



February 2006

Nillumbik HomeBiz Networker

Welcome to the first edition for 2006. We hope that this year will be a successful one for you, your business and the Nillumbik HomeBiz Network!

A newsletter for local home-based business operators.



36 HBB Networkers enjoyed a friendly & relaxed Christmas break up.

We would like to hear from you and encourage you to submit any interesting business based articles.

Send your articles to
julie.french@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Your new Advisory Group

Welcome to this year's HBB Network Advisory Group. This group works closely with the Tourism & Business Development Unit at Council to plan and develop the Nillumbik HomeBiz Network. This year they will be working hard to establish the group and move it towards a more formal and self-sufficient group that will eventually be completely member run and directed – that is, if that's the desire of members.

The Advisory Group consists of Marilyn Andrew of Mind Matters, Nicola Baaini of NJB Consulting and Business Support, Daryl Brooke of Business Diagnostic and

Solutions, Gerald Hynes of Shamrock Consulting, John Jacobson of Gold Rush Technology, Chris Livingstone of Dinkum Digital, Catherine Mearns of Australian Gift Hampers, Sue Schreiber of Advanced Fireworks Australia and Peter Wilton of Premium Lifestyle Financial Solutions.

Make yourself known to any of the Advisory Group members at the networking night. They will be glad to hear of any feedback or suggestions on how to improve the Network and ensure it is relevant and valuable to you and your business.



Expo Business Breakfast 2005

Membership and you

As many of you know, this year we have taken the step of creating a membership base for the Nillumbik HBB Network. We believe that this will enable the Network to develop a strong identity and build a base for a sustainable organisation to develop into the future.

Your membership will get you:

- free entry to the monthly networking nights;
- attendance at the fortnightly breakfast meetings (members only);

- eligibility to participate in the annual business expo (held in October); and
- a listing on the online business directory (including a link to your website if you have one).

For 2006 the membership fee is \$77 per business, including GST.

Membership forms can be downloaded at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Business and Tourism > Nillumbik HomeBiz Network.



Networkers at work!

Do you have an issue?

Each month a part of the network night consists of an Issues Forum. This is an opportunity for a more informal discussion of issues that affect members. We have found that one way of making this a dynamic and interesting session is to have a member share their "story" of an issue they are struggling with or a success they'd like to share. At one meeting Angela Chan shared her

difficulties in protecting her design and in promoting her new product effectively. The ideas that came from the group discussion were not only invaluable to Ange, but to many other of the members present.

If you have a "story" you'd like to take to the Issues Forum, write it up in 25 words and send it to the Advisory Group c/o julie.french@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Coming up in 2006

The first network event for 2006 will have as its topic: ***Staying in touch whenever, wherever you are.*** Neale Wigney from Telstra Countrywide will be talking about the different technology that is available for businesses to communicate with.

Neale will talk about broadband on an overall scale and will cover topics such as the different types of fixed line broadband, ISDN, satellite and ADSL. He will also cover the latest wireless products that can be connected to your laptop and will talk about mobility, products that are available to use when you're out and about.

OH&S for the home office

Being able to get the most out of the hours you spend at your desk means having the right posture. Make sure your computer screen is at the appropriate height so that your eye is just above the first line of text, that your seat is correctly adjusted for your height and take regular breaks to relieve

You do need to book and the cost is \$15 to non-members (no cost to financial members). Please call Julie on 9433 3315 or register online.

The **March** meeting will be about how you can harness the internet to build your business with Craig Reardon. Craig is a very popular speaker on e-marketing and e-business.

The **April** meeting will take a financial focus with speakers from Gensys Wealth Advisers talking about estate planning and insurance.

stress and fatigue in the spinal column. The University of Sydney's Office of Risk Management has a great deal of information on ergonomics at www.usyd.edu.au/risk/ohs_manual/ergonomics/ergoguide.shtml

A note about the member breakfasts

In addition to the monthly network nights, a group of HomeBiz members have organised a fortnightly breakfast meeting for members only. These meetings are unstructured, provide a forum to talk about current issues in your business in a 'safe' environment and enable members to establish and build relationships for possible business alliances and referrals. The breakfasts happen every 2nd Tuesday at 7am at Alta Vita in Eltham. For more information call Daryl on 0433 948258.

For more information about the HomeBiz Network call Julie French on 9433 3315

"Not only is NETWORKING an essential life skill, it is also the most basic business building tool in today's competitive market." Robyn Henderson, global networking specialist.