

# **AMBLESIDE NEWSLETTER**

## **AUTUMN EDITION**

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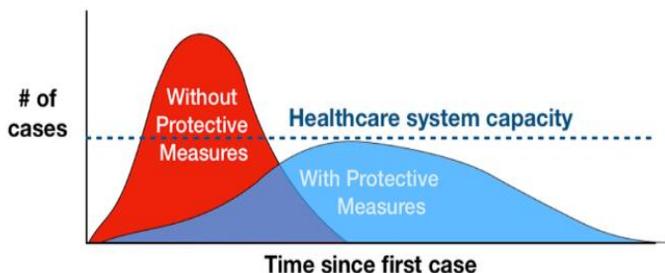


## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. This comes at a time where we are seeing an unprecedented series of events that two months ago seemed to be a problem restricted to the other side of the world. It is now very close to home with sharemarkets plummeting and major events such as the F1 race in Melbourne being cancelled.

While the initial response was around containment there is now widespread acknowledgement it will spread in the community and can't be stopped. According to ABC reports the NSW Chief Medical Officer predicts about 1.5 million NSW people (20% of the population) could contract the virus. The vast majority of these infected people will fully recover, only experiencing mild flu like symptoms.

The chart below shows why slowing the spread of the virus is so important. While it is expected to be widespread medical authorities simply cannot deal with everyone getting sick at once. They want to spread the cases over a period of time, keeping it below the healthcare system capacity.



Adapted from CDC / The Economist

I've met with a number of people lately who have overseas travel planned in the next six months. There is significant risk further travel restrictions will be imposed that may prevent travel. We recommend you check your travel insurance policies to check if you've covered.

A key issues to consider is when your travel insurance policy was taken out. An alert was 23 January 2020 and if your policy was issued after this date you are not likely to be covered. You should also check if the country you're travelling to has been issued a 'Do Not Travel' alert, as this may also void your policy. This currently includes China, parts of Italy, parts of Korea and Iran. Note these regularly change and can be checked at <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/>.

## MARKET UPDATE

As at close of business Thursday the ASX 200 is at 5,305, down 1,858 or 26% from the high of 7,163 that was set on 20 February. It is incredible what can happen in the space of three weeks.

The obvious contributor is the Coronavirus, and the restrictions this is placing on travel and trade. It is expected this will soon extend to workplaces in Australia, where people will be asked to work from home. Linked to this is the possible closures of schools, and how parents will juggle work and childcare commitments.

The second factor, which caused a 7% market drop on Monday 9 March, was Russia and Saudi Arabia dramatically increasing their supply of oil and forcing the oil price down. This was largely to try and bankrupt the US shale oil industry, which has a much higher cost of production.

In response to this crisis the Reserve Bank of Australia has dropped interest rates from 0.75% to 0.50%, with all the major banks passing this on to mortgage holders. While further cuts are expected the RBA doesn't have a lot of room to move with interest rates already so low.

The second, and probably more meaningful, response has been the government announcing a \$17.6bn stimulus package. This will provide money to small and medium businesses, welfare recipients, apprentices and health care. We will continue to monitor the market response and please contact us if you have any queries on your situation.

# AMBLESIDE'S FOOTY TIPPING REMINDER



# WALKING OFF THE WAR WITHIN

Just a reminder, if you haven't already, please get your footy tips in for our 2020 competition. The first game starts Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Give Brooke a call at the office if you need help getting your tips in!

Go to the link below:

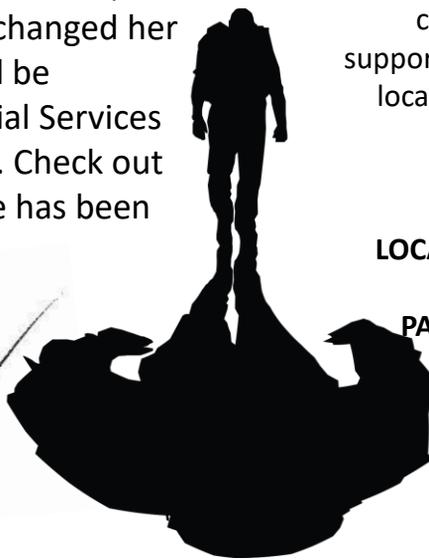
<https://www.footytipping.net.au/cgi-bin/ambleside/comp.cgi>



## IT'S OFFICIAL!!! CAITLIN IS NOW A WALKER!

A quick message to let you all know, Caitlin Mason has officially changed her surname to Walker. You will be provided with a new Financial Services Guide to reflect this change. Check out Caitlin's new signature – she has been practising!!

