

# connect

## In the Swim

On February, 17 Connect Networking members 'got in the swim', 'took a dip', 'jumped in the deep end' and generally 'had fun at the YMCA!'

It was a great way to start the year with a tour of the nearly completed 50 metre pool at the Ballarat & Aquatic Lifestyle Centre (BALC) in Gillies Street.

Members met up at the construction site gate, donned appropriate safety gear and were guided through a working building site by Scott Hunt, Nicholson Construction's project foreman.

From specialty water treatment, to air exchange, pool tiling, and the pool separation boom, Scott provided plenty of interesting information and dealt with many questions from interested Connect members.

The tour was followed by a presentation from YMCA's CEO, Colin Hunt, who outlined the history of the organisation (both worldwide and in Australia) as well as its plans for the future. His enthusiasm shone through, as did that of each of his team members who provided information on the facilities and programs available at the Lifestyle Centre.



*Jo, Cheryl and Kim ready for the tour*



*Connect Networking tour group suitably equipped for the tour of the pool construction site*

## In Brief

### May Event

Join us at 12 noon on May 21 at the new Provincial Hotel to hear about Sharon Knight's Leadership Journey.

Hopefully you have already received your invitation!

### Dates for your Diary!

Connect Networking events for the rest of 2015:

Thursday, 21 May

Friday, 10 July\*

Tuesday, 25 August

Thursday, 19 November

Events will be scheduled at lunch times, normally from 12 noon to 1.50 pm.

\*10 July will be an afternoon session (3.30 pm – 5.00 pm) followed by Xmas in July (5.00-6.30 pm)

### Committee has new home



Committee for Ballarat has moved offices. It is now located in the Old Brewery Complex, Tech Park Central, Lydiard Street South, Ballarat.

### Contributions welcome

To keep the newsletter interesting and one you want to read, we would welcome your suggestions (and contributions) for future editions.

We plan to publish four editions a year (summer – February, autumn – May, winter – August and spring – November).

Please email your thoughts and/or contributions to [gayle@committeeforballarat.com](mailto:gayle@committeeforballarat.com).

So that we get to know Connect members and understand the diverse skills and experience they bring to their roles, we will profile a Connect Networking Member in each issue of the Newsletter.

This issue CONNECT is profiling Susan Scott who is EA to David Battersby, Vice-Chancellor, Federation University Australia.

Susan Scott's recipe for success

# Hard Work and Initiative

Since leaving school at the end of Year 10 I trained as a stenographer – a shorthand typist -and started work at 16 years of age in a solicitor's office. My duties included taking dictation, typing legal letters on a manual typewriter and working a manual Sylvester switchboard. This job lasted 10 days.

I then worked for various companies in several different industries as a secretary. I was never particularly career minded, I just wanted a job I enjoyed doing but I always took pride in my work and wanted to do the job well.

I travelled overseas, got married, moved to the country. Stopped being married, moved back to the city.

I got a job as a secretary to a General Manager with OTC (Overseas Telecommunications Corporation), which shortly after merged with Telecom, and eventually morphed into Telstra Corporation. As a result of this process, I found myself in the Sydney office of the newly-appointed CEO for Telstra who worked between Sydney and Melbourne. His main office and support were in Melbourne but he lived in Sydney.

Being the CEO of Telstra is a pretty busy job. Over the weekend, he would dictate letters into a dictaphone which I would then transcribe on Monday mornings. A lot of these letters were routine responses to correspondence we had received and it occurred to me that I could draft the responses when I gave him the incoming letters and the guy could have some of his weekends back. This proved to be a good move on my part, and after another restructure, I found myself as the Executive Assistant to the CEO of what was then Australia's largest company, both in terms of size and profit.

The letters got more and more complex, but by this time I could write in his style, had access to research material, and attended management meetings so I knew what the company's priorities were. I also started to write reports and recommendations.



