funding commitments.

The project has galvanised widespread community support and to date fundraising efforts have seen in excess of \$1.4m raised and committed to the project through boardwalk sales, sale of mints, bottled water, movie nights and a harness racing evening.

Ballarat Entrances Upgrade

Concern from among members about the quality of entrances to Ballarat prompted the formation of a Task Team to investigate the issue. The City of Ballarat has undertaken a masterplan to upgrade the city's major entrances. The Committee will encourage and monitor its progress and will maintain regular contact with the City Council on the matter. The Committee will also be an advocate for State and Federal Government funding.

Water

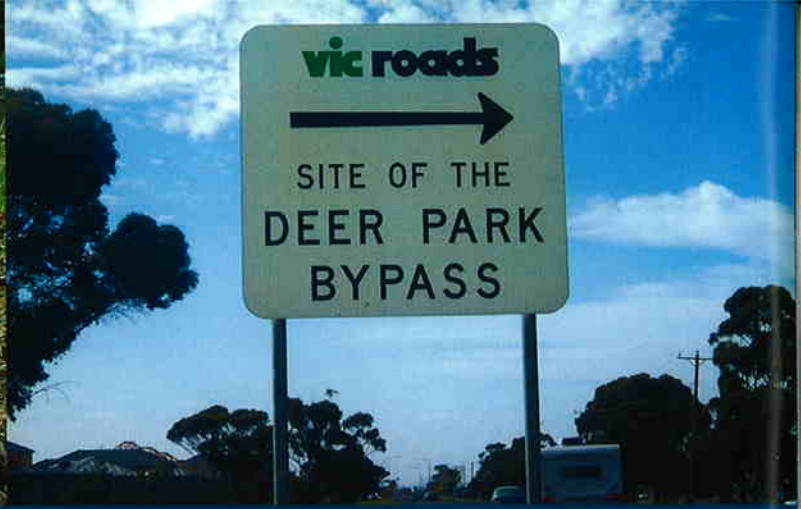
The Committee has a clear objective to pursue and strongly advocate for a sustainable water supply solution for the Ballarat Region. This is regarded as a key priority infrastructure issue for the region and the Committee's Task Team is preparing a response to the State Government's Draft Sustainable Water Strategy for the Central Region of Victoria. Representatives have attended briefings on the document and clearly stated a position in relation to the significance of the issue for this region. The Committee is seeking further consideration of the proposal that all of the Lal Lal Reservoir Water be put to use in the Ballarat/Central Highlands region, rather than part continuing to go to Geelong. It realises there are complications in this for Geelong and these issues need to be worked through. Water supply is a complex and very sensitive issue and the Committee and its task team will continue to work closely with all involved to reach a satisfactory outcome.

Skills & Workforce Participation

The objective of the Committee is to develop a strategic approach to addressing the Ballarat region skills and workforce participation issues. There have been comments from a number of businesses and industries across the region that finding suitably qualified employees can be difficult. The Committee accepts as its responsibility a role in helping to achieve outcomes which can ensure these problems are reduced or even eliminated. It will continue to work with all involved to help bring about positive outcomes in this key area.

Policing & Crime

A new Task Team has been established to lobby and advocate for additional "on-ground" policing resources in the Ballarat Region to ensure a safer environment. The Task Team is already working to finalise its priorities and will make these public soon. It has stated its support for dialogue between the



police and licensees about possibly adjusting the curfew at night clubs and hotels to make the streets safer at night. The intention is to maintain strong and mature relationships with all who have a stake in keeping Ballarat safe.

Medical School

The Committee took a strong interest in supporting moves to ensure that Ballarat did not miss out when consideration was being given to establishing a further regional medical school in Victoria. Initially the University of Ballarat had its own proposal in conjunction with the Bendigo campus of the Latrobe University. The situation evolved to where Ballarat linked with Deakin University at Geelong and there now appears every reason to be confident this will deliver the best outcomes for the city.

The Committee's involvement in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Deakin University and the University of Ballarat was a great achievement and acknowledged by the Vice Chancellor of University of Ballarat as such.

Ballarat Airport Precinct

A long term business growth strategy for the precinct of Ballarat Airport is seen as critical to ongoing economic and industry investment in the city. To that end, the Committee will work with the City Council to determine and implement a long term business growth strategy for the precinct.

Partnerships

There can be no success or, at the least, very little effectiveness for this Committee without strong partnerships with all institutions and economic entities throughout the region. The Committee continues a constant process of building stronger partnerships with key stakeholders on a regional basis across a range of issues and, through this, is becoming increasingly more effective and relevant.

Source Local Campaign

The intention is to convene a program where Ballarat's small to medium businesses can promote their capabilities to each other and to the larger businesses and organisations in the city. The obvious intent is to generate even more intense economic activity for and between those businesses to their benefit and that of the city as a whole and to retain business in the city.

Fast Rail – Stage 2

A below 60-minute Ballarat rail service is a step closer to becoming a reality following the Committee's advocacy to the Bracks Government to triplicate the Sunshine to Southern Cross Station rail line. The Government recently announced its intention to proceed with the section between Sunshine and West Footscray later this decade and the Committee publicly applauded it for that. It trusts the work will provide significant improvements in travel time and can be completed within reasonable economic constraints.

