

ILLAWARRA BUSINESS - Mercury

KPMG Wollongong put Coopers Brewery boss on tap at lunch

By GREG ELLIS
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Amanda Benson, Warwick Shanks, Glenn Cooper and Courtney Tildsley at the first of a series of KPMG Wollongong business networking functions delivering useful tips to business people. Picture: GREG ELLIS

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The partners at KPMG Wollongong have hosted Coopers Brewery chairman Glenn Cooper at a dinner at City Beach Function Centre, the first of many as KPMG Wollongong plans to bring speakers capable of delivering different perspectives to local business.

Warwick Shanks said what he took away from Mr Cooper's address was the importance of understanding your advantages and playing to your strengths, recognising the power of positive messages from your customers and clients and sharing them, not forgetting or underestimating your own personal impact on the culture and values of a business and being proud of your company whenever you have any opportunity to represent it.

"What we wanted to do tonight is launch what we see as a new concept for the region," Mr Shanks said.

"It is a different type of networking event."

What the KPMG partners are proposing is a club for private businesses likely to be called the PB Club. It would meet once a quarter with the overall aim of helping private businesses help each other.

Opening windows

eCareers Academy founder Brian Horan is guest speaker at the next Illawarra Women in Business networking lunch at The Grandstand on July 25.

Mr Horan is the principal counsellor at the careers counselling consultancy, but in 2010 founded the international corporate training organisation Empowering Training Solutions and has also published a personal development novel called New Windows of Opportunity that aims to inspire teenagers and young adults to find their passion and purpose in life and to fulfil their potential.

Unlocking business

The Illawarra Business Chamber is hosting an executive lunch at City Beach on August 22 on Improving Illawarra's Transport Connectivity.

The chamber sees improving connectivity to Sydney as a top priority for businesses and the broader community, with a potential to unlock economic opportunities.

It is inviting people to join in the discussion about how the Illawarra could benefit from improvements and how we might all be able to work together to clearly identify a strategic list of infrastructure projects.

PricewaterhouseCoopers partner Mark Streeting is providing an overview of the findings of a recent study comparing the quality and access of the Illawarra's connectivity to Sydney to other comparable cities in Australia and overseas.

Integrated vision

The SMART Infrastructure Facility has developed an integrated planning tool called Vision Illawarra as part of the Global Challenges project 'Our Region, Our Future: Building a Collective Vision for the Illawarra'.

The development of the tool followed recognition that an integrated approach was needed to consolidate the many planning tools used across the region. SMART research director Prof Pascal Perez wants the July 25 round-table to demonstrate the model, seek input and discuss how local businesses and organisations could benefit from such a dynamic planning tool.