



### **BRIAN'S BIT**

Nearly 50 years ago the phrase "Australia, the lucky country" was coined. The phrase has been applied as an endearment of all things Australian. The irony is Donald Horne's full quote "Australia is a lucky country, run by second-rate people who share its luck", in fact is critical of Australia

Horne's intent was to comment that, while other industrialised nations created wealth using "clever" means such as technology and other innovations, Australia did not. Rather, Australia's economic prosperity was largely derived from its rich natural resources. Horne observed that Australia "showed less enterprise than almost any other prosperous industrial society".

Back in the sixties Australia had an economic boom primarily fuelled by natural resources. Since then we have experienced the full gambit of economic episodes and in looking at Horne's comment, we are entitled to ask, has anything changed?

But rather than argue over what could have been, our energies will be far better directed to what will we do?

From all reports we have survived the GFC reasonably well but we are entering a period of economic uncertainty. The news is the expansion phase of our resource industry is being substantially reduced. The problems associated with the stubbornly high Australian dollar is now recognised by most of the media (We commented on the media's previous ignorance back in June 2011). For some the high dollar is exciting; that is if you are travelling overseas or importing goods into Australia. However if you are in the local tourist industry or exporting goods, a high dollar makes life

really difficult. It also impacts on Australia's ability to create any value added aspects to the resource industry. But it is simplistic to lay all of this at the feet of a high Australian dollar. Ford Australia's announcement that it was going to cease manufacturing in Australia included the comment that Australian car manufacturing costs are twice that of Europe and four times that of Asia.

It would seem therefore that as a country we are going to have to show our mettle and work harder and smarter. We can no longer rely on "lucky". The 2009 Telstra Business Women of the year Yvonne Bradley, puts down the success of her business to

DETERMINATION  
DILIGENCE  
DEDICATION

We congratulate our clients for continuing to forge ahead in adopting her credo and "making their own luck".

And as for lucky? I leave you with the following quote from Samuel Golding

"The harder I work the luckier I get"

### **CARPE DIEM**

#### **SUPERANNUATION GUARANTEE 9.25%**

Don't forget the rate increases from 9% to 9.25% as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 (A further increase to 9.5% starts on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014).

Also the upper age limit has been removed. This means eligible employees over the age of 70 are entitled to the Superannuation Guarantee of 9.25%.

## RETURNS WITH REFUNDS WILL NEED BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

According to the ATO, the fastest, most secure way to receive a tax refund is to have it paid directly into a nominated Australian bank account using electronic funds transfer (EFT).

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013, individual tax returns will generally require bank account details, including BSB and account number, to be entered, where a refund is expected.

Joint accounts and trust accounts will be acceptable.

## SUPERANNUATION TRUSTEES – TAKE NOTE

In August 2012 new rules were introduced, which require SMSF's Trustees to consider life insurance as part of the fund's investment strategy, and keep a written record of the decision including reasons for inclusion or exclusion of insurance. This doesn't mean life insurance is compulsory, the rule simply requires that Trustees consider and document an insurance strategy.

## TEXTING FOR SENIORS PART I

ATD – At the Doctor's

BFF – Best friends Funeral

BYOT – Bring Your Own Teeth

DWI- Driving While Incontinent

FWIW – Forgot Where I Was

GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low

LOL- Living on Lipitor

TOT – Texting on Toilet

Try googling [netlingo.com/acronyms](http://netlingo.com/acronyms) for the youngsters text code

## MY SUPER

Employers must have a nominated fund, or “default fund”, where they make super guarantee payments for employees who have not selected a preferred fund (by completing a choice of fund form). From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013, employers must make these contributions to a fund that offers a MySuper product: a new, simple and cost-effective super product that will replace existing default products. Super funds will be allowed to provide MySuper products from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013, and they will provide you with information to help with the changeover from existing arrangements.

## RELIEVE THAT STRESS

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.

## DIY BUSINESS

Thinking of starting your own Business?

In today's complex world we strongly recommend you obtain Professional advice BEFORE starting your own Business. But as you mull over the possibilities here's some preliminary things to consider:

1. Research and Preparation
  - Product and Market
2. Product and Branding
  - Point of difference
  - Business Name
3. Business plan
  - If you fail to plan you plan to fail
4. Business Structure
  - What is best for you
5. Professional Advice

Starting your own business may be daunting but with the right help you can make it happen. Our training and experience can provide that help and mentoring.

## END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

And another Financial year rolls to a close, which means it's time to start sorting through those papers and get your tax information together. We have included a 2013 Tax Return Checklist which we trust will be of some help in your endeavours.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek further advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.