Planning

The Committee lobbied the City of Ballarat to establish best practice processes and better resource statutory and strategic planning to assist and attract city development. To Council's credit, new processes are being implemented and the City has also initiated a State-wide Planning Review.

Membership

The Committee for Ballarat in its first year had the following members:

Executive:	19
Board members:	17
Corporate members:	61
Community members:	4

Round Table Dinner Series

Round Table Dinners are a means to assist in professional development, network with peers, gain and exchange ideas, extend lateral thinking and create more business.

The Round Table Dinners held include:

May 2005 Jenny Russell, Chairman, Telstra Country Wide Advisory Board, Sponsored by TelstraCountry Wide

September 2005 Doherty Ballarat Lodge, Andrew Hagger, Managing Partner Melbourne, PriceWaterhouse Coopers, sponsored by Victorian Securities

December 2005 Sovereign Hill, Launa Inman, Managing Director Target Australia, sponsored by Prime Television.

February 2006 Bell Tower, Richard Bluck, Executive Director, Leadership Victoria, sponsored by The Courier and Premier PR.

Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 31 March 2006

Revenue		
Memberships		
Executives	350,000	
Corporates	202,591	
Round Table	6,486	
Sponsorships	26,015	
Grants	38,000	
Donations	103,042	
Course Fees	48,500	
Interest	2,067	
		776,701

Expenses		
Accounting Fees	3,000	
Advertising & Promotions	89,449	
Bank Charges	536	
Depreciation	1,982	
Executive Director Salary	130,000	
Insurance	2,895	
Interest	5	
Legal Costs	8,482	
Meeting & Conference Expenses	11,091	
Motor Vehicle	8,477	
Office Supplies	3,443	
Project Development	5,000	
Round Table Expenses	44,442	
Salaries - LBWR Executive Officer	29,807	
Serviced Office	27,411	
Sundry Expenses	11,128	
Superannuation	2,683	
Support Services	76,221	
Telephone	11,411	
Travel & Accommodation	95	
		467,558

Initial Expenses		
Setup Costs	43,227	
Launch	3,379	
Deposit - Organised Success	9,091	
		55,697

Net Surplus		253,446
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Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2006

Reserves		
Current Year Surplus		253,446

Represented By:		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank		
Committee For Ballarat	91,482	
LBWR	59,534	
Lake Blitz	103,631	
Debtors	20,350	
Prepayments	4,550	
		279,547

Non Current Assets		
Office Furniture & Equipment	16,013	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	1,982	
		14,031
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards	3,314	
Creditors	10,963	
Sundry Creditors	21,071	
GST Owing	4,784	
		40,132

Net Assets		253,446
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Chair: Noel Coxall
Photo courtesy of The Courier.

Chair's Message

It is with great pride and pleasure that I submit the first annual report of the Committee for Ballarat and the first annual chairman's message.

While 2005 – 2006 has been a year of establishment and consolidation for your Committee, it has also been a year of action and achievement. It has had to be. The very existence of the Committee and the outstanding support it received from all of its members in all categories, during its formation and its first year, demonstrates that there was obviously a strong desire across Ballarat and region for immediate action. So we hit the ground running, with Project Specific Objectives which were "tangible, definable, measurable and achievable". Your Committee was active in helping to secure the Deer Park Bypass funding announced by the Treasurer, Peter Costello. It was intricately involved in pursuing further improvements in rail services to and from Melbourne, encouraging early upgrades in the presentation of major entrances to Ballarat and participating in the campaign to fund the \$3.42 m revitalisation of the foreshores of Lake Wendouree. It also successfully established the Leadership, Ballarat and Western Region program which holds the promise of delivering strong leaders across the region for many years to come. The jobsballarat website is a ground-breaking initiative which is already attracting great interest, not only among business, employment agencies and people seeking opportunities in Ballarat and the region, but throughout regional Australia.

Your committee has not left it at that, however. It has already set a course for the coming year which will address the critical issue of water supplies for the region, skills and workforce participation and concerns about policing and crime, along with a number of other priority projects detailed elsewhere in this report.

All this has occurred as your Executive Director, Ross Haby, has also worked industriously to put in place the administrative and communication processes which will ensure an efficiently run and effective Committee into the future. I take this opportunity to congratulate Ross on a job well done.

Most importantly, your Committee has built strong partnerships with key stakeholders from within the region and beyond. It will continue to do so as a matter of priority. This will not always be a simple process. There will be issues within which there are differences of opinion and to which there may be a variety of alternative solutions or approaches. At all times your Committee will keep the lines of communication open, remaining prepared to listen, while acting always on the basis of what you all agree is in the best interests of Ballarat and this region.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to the exciting agenda we have set ourselves for 2006 – 07. Well done to you all. I believe you have, together, given Ballarat and region a highly effective additional instrument through which to promote positive economic, social and cultural development.

I commend this report to you.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Noel Coxall", written over a dark blue background.

Chair: Noel Coxall



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Chair: Noel Coxall
Executive Director: Ross Haby

