



Tuesday, April 13

Media Release

Tackling issues and taking action

Highlighting issues and taking appropriate action for the benefit of Ballarat and region is the primary reason for Committee for Ballarat's existence - the importance of this objective will be reinforced tonight with a panel discussion about the major issues facing the region.

To be facilitated by 774 ABC Melbourne broadcaster Jon Faine, a panel of seven Ballarat media, community and business identities will hold a lively debate on six key topics. Committee members and guests also will have an opportunity to voice their opinions and join the discussion.

The Committee's annual exercise of gathering the views of its membership, the Key Issues process, has identified the topics of secure, sustainable water, community safety, Ballarat West's growth zone, leadership through Leadership Ballarat and Western Region, livability in the city and surrounding region and lifestyle and commitment to wellbeing as vital to Ballarat's growth and development.

Committee for Ballarat Chair Tony Chew said tonight's panel discussion would serve to further address these issues and identify appropriate action for the Committee in the future.

"Our members, through our annual key issues process, have identified these are the issues that need addressing now." Mr Chew said.

"Tonight will be an opportunity to flesh them out, ensuring that the Committee can move forward with the greatest possible certainty in the interests of its members."

Panel facilitator, Jon Faine, is well known to many as the host of 774's morning program.

"Anyone who listens to the program will know of his quick wit, firm grasp of current affairs and ability to ask hard-hitting questions. These qualities can only benefit our discussion and improve the outcomes," Mr Chew said.

Tonight's panel comprises Prue Bentley of ABC Radio; Angela Carey, Editor of The Courier; John Fitzgibbon, General Manager of Radio Ballarat; Jeremy Johnson, CEO of Sovereign Hill; Lynne McLennan, CEO of UFS Dispensaries; Steve Moneghetti, Ballarat Olympian and Glen Walker, General Manager Manufacturing of MaxiTrans.

The Committee for Ballarat Issues to Action Round Table Dinner is being held at Novotel Resort, Creswick, from 6.30pm.

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