All this, and some internal and external professional development, eventually led to a management role in Telstra where I was responsible for managing staff and a budget, delivering outcomes, achieving KPIs and all those other dreadful corporate-speak terms.

## Time for a tree change

It was incredibly challenging but very rewarding.

Thirteen years was quite enough so I did the tree-change and moved to Ballarat. I am now the Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor of Federation University Australia (formerly the University of Ballarat). I have been in this role since 2006. It is a great job and I hope it will be my last.

I didn't finish high school, I never thought about having a career, and I never had a five year plan. What I believe happened were two things: ***I always did the best I could*** whether it was working in a factory, typing a letter or implementing a staff training program. And secondly, ***I showed some initiative***. If I hadn't started preparing responses to those letters instead of just transcribing them, I doubt I would have been noticed and wouldn't have been given other opportunities.

## Quotable Quotes!

*The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.*

*Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.*

Vidal Sasson

Winston Churchill

# Extraordinary Christine Nixon

On Thursday, 12 March 2015, along with a number of my work colleagues I attended the Ballarat Business Centre dinner at Jacksons & Co, featuring guest speaker Christine Nixon.

What a great evening it was, and whatever your perceived ideas on the 'media' Christine Nixon were,



they were quickly changed as soon as Christine got up to speak. She is quietly spoken, humble and so easy to listen to – there wasn't a sound in the room.

Christine spoke about

her journey as a woman inside a man's world, describing the experiences that have shaped her commitment to a model of policing as a community service, committed to caring for society's most vulnerable. She spoke about succeeding in a man's world, about leadership, teamwork and resilience.

Christine's advice was – "you don't have to be perceived as hard edged and tough to become a successful women leader but you do need to learn not to undersell yourself". Take the opportunities when they are presented to you.

## Her heroes are ordinary people

Christine was asked about who she looked up to in life, and apart from the obvious ones – Christine said her 'heroes' were the everyday people, the ones that got knocked down time and time again, but picked themselves up, they were the real heroes in life – the ordinary people who got up every day and tried to make a better place for themselves – 'ordinary people who do extraordinary things'.

Since April 2012, Christine has been Chair of Good Shepherd Micro Finance – a micro financing charity that offers interest free loans to the 2.2 million Australians under the poverty line. The loans help people move out of poverty, and take the first step towards independence, a step that in Christine's view is well overdue.

Christine has an extraordinary life. She has pursued and been given many opportunities. She has experienced the best and worst of human behaviour.

She has been highly praised and highly criticised but never ignored.

*Glenys Foy*

# St John of God Ballarat Hospital: A Century of Care

St John of God Ballarat Hospital is celebrating the significant milestone of 100 years.

The Sisters of St John of God came to Ballarat in response to a call from Bishop Higgins. Their services were required to help care for people in the community who were suffering from infectious diseases, such as diphtheria and typhoid.

In Ballarat, while the Sisters were invited to establish a hospital by the Bishop, it took some time, due to the impact of World War I and a reluctance to go to a hospital run by Sisters.

St John of God Ballarat Hospital Chief Executive Officer, Mr Michael Krieg, said over the years the hospital has seen many changes and much progress. "Thankfully, Bailey's Mansion was retained through all of this and has recently been renovated to restore some of its former glory," Michael said.

Today, the hospital is a modern and vibrant health care facility, boasting some of the best equipment, facilities, doctors and staff in the country. It is consistently rated in the top 25 per cent of private hospitals by patients – a testament to the care provided by the hospital team.

Today, services range from providing emergency care, medical and surgical treatment, obstetrics, cardiology, rehabilitation to mental health. Support is also provided to the community through social outreach facilities which are predominantly funded by the hospital.

The hospital is part of the broader St John of God Health Care organisation. While the Sisters now no longer play an active part in the hospital, the larger organisation ensures that it continues to live by the mission and values that they instituted.

St John of God Ballarat Hospital will continue to provide the highest quality care to the community of Ballarat and surrounding region.



*Bailey's Mansion, an important Ballarat landmark*