C. Walker



We are proud to sponsor the Walking Off the War event being held in Warrnambool on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Walking Off The War Within objective is to raise awareness to help fight depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and to shake off the stigma associated with mental health. Walking Off The War Within will see Emergency Service Personnel, Defence Force Personnel and members of public join to walk in memory of Nathan Shanahan, a returned soldier and firefighter, and other fallen Service Men and Women who have taken their own lives after battling mental health issues. Nathan was a fierce advocate for mental health and PTSD; sadly, Nathan lost his battle in December 2016. Walking Off The War Within is one-way Nathan's legacy continues.

**The Challenge** – complete the ultimate 20km with 20kg or... ..walk any distance you can – with or without a pack.

**A family event** – The day is designed for families to enjoy together, people of all abilities and ages are encouraged to walk. A free BBQ supplied by RSL Active and RSL Warrnambool Sub – Branch.

**The course** – the event will be held again at Kiwanis BBQ (near the curly slides) at Lake Pertobe, Pertobe Road.

**Register for Free, \$10, \$25 or donation** – This is an inclusive event that is available to everybody.

Register for \$0, \$10, \$25 or a donation of your choice. Money raised through ticket sales supports event costs with proceeds donated to local charities that work in the field of men's mental health and suicide prevention.

**DATE:** Sunday 22 March, 2020

**TIME:** 8am muster for 8:30am walk

**LOCATION:** Lake Pertobe, Lake Pertobe Road (near the curly slides)

**PARKING:** There is ample parking available around the precinct



## CAITLIN – CONCESSION CARDS

Concession and health care cards are issued by Centrelink and allow you to get cheaper health services, medicines and general services such as utilities and transport. There are a range of cards and sometimes you may be eligible for more than one type.

Centrelink is responsible for delivering payments and services for the Australian Government. Centrelink was previously part of the Department of Human Services but this department has recently been renamed to Services Australia.

The benefits for each card can get confusing and are of course subject to regular review. The following link provides a great summary of the benefits for each card:

<https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/concessions-eligibility-calculator>

**Health Care Card (HCC).** This card is for people who already receive another payment or supplement from Centrelink. There are a wide range of payments that qualify but the most common are Age Pension and Newstart.

More information can be found at:

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/service/s/centrelink/health-care-card](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/service/s/centrelink/health-care-card)

**Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card (CSHC).** This card is for people who have reached age pension age, but are not eligible receive the age pension (for example asset value too high). You must meet an income test to receive this card, but it is higher than the age pension. More information can be found at:

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/service/s/centrelink/commonwealth-seniors-health-card](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/service/s/centrelink/commonwealth-seniors-health-card)

**Low Income Health Care Card (LIHCC).** This card is for people over 18 years. You must meet an income test to receive this card. Although the benefits are similar you can be eligible for both the CSHC and LIHCC at the same time. More information can be found at:

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/service/s/centrelink/low-income-health-care-card](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/service/s/centrelink/low-income-health-care-card)

**Seniors Card.** This is a state based card for people over the age of 60. It is independent of the Centrelink cards listed above and there is no income or assets test. There are two versions, the seniors card if you are working less than 35 hours per week; and seniors business discount card if you are working more than this. There are a wide range of businesses and services that provide discounts, and more information can be found at:

[www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/seniors-card/discount-directory](http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/seniors-card/discount-directory). One of the more popular benefits is the significant discounts for public transport.

If you would like any further information on these cards please contact the office.



# LAWN BOWLS CORPORATE CUP!

During the month of February we participated in the Corporate Bowls competition down at the Warrnambool Lawn Tennis Bowls Club. Big thanks to Marian and Rob for helping to organise the event each week, it was great fun!



## BROOKE'S STICKY DATE PUDDING



### Ingredients:

250g pitted dates  
1 teaspoon bicarbonate soda  
1 ½ cups boiling water  
125g butter, softened  
1 cup of brown sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 eggs  
1 ¾ cups self-raising flour

### Caramel:

1 cup brown sugar  
300 ml thickened cream  
½ teaspoon vanilla

### Method:

1. Set oven to 180
2. Place dates, bicarbonate soda and boiling water in a bowl and leave for 20 minutes
3. Beat butter, sugar and vanilla until light and creamy. Add eggs one at a time. Add date mixture and flour and mix until well combined.
4. Spoon mixture into greased pan and cook for 35-40 minutes (alternative, use muffins tins to make individual cakes and cook for about 15 minutes)
5. Meanwhile; place all caramel ingredients in a saucepan and cook over medium heat while stirring until it boils, reduce heat and simmer for 2 minutes  
Pour caramel sauce over cake and serve with ice cream.

