



March 2007

Nillumbik HomeBiz Networker

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government under its Regional Partnerships program.

*Welcome to the
March 2007
edition of the
Networker*

*If you would like to
contribute any
interesting business
based articles for
future HomeBiz
newsletters, please
let us know.*

Send your articles to
lucinda.flynn@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Reminder:
Official Launch
of the HomeBiz
Network

Thursday 19th April 2007

Launched by the Hon.
Fran Bailey MP

**Free to members: \$25pp
for non-members**

RSVP:

Lucinda on 9433 3332

Julie on 9433 3315

info@hbb.org.au

www.hbb.org.au

From the President

Hi Nillumbik HomeBiz Network members. It's interesting to consider the diversity and the sameness of our group. There are times it's obvious we are almost on different planets and then the next day we realize the planets are in the same universe and in fact have much in common. The opportunity is to see beyond the diversity and then use it to develop what we have in common.

Easier said than done, but if as a group we can keep this opportunity in sight all the time, we will all contribute and benefit.

Very soon we will launch ourselves as an incorporated association. We have the enthusiastic direct support of both local and national government in this launch. We could ask ourselves why our little group has this level of support. Why do these levels of government care? Look no further than what we have in common, despite our diversity.

- In terms of numbers, home based business is huge.
- We are a major employer and driver within the economy.
- We are a very environmentally sustainable form of business.
- We are the most adaptable and flexible form of business.
- We are people who work in our businesses and often do not get help when we need it.
- We are a very difficult sector of the economy to reach.

The Nillumbik HomeBiz Network brings us together when we are normally very spread out. It provides opportunities for support, development, and help. And it gives us business colleagues to talk to and do business with. We are important to Australia. We need to be important to each other.

Kind Regards,
Daryl Brooke
President, Interim Committee, Nillumbik HomeBiz Network

Bulletin Board coming to the HomeBiz website

One of the things the Committee agreed on recently is to have a Bulletin Board developed for the HomeBiz website, on which members (it will be a members only login) can ask each other questions, advertise special offers, notify each other of events...and whatever else they wish to discuss. We have wanted a Bulletin Board for quite some time but had to wait for resources to commission it. This will be a real bonus for members in allowing them access to each other away from Network nights/ breakfast meetings. Watch this newsletter for updates on the progress of the Bulletin Board!

HomeBiz Members at work

Of interest:

Small business owners and the self-employed can claim a full tax deduction on any contributions they make to super, up to 100,000 a year, if they are over 55 after July 1st.

They also qualify for the co-contribution scheme where the government will put up to \$1,500 into your super fund if you put in \$1,000 and earn less than \$58,000 a year. You can salary sacrifice and then make a co-contribution payment, but it must be from after-tax income.

(From 'Small Business Review', the Age, March 18th 2007)

For more info on tax and super, go to www.ato.gov.au/super

Name Tag heaven?

I'm not sure where all those name tags disappear to after Network nights...but if any of you have a drawer full of name tags that have been not been able to find their way either back to me or on to a better place, BRING THEM ALONG to the next event you attend and we'll give them their old job back in the interests of reducing, reusing and recycling.



Report on the March network night and ensuing discussion.

Our March network night was attended by about 34 people, including several guests. Gary Honey (from Gary Honey Insurance) presented a clear and simple guide to what sort of Insurance issues small/ home based business owners need to consider to protect themselves from risk, and he answered lots of questions afterwards on more specific examples relating to individual business scenarios.

Following Gary's presentation, the closing announcements developed into quite a heated discussion on issues surrounding promotion by members to other members. In many ways, the occurrence of this discussion (while it was not necessarily pleasant for all concerned) has been beneficial in the longer term to the Committee, for several reasons. It has made us aware of the importance of developing a 'structure' for Network nights which outlines their purpose and content, and of having an established procedure for ensuring the structure is adhered to.

