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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**November 10, 2006**

### **Fernwood founder to speak in Ballarat**

Co-founder and managing director of the Fernwood group of women's health and fitness studios, Diana Williams, will speak at a Committee for Ballarat Round Table dinner on November 30.

Ms Williams will outline the rise of Fernwood. The company is now regularly one of Business Review Weekly's top 10 fastest growing private companies.

Fernwood is the largest organisation of its kind in the nation with 89% unprompted recall of its brand name, more than 80,000 members, 2,200 employees and an annual turnover of \$75 million.

Ms Williams has been honoured by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources for her contribution to Australian business and commerce. She was inducted into the Australian Women's Hall of Fame in 1999 and has published a book, "The Women's Club".

The dinner, sponsored by UFS Dispensaries and Peace and Quiet, will also feature the graduation of the 2006 inaugural intake of the Leadership, Ballarat and Western Region program.

Leadership Ballarat and Western Region (LBWR) is an initiative of the Committee for Ballarat to establish a regional leadership network consisting of creative and adept community leaders.

Executive officer, Meg Filip, said that while the 25 graduates from the initial program were all leaders in their own spheres when they started, all had grown in a way which would enable them to have a diversity of key leadership roles in the community at large.

LBWR chair, Judy Verlin, said she was confident the graduates from 2006 would form a solid foundation for the development of a rich and valuable resource for the region.

“The inaugural year has proven to be both challenging and rewarding to participants through its diverse range of topics and speakers,” she said.

The Round Table dinner will be held at the Ballarat Lodge and is a members only event.

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