# DONATE FOR THE KIDS CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

THANK YOU! During the Christmas period we teamed up with FM Maher & Associates again to collect toys for the Christmas Toy Drive. Beyond the Bell were very grateful for the generosity that was shown and have kindly sent us through a letter of thanks to share with you 😊



Warrnambool Local Action Group

Ambleside Wealth Advisors  
192 Koroit Street  
Warrnambool VIC 3280

1<sup>st</sup> January 2020

Dear Ambleside Wealth Advisors,

On behalf of Warrnambool Local Action Group and I write to offer our sincere thanks for supporting the Donate for the Kids Christmas drive in 2019.

During the year the Donate for the Kids initiative supports disadvantaged students by giving them the school essentials. Items such as socks, shoes, uniforms and toothbrushes seem like basic things but many children in our community don't have them. Each month the Warrnambool Local Action Group partners with one school to develop a list of 5 items for donation; a donation bin is placed in a local organisation each month and community members are encouraged to donate.

Christmas can be a particularly hard time for disadvantaged families, which makes the Donate for the Kids Christmas drive of particular import in our community. Thanks to your generous support of the initiative, Christmas gifts were delivered to families in need throughout Warrnambool. Donations were distributed by Warrnambool and District Food Share along with their Christmas hampers; Food Share volunteers selected an age appropriate toy and book for every child receiving a hamper. During the festive period, Food Share made Christmas brighter for 239 families (701 adults and 621 children). The impact of educational gifts at Christmas cannot be overstated. Food Share were overwhelmed by the volume of donations and reflected that it was bigger and better than the previous year.

Please pass on thanks to the staff, clients and community members who donated. We hope to partner with you again and continue to help families who are less fortunate.

With thanks,

Glenys Philpot  
Chair  
Warrnambool Local Action Group

PO Box 717, Warrnambool VIC 3280

[www.btb.org.au](http://www.btb.org.au)  
[info@btb.org.au](mailto:info@btb.org.au)



# UNDER INSURANCE

The reality of the east coast bushfires is now settling in for many people. Media attention has since switched to the Coronavirus, while people are left trying to rebuild their homes and businesses. There are also predictions we will see increased cases of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and even domestic violence, all stemming the fire crisis.

**Underinsurance** is when someone does not have enough insurance to cover the cost of loss or damage to the things they own, or are not insured at all. In this article I'm specifically referring to buildings and contents insurance, however it equally applies to personal insurance such as life, TPD, critical illness and income protection.

In many cases people thought they had enough cover, but the unique circumstances after the fire crisis meant they didn't. This can come down to people mistakably insuring their properties for their sale value, rather than the rebuild cost. Examples include not allowing for the extra costs of complying with new building codes and the increased costs of materials and trades when everyone is trying to rebuild at once.

Banks will often be at the front of the queue to claim insurance benefits. If you have a mortgage your bank may require payment of the mortgage, leaving no money to rebuild.

This then requires an application for a new mortgage, which can take time and may not be approved depending on your circumstances.

**What to do about it.** It is important to review your cover and understand how much you are insured for and what this will cover. An onsite visit from an insurance broker will help you accurately determine how much insurance you need. Online or over the phone insurance policies typically won't go into this level of detail. The outcome may be to increase your cover or, although not recommended, you may decide to remain underinsured if the premiums for full cover are too expensive.

A separate but related issue is the question of future insurability. As we have more bushfires and natural disasters there are increasing questions as to whether insurance companies will offer any insurance at all.

ABC have written a good article on the subject of under insurance, which can be found at:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-07/crisis-of-underinsurance-threatens-to-scar-rural-australia/11844992>

## GENERAL ADVICE WARNING

Any advice or information in this publication is of a general nature only and has not taken into account your personal circumstances, needs or objectives. Because of that, before acting on the advice, you should consider its appropriateness to you, having regard to your objectives, financial situation or needs. Past performance is not a reliable guide to future returns.



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