



P.O. Box 1589 Ballarat Vic 3354
phone: (03) 5332 1240 fax: (03) 5334 4548
email: admin@committeeforballarat.com
web: committeeforballarat.com

MEDIA RELEASE

February 1, 2007

Promising start for Ballarat Cares

Around 40 Ballarat businesses were represented at a forum on Tuesday night to discuss the city's new corporate social support program, Ballarat Cares.

Operated under the auspices of the Committee for Ballarat, the program's vision is to consolidate a system of corporate volunteering in the city to assist social and community projects.

Tuesday night's meeting was also attended by representatives of Melbourne Cares which has already successfully established a similar program.

Melbourne businessman, Andrew Darbyshire, told the audience of how the program – releasing staff during working hours for corporate volunteering – has benefitted his business and employees, by dramatically changing their attitudes towards their fellow employees and customers.

Several Ballarat businesses at the forum completed expressions of interest in participating in the program and more are expected to follow in coming weeks.

Chairman of the Ballarat Cares Task Team, Bill Mundy, said the forum was a success and he was confident the proven need for additional volunteers to assist with community-based programs and projects in the city could be met.

“It is heartening to think so many people have shown such support. We are confident the Ballarat Cares concept can gain momentum in the weeks and months ahead for the benefit of the community,” he said.

**Contact: Bill Mundy, chairman, Ballarat Cares
0429.966.848**