We were also made aware that new members really want to fully understand what the established values and purpose of the group are. One of the many things the committee has been working on in the last months and weeks is an information pack to be given to all new members at the time of their joining. Once it is

ready, it will contain a document outlining our mission and values, as was developed by Network members after our Open Forum last October which was held specifically to establish those things. In the meantime, we will ensure that all new members are sent a copy of our mission and values statement with their welcome letter, and members are reminded that this information is all on our website www.hbb.org.au as well.

We (the Committee) greatly appreciate continued feedback from people attending Network nights, both members and guests, and we do take notice of all your comments on what we can improve.

Members of the committee have contacted everyone who attended the last Network Night to gather feedback to be submitted to the next committee meeting for discussion. If you have further comments you would like submitted, please contact us on 9433 3315 (Julie) or info@hbb.org.au (Lucinda).

As new Association, we are aware that although our road is occasionally bumpy, what members have indicated they want and are striving towards (and what has already been created to a large degree) is a friendly, open, honest, network of home based business people who are above all supportive of each other as people. Through people developing their relationships with each other, all our businesses are naturally benefitted.

Family Business Week

Family Business Week (7-11th May) is an annual program of events which promises skills and support for families working in business. Sponsored by the Victorian Government, this year's Week has the theme of *Change and Challenge*.

More: Contact Gita Cohen on 9529 6177 or fbavic@fambiz.com.au

HomeBiz Breakfast meetings offer members a chance to discuss ideas and issues in a more intimate setting...



(photo by Chris Livingstone of Dinkum Digital)

Next breakfast meeting dates:

Tues 3rd April (Hurstbridge)

Wed 11th April (Eltham)

Tues 17th April (Hurstbridge)

More info & to rsvp:

Hurstbridge meetings: Daryl on daryl@bdsi.com.au

Eltham meetings: Mike on mike@extractive-consulting.com

Official HomeBiz Network launch :

On April 19th, 2007, the HomeBiz Network will be officially launched by the Hon Fran Bailey MP

At a special celebratory evening for all HomeBiz members, the Honourable Fran Bailey will officially launch the Nillumbik HomeBiz Network Inc. as a newly independent incorporated association.

In addition to being the Minister for Small Business and Tourism, Fran Bailey is our local member, who supported and advocated for our grant application to the Dept. of Transport and Regional Services, the receipt of which has supported us to follow our goal of incorporating.

Other special guests that will be invited are state politicians, local councillors, and presidents of the 6 local business associations (Hurstbridge Traders Association, Diamond Creek Traders Association, Eltham Chamber of Commerce, Nillumbik Tourism Association, and Eltham and Diamond Creek Rotary Clubs)

HomeBiz members are welcome to invite guests; at a cost of \$25 per head (night is free to members).

Come and celebrate the journey we have been on and our vision for the future!

Events & professional development opportunities...

Did you know we have a **HomeBiz Events Calendar**? It contains details on HomeBiz events, as well as information about external professional development opportunities, of which there are many excellent ones coming up. You can request a copy of the Event Calendar to be emailed to you by contacting Lucinda on 9433 3332 or info@hbb.org.au

In addition to events listed on our HomeBiz Event calendar, there are many other events being held regularly by other associations and councils. If you want to keep track of what is on offer, we suggest you bookmark the following websites and check them regularly:

Manningham City Council:

<http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au> then go

to 'Community & Business' on left hand menu, then 'Business in Manningham', then 'Business Seminars', then click the link on the main page 'Manningham Business Seminar Calendar'.

Banyule City Council:

<http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au> then go to 'Business' link on left hand menu, then on main page top of page menu, click 'Business Development and Training Opportunities'.

City of Whittlesea Business Pages:

<http://www.whittleseabusiness.com.au> then go to 'What's On' on the top menu bar.

Can you help?

We have a core committee who are working hard on establishing structures, policy, procedures and direction for the Network, but your help is still needed with some of the ongoing tasks of the Network. We need help with the following:

Visitor hosts at events: These peoples' job at Network Nights is simply to 'host' guests, introduce them around, and generally make them welcome. If you have been a member for a while and know a fair few other members, this is the job for you! You do not need to attend every night...you just need to agree to be a host whenever you do attend.

Registration table: We need one more person (or a couple who could share the job) to help Michelle on the registration table on Network nights.