

# Member Matters

Macquarie Credit Union  
straightforward, reliable banking

In this issue • 2011 Annual Dinner recap • Competitive Home Loan rates • Post Christmas finances

Drive, ride or cruise off into the sunset with a Macquarie Credit Union Summer Loan

Get into holiday mood faster with **0.5% pa off** our **Standard Variable rate** for your car, boat, caravan and motorbike!#

Call 1300 885 480 or visit [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au)



## Travel in the New Year

Nothing beats a summer holiday! Taking off overseas for a break can be exciting, but can also be stressful if something goes wrong. Whether you're relaxing at the pool in a 5-star resort or taking your backpack along the road less travelled, we have a few tips to make sure your holiday is everything you hoped for and you arrive home safe and sound.

### Stay healthy

Check with your doctor for information on recommended vaccinations or other precautions when travelling to your destination. Be informed so you can enjoy your time away!

### Be organised

Sometimes things get lost. Make photocopies of all travel documents, including airline tickets, passports, hotel vouchers, traveller's cheques, credit card numbers and your travel insurance policy and assistance contact numbers.

### Make the most of it

When you are on holiday is not a time you want to hold back. Ensure you have enough funds so that you can really enjoy the trip. If you're worried about your budget you may like to apply for a personal loan. With our low-rate personal loan you can have the funds you need to enjoy yourself. Give us a call on 1300 885 480 or visit our website at [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au) to find out more about our personal loan products.

### Keep in touch

Leave a copy of your travel itinerary with someone at home and keep in regular contact with friends and relatives while overseas.

### Access your funds anywhere

Register for a Cash Passport Card and lock in the exchange rate today. With access to over a million VISA ATMs worldwide you'll never have to worry about accessing your funds.

### Insure yourself

Comprehensive travel insurance is an absolute must. We provide great deals on travel insurance with CGU Insurance so you can relax and enjoy your holiday knowing you're covered if things go wrong. We cover lost luggage, travel delays, medical and dental expenses.

### Know the law

Stay informed about local rules and regulations. Consular assistance cannot override local laws, even where local laws appear harsh or unjust by Australian standards. For more information visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

**For information on how we can help to make your travelling experience as easy and enjoyable as possible, call us on 1300 885 480 or visit our website at [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au).**

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#Only applicable for: 1. Minimum loan amount of \$10,000. 2. Only applicable for vehicles up to 5 years old. 3. The applicant must: a) Provide 20% of the vehicle purchase price, includes trade-in if applicable, or b) Purchase of a Hybrid motor car. (A hybrid vehicle is vehicle that uses two or more distinct power sources to move the vehicle), or c) Purchase Swann Consumer Credit Insurance (CCI) offered by the Macquarie Credit Union. Note: If you cancel CCI during the credit period, you will lose the 0.50% per annum discount off our Standard Variable Rate. 4. Offer available until 29 February 2012. Eligibility Criteria, Terms & Conditions, Fees & Charges apply.





## Hello and welcome to Member Matters.

Hello and welcome to the summer edition of Member Matters.

On behalf of the staff of Macquarie Credit Union we hope you all enjoyed a safe and happy festive season.

I'd like to say a special thank you to everyone who participated in our

recent member survey. We really do value your feedback. It is great to see so many members getting in and filling it out. After all, it's important to find out how you think we're doing.

For all those members that came along to this year's Member Dinner at the Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo, keep a look out on page 4 of this newsletter for some great photos. It was reassuring to see so many of our members come along and have a great time. Also a special mention for 40 years service to Macquarie Credit Union for Chris Shepherd as Director and Chairman for those years.

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As we enter 2012, now is the best time to make sure you are financially ready for the New Year ahead. With summer in full swing, it is time to set up your financial goals so you can enjoy yourself without having to worry about any pressures. We have a range of products to help you get back on track. From Christmas club accounts to specialised home, car and personal loans and even financial advice, we're always here to help. Check out the recovering from Christmas spending article on page 3 for more information.

Once again in each edition of Member Matters we will be rewarding five lucky members with a \$50 cash prize. All you have to do is find your member number in this Member Matters and then call us to claim your prize before 31 March 2012. It's that easy.

Hope you enjoy this edition of Member Matters and we wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Regards,

Matt Bow, General Manager

**We wish to inform our members that our branch will be closed on Thursday the 26th January 2012 for the Australia Day public holiday.**

**Internet and Phone banking services will still be available to our members.**

**Have a great Australia Day!**



## Have you spotted your member number hidden throughout this newsletter?

If the answer is yes, you've just won \$50.

Each quarter five lucky members will win \$50 instantly just by reading our newsletter.

**Simply call us on 1300 885 480 before 31 March 2012 and it's all yours. Couldn't be easier!**

Terms and conditions apply and are available at [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au). This competition is authorised under NSW permit number LTPS-11-04347 and ACT permit number TP11/01922.1.



# Recovering from Christmas spending?

For many of us, taking stock of spending after the Christmas season leaves us with massive credit card and store card bills that can take months to clear.

But Christmas doesn't have to leave you struggling in the New Year if you plan ahead and budget.

Here are some simple tips to help you pay off your Christmas spending and avoid repeating the same mistakes again next year:

1. Avoid spending on your Credit card again until it has a zero balance.
2. If you are juggling multiple debts, for example store cards and credit cards, look at consolidating them into one low rate personal loan - you'll save interest and have only one repayment to worry about.

At Macquarie Credit Union we can help you work out a repayment plan and can also set up regular repayments from your salary. We have a wide range of debt consolidation options, from personal loans to a personal line of credit. Contact us on 1300 885 480. Alternatively, calculate your payments on one of our handy calculators at [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au).

3. Once you've paid off this year's Christmas debt, consider putting some of your savings into a Christmas Club Account. That way you'll be ready for next Christmas.

Our Christmas Club account makes sure you only get the funds just before Christmas and can't have access to it any other time in the year. Find out more on our website at [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au).

4. Try setting yourself a budget safety buffer, like saving 10% of your income. This is a good way to avoid getting into debt and you can even set up a direct debit from your pay into a high interest savings account.

At Macquarie Credit Union we can help you find a better way to manage your money and financial commitments.

For more information visit [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au) or simply give us a call on 1300 885 480.



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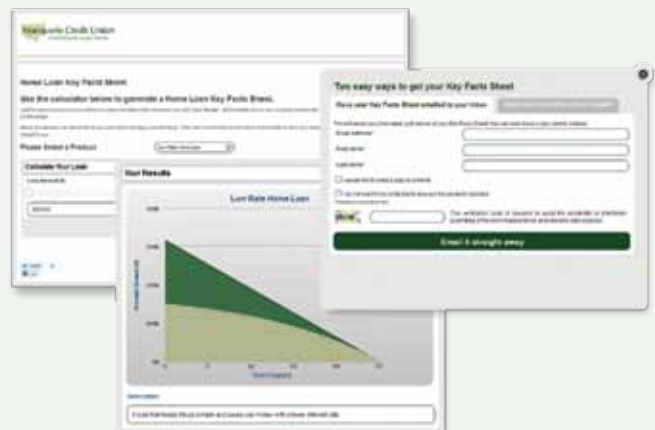
## Personalised Factsheets at the click of a button

Shopping for a home loan and unsure which product is right for you?

From the 1st of January 2012 we introduced a new system on our website which allows you to produce personalised home loan factsheets for your financial requirements.

The system allows you to enter your details into a calculator in order to generate a factsheet explaining your individual loan repayments, interest rate, fee structure and any other loan information. Compare our products to decide which one is best for you.

To use this system, check out our home loan page at [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au).





Wouldn't it be great if financial institutions backed up their claims?

**We'll we are!**

Go to [www.macquariecu.ratecrushers.com.au](http://www.macquariecu.ratecrushers.com.au) today, to see how we compare!

**COMPETITION**

## Save