

**FAST FACT** | In Little Rock, Arkansas, an antiquated law warns that engaging in lascivious banter may result in a 30-day jail term.

# Work flirts come back

It's not unprofessional, says new book

**Workplace** | Hamish Heard

AFTER years lost in the wilderness of political correctness, flirting is making a triumphant comeback to Melbourne workplaces.

Whether it's a flutter of the eyelids, the decision to wear a shorter skirt or a cheeky wink at a prospective employer, Melbourne corporate gurus have declared flirting back as a short cut to success.

Lawyer, chartered accountant and business coach Rhondalynn Korolak happily admitted to owing at least some of her corporate success to an ability to win over the opposite sex.

"I like to think of it as using my assets for good, not evil," she said.

Ms Korolak, a motivational speaker and author of self-help books including *On the Shoulders of Giants*, said flirting should not be considered unprofessional.

"In business settings I tend to wear a lot of French-cuff shirts," she said.

"I'm not coming across with a lot of cleavage so I find other ways to bring across the femininity, whether it be just winking at someone or smiling or having a bit of a laugh with them. If you and I

were sitting in a waiting room waiting to speak to the CEO of a company, I would have an advantage over you if it's a man simply because I'm a woman."

Melbourne life coach, image consultant, entrepreneur and author Ben Angel said the renaissance of flirting at work was long overdue.

"I think with political correctness we've really gone too far and it has actually damaged our relationships, so it's good to be coming out of that," he said.

In a chapter of his new book, *Sleeping Your Way to the Top in Business*, the 28-year-old teaches flirting as a way to build instant rapport with clients, bosses or co-workers.

But Dr Sara Charlesworth, an RMIT academic specialising in gender equality, said flirting was unprofessional and more likely to hinder careers.

Research showing women were falling further behind men in the corporate ranks showed that getting ahead required more than batting an eyelid.

**What do you think of flirting in business? Tell us at [melbourneleader.com.au](http://melbourneleader.com.au)**



Ben Angel with Rhondalynn Korolak

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# Student protest

**Education** | Hamish Heard

VICTORIAN College of the Arts students have declared a week of protest against job cuts and course reforms they say will kill the institution's creative reputation.

The students have joined forces with celebrities, including Julia Zemiro from TV's *Rockwiz*, to condemn University of Melbourne's plans to sack 220 workers and drastically reform course structures with the controversial Melbourne Model.

A series of protests kicked off yesterday, with hundreds of students rallying at the Southbank campus.

Save VCA member Zoe Boesen said a week of spontaneous public performances, large-scale art installations and a "silent symphony" would spring up around the CBD all this week.

"What's going to happen with the introduction of the Melbourne Model in 2011 (is) all of the courses will be more than 50 per cent academic, which means instead of dancers training to be dancers physically and painters learning to paint, they'll be sitting in lecture theatres and writing about it," Ms Boesen said. "That has some pretty dire implications for the quality of artists that are going to graduate from this place."

The week of protest will end on Friday with an 11am march from VCA to Parliament House where MP Heidi Victoria and stage musical writer John-Michael Howson will address the demonstration.



## City of Yarra, Your Community, Your Council

**Customer Service Guarantee**

Council has recently introduced a Customer Service Guarantee with 60 specific targets to improve its customer service for the Yarra community.

Here are some of the targets Council has set to improve its waste services:

- Damaged bins will be repaired on site at time of collection where possible. Reports of broken bins will be attended to within 2 working days of being reported.
- Replacement bins will be provided within 1 day of being reported.
- A hard rubbish collection will be provided within 10 days of being requested.
- A green waste collection service will be provided within 10 days of being requested.
- Our Rapid Response team will investigate reports of litter and dumped waste for prosecution within four hours of it being reported.

To find out more about Council's Customer Service Guarantee, visit [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au) or call 9205 5555.

**What's on at the Alphington Community Centre**

**Exercise for adults with limited mobility** - Suitable for people who use wheelchairs or walking frames or are recovering from injury. Every Monday at 10.15am-11am at \$6 per person, including a cup of tea or coffee afterwards.

**Special Needs Playgroup** - The playgroup provides a safe and supportive environment for families of children with a disability or a chronic medical condition. The playgroup also provides an opportunity for parents to socialise and share ideas with others who understand the caring role. Tuesdays from 1pm-3pm. Call 9499 7227 for more information.

Yarra's nine Neighbourhood Houses offer a wide range of activities that cater for everyone in the community. For details, visit [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/Council/Community Information](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/Council/Community%20Information).

**2009 Business Expo**

Get the edge in business at the City of Yarra Business Expo to be held on Thursday 17 September from 10am-5pm at the Richmond Town Hall.

Discover a range of exciting products and services, meet industry and government experts and attend free seminars. The expo will be followed by a cocktail reception at Church 364, headlined by Kevin Sheedy.

For more information and to register, visit [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/Business](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/Business), email [business@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@yarracity.vic.gov.au) or call 9205 5555.

**Room to Create Forum**

Council's Room to Create Forum Series aims to stimulate discussion and debate in the arts sector and wider community.

Jenny Pemberton-Webb of Dandenong City Council is the keynote speaker at the last forum of the series titled, 'Public Art - What's that about?'

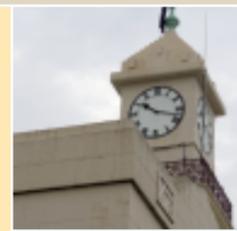
The free event will be held on Monday 24 August, 6pm-8pm at the Fitzroy Town Hall Reading Room.

For more information, call Arts and Cultural Services Development Officer Fiona Hillary on 9205 5038.

**All Abilities Basketball**

The new All Abilities Basketball Program for 8-15 year olds with a disability runs from 10 October until 5 December. The eight week program costs \$75 including registration, insurance and some equipment to take home.

Free 'come and try' sessions will be held on 5 & 12 September from 11.15am-12.15pm at Collingwood Secondary School so participants can try out the program and meet the coaches. For more information or to register, contact Access All Abilities Officer Peter Mitten on 9205 5756 or email [peter.mitten@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.mitten@yarracity.vic.gov.au).



**COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday 18 August  
Fitzroy Town Hall  
Time: 7.00pm

For more information visit our **Website:** [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au) or **Telephone:** 03 9205 5555 **TTY:** 03 9421 4192 or **Interpreter Services:** 03 9280 1940

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