

AMBLESIDE NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- + A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL
- + MARKET UPDATE
- + HOT CROSS BUN PUDDING
- + LAWN BOWLS
- + AMBLESIDE'S LATEST WORKSHOPS
- + MEET PAIGE
- + MOVING INTO AGED CARE
- + TOY DRIVE THANK YOU LETTER
- + NON-BANK LENDERS

AUTUMN
EDITION





A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the Ambleside autumn newsletter. Thank you for the support given to our recent aged care and Peter Thornhill investment workshops. They were both great events and following your feedback we'll put together some more sessions later in the year for home buying and cash flow.

We've also been part of some great community activities over the summer period, many of which were organised and run by Ambleside clients. We fielded a team in the Lawn Tennis Bowls Club corporate bowls event and although finishing somewhere near the bottom, enjoyed some great evenings down by the lake.

I'd like to officially welcome Paige to the office who started with us in January. Paige is providing great support to Nicole and no doubt you'll talk to her on the phone or meet her in the office when you next come in.

Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to know more about anything in this newsletter.

REMINDER AFL TIPPING COMPETITION

Our AFL TIPPING SHEET is due by 20th March. The winner of the tipping at the end of the season will win a \$200 gift voucher of their choice, with the runner up taking out a \$100 voucher ☺



GUESS THE EGGS IN THE JAR!

We are running a fun little Easter competition in the lead up to Easter. We have filled up a jar with Easter eggs and we need someone to guess how many eggs are in the jar to win the entire lot! Call into our office over the next couple of weeks and take a guess. The winner of our competition will be announced on Wednesday 28th March.



MARKET UPDATE

Overseas and Australian markets have had a volatile start to year but the All Ords has continued to hold above the 6,000 point mark.

The recent volatility was largely due to concerns in the US that inflation was getting too high and Federal Reserve would respond by raising interest rates. Put simply the market was doing too well and people were getting nervous.

Despite this volatility the Australian market is up 4.3% on where it was this time last year, and when dividends are included this rises to 7.2%. This figure gets even better when you include the added benefits of franked dividends.

The Saputo and Murray Goulburn deal is dominating local news at the moment. It's good to see Saputo has taken steps to address ACCC issues concerning the Koroit plant and this should see the deal move forward.

At their March meeting the RBA once again left interest rates on hold at 1.5%, which makes it 17 consecutive meetings. The RBA acknowledges that "the low level of interest rates is continuing to support the Australian economy" so things are unlikely to change for a while. This decision will continue to fuel cheap borrowing which will hopefully result in a strengthening economy and eventual wage growth.

Source:
www.commsec.com.au
www.businessinsider.com.au

ADULTING 101

WANTS VS NEEDS

We see that sparkly shiny thing everyone else has, and we want it – now! And in our consumer-driven culture, we're subtly and sometimes not-so-subtly encouraged to gratify our every want and desire as they arise. Even if you're not living paycheck-to-paycheck, a critical part of reaching your long-term financial goals can involve analysing your spending habits, and cutting the fat. Below are some tips for differentiating between your needs and your wants.

NEED

In the purest sense, human needs can be broken down to air, water, food, clothing and shelter. In 2017, however, we can probably expand the "needs" column to include items such as transportation, electricity, and internet in the home. A simple way to identify your needs is to look at your monthly credit card or personal loan statement and ask: "Would the quality of my life be fundamentally lower without this expense, or would I struggle to perform my job?" If the answer is yes, this is probably something you really need.

WANTS

A trick to identifying wants is that they are often substitutable.

As an example, your pay TV subscription could be replaced by regular TV, a book from the library, or an evening of meditation or conversation. Your car wash service could be replaced by a mop and bucket at home, and an Italian cafeteria machine might do away with your \$5 takeaway morning latte. These things may not necessarily dictate your happiness and wellbeing as much as you might believe if push came to shove, and removing them brought you closer to your financial goals. As consumers we are taught to view these wants as needs. But an honest assessment of some of these items might find you viewing them otherwise.

ROOM FOR COMPROMISE?

The funny thing with needs and wants is that sometimes they are actually somewhat specific to the person. This grey area is where things can get tricky, and where it can help to give yourself some leeway. After you've worked out your universal needs around clothing, accommodation, and internet, the next step might be to determine your specific needs for personal happiness.

And then it may simply be a matter of limiting the damage to your budget around these personal needs. In the end, life would be no fun without a few guilty pleasures – so long as they don't jeopardise our long-term saving, investment, and financial goals.

Source: <http://www.thehippocket.com.au/adulting-101-wants-vs-needs/>

EASTER RECIPE



HOT CROSS BUNS PUDDING

Ingredients:

4 chocolate hot cross buns, split
25g butter, softened
1 tablespoon raspberry conserve
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1 1/2 tablespoons NESTLÉ BAKERS' CHOICE Cocoa
1 cup milk
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/3 cup double thick cream
Icing sugar mixture, to serve



Step 1

Lightly grease 4 x 11cm round (1 1/2 cup- capacity) microwave-safe dishes.

Step 2

Spread cut sides of each bun with butter, then raspberry conserve. Sandwich each bun back together. Cut each bun into quarters through the cross, keeping pieces together. Transfer to prepared dishes.

Step 3

Place sugar and cocoa in a jug. Gradually add milk, whisking until smooth and combined. Add egg and vanilla. Whisk to combine. Divide mixture evenly among dishes. Gently push buns down into egg mixture to cover.

Step 4

Cover each dish loosely with plastic wrap. Microwave, 2 at a time, on HIGH (100%) for 2 to 3 minutes or until custard is just set (see note). Dollop with cream and serve dusted with icing sugar.

LAWN BOWLS!

During the month of February, the team participated in the Warrnambool Lawn Tennis Bowls Club Corporate Cup competition. Although we didn't take home the trophy, we had so much fun along the way. If anyone has any tips to share so we can improve on our form for next year, please share!



AMBLESIDE'S WORKSHOPS

Throughout January and February, Ambleside has been busy hosting a few complimentary workshops. The first workshop was everything about Aged Care, where we discussed accommodation options, Wills, succession and estate planning, Centrelink fees, entitlements and other financial requirements that needs to be considered. A special thanks to our guest speakers Janette Edge from Lyndoch Living and Marcus Malseed from Jellie McDonald for presenting on their areas of expertise during the night.

The second workshops was about all the ins and outs of investing which was presented by Peter Thornhill. Peter's charismatic presentation provided guests with new found knowledge on what investing really means, what to look out for within the media and an insight into what you need to consider when investing in either the share or property markets.

We had a fantastic turnout for both of our workshops and we'd like to say a special thanks to those who were able to attend. We recognise how these events wouldn't be a success without your support. Our aim is to continue to hold workshops like these, which are focussed on providing you with valuable information regarding all aspects of the finance industry. In addition to this, we will be continuing to hold social events for you to enjoy as well, such as our Movie Night - so keep your eyes peeled for an invite midway through the year!

If you'd like any information regarding the workshops, please contact our Administration Officer, Paige on 03 5561 5180.



INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST ADMINISTRATION OFFICER PAIGE!



MOVING INTO AGED CARE

Moving into residential aged care can be at times overwhelming and quite daunting. Unfortunately, one of the common triggers prompting a move into care can be brought on by a sudden fall, stroke, or some other unexpected event. These occurrences then lead to families making decisions, which, if not thoroughly thought through, lead to regrettable consequences. But if the conversation is had and planning takes place, this type of heartache can be avoided.

There are a number of decisions to be made and aspects to consider such as:

- + which facility best suits your needs
- + what fees will you need to pay and how should you fund them
- + what should you do with your family home, and
- + what impact will the move into care have on social security benefits.

There are generally 5 steps to follow if you think you or a loved one may need to enter an aged care facility:

Get your care needs assessed: Before you can move into a facility you will need to have your lifestyle and health needs assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) member.

Find an aged care home: All facilities are different so doing your homework on which may be most suitable to your needs is important. Head to the My Aged Care website for more information www.myagedcare.gov.au.

Work out the costs: Aged care costs can be partially funded by the government, you may need to pay a number of different fees depending on your financial situation when entering care.

Apply for your place: A separate application will need to be completed for each facility and you may have to be put on a waiting list before a suitable room becomes available.

Move in: Prior to moving into your new home, you will be provided with an Accommodation Agreement which outlines the terms of your residency, your rights and responsibilities, and the rights and responsibilities of the facility you are moving into. This generally needs to be signed within a 28 day period of entering care.

Throughout this planning process, it's important to look at the costs involved in paying for Residential Aged Care. There are several types of fees that need to be paid, these include ongoing fees and accommodation fees. For more information regarding these fees, please give our office a call on 5561 5180.



I couldn't decide on just one, my favourite foods are chicken nuggets, lasagne and garlic bread.



Well I haven't travelled very far but my favourite place would have to be Byron Bay or the Sunshine Coast. I am hoping to do my first overseas trip this year though.



I don't own a dog personally but my grandparents do and I like to claim her as my own, her name is Zara.



My favourite movies would have to be Clueless, Harry Potter or Donnie Darko.



FOLLOW + LIKE US

By Anna Till

TOY DRIVE THANKYOU LETTER!



During the Christmas period we teamed up with FM Maher & Associates to collect toys for the Christmas Toy Drive . Last year, we donated all the toys to MacKillop Family Services. MacKillop Family Services were extremely grateful for the generosity that was shown and have kindly sent us through a letter of thanks to share with you 😊

**MacKillop
Family Services**

MacKillop Family Services was founded by the Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers and Sisters of St Joseph.

Dear Clients and friends of Ambleside Wealth Advisers

As you may be aware, James, Nicole and the wonderful team at Ambleside Wealth Advisers participated in our annual Christmas Gift Appeal at the end of last year. It seems like some time since Christmas 2017, and with us wrapping up the appeal the final action is to thank you for participating and supporting this generous initiative. We started the 2017 Christmas Appeal with a clear vision. It was to bring the spirit of Christmas to our local children and young people in care, it was to support their carers at a time when financial pressures are high and it was to allow our children and young people to feel a sense of belonging, to feel cherished and to have a day of fun and excitement.

I have shared many stories over the appeal time, but one that will stay with me is that of the young 5 year old boy and 6 year old girl that came into care 1 week before Christmas. These two children came with no personal belongings, only one set of clothes, one pair of shoes – no toys or special items, in fact they came into our office carrying all they had in a plastic bag. Because of the Christmas Appeal, we were able to set the foster carers mind at ease ensuring her that Christmas would be sorted for these children allowing her to devote her attention to helping the children feel safe and secure in this highly emotional time. Not only did you along with the team at Ambleside Wealth provide personal Christmas gifts for these children you left the carer feeling valued in her caring role, and this was only possible because of the powerful community spirit and generosity shown.

I will never be able to express the complete feeling of gratitude I felt when I arrived at the Ambleside office seeing a Christmas tree full of gifts donated for our local young people. I know you will never know their names or see their faces, but know that myself and our team know all 75 young people that received your gifts. The feelings of gratitude did not stop with our staff, our carers had never seen such generosity from a Christmas appeal and their faces said a thousand words.

Saying 'thankyou' is not enough to show our gratitude so we gifted the team at Ambleside with a tree to plant somewhere where you all can all see it grow, develop strong roots, get stronger everyday and at the right time you will see it bloom. Please let it remind you of the gift you have given our young people. One they will remember for a lifetime.

Again, thankyou for supporting our 2017 Christmas Appeal.
Kind Regards,

Tania Ferris
Mackillop Family Services Christmas Gift Appeal Coordinator

DID YOU KNOW... ABOUT NON-BANK LENDERS?

Deciding where to go for your home loan is one of the most important decisions you'll make. While many prospective property owners will choose to use a mainstream lender, non-bank lenders also have their advantages.

What are non-bank lenders?

Essentially, a non-bank lender is a lender that's not a bank, credit union or building society. It has its own source of funds, which it lends out with a margin for profit. A non-bank lender may also be a company or individual who borrows money from a bank at wholesale rates and then lends the money with a profit margin added. Most mortgage brokers work with both banks and non-bank lenders.

Potential benefits of a non-bank lender

There are several benefits associated with taking out your home loan through a non-bank lender, including:

- **Lower overheads, generally meaning lower fees.** Non-bank lenders usually have smaller overheads, because they have fewer offices and fewer expenses when it comes to marketing and labour. This should lead to lower fees and better rates.
- **Customer service.** Non-bank lenders try to offer a more personalised service because they tend to have a smaller database. It's likely that you'll be given more attention right through your home loan process, even after you've signed on the dotted line. Also, while you sometimes might deal with multiple people at a bigger bank, with non-bank lenders it's more likely that you'll be dealing with one person from the beginning.
- **Approvals.** Sometimes it can take a while to get a home loan approved by a big bank. With a smaller, non-bank lender, you may be approved more quickly because you're potentially talking to the loan decision-maker.
- **Range of choice.** Given the range of non-bank lenders out there, you have a decent chance of finding one that suits your particular needs and circumstances.

Go with what works for you

There are pros and cons for both big banks and non-bank lenders, so finding the right lender for you is what's most important. You'll be the one making the repayments, so you need to be happy with the rates, service and fees that are offered. Your mortgage broker is an ideal go-to person to discuss your situation and what might be right for you.

Source: <http://yourloanhub.com.au/2016/06/did-you-know-about-non-bank-lenders/>

GENERAL ADVICE WARNING

General Advice Warning: This advice may not be suitable to you because it contains general advice that has not been tailored to your personal circumstances. Please seek personal financial advice prior to acting on this information. Before making a decision to acquire a financial product, you should obtain and read the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) relating to that product. Opinions constitute our judgement at the time of issue and are subject to change. Neither, the Licensee or any of the National Australia group of companies, nor their employees or directors give any warranty of accuracy, nor accept any responsibility for errors or omissions in this document. The information in this document reflects our understanding of existing legislation, proposed legislation, rulings etc as at the date of issue. In some cases the information has been provided to us by third parties. While it is believed the information is accurate and reliable, this is not guaranteed in any way. Past performance is not a reliable guide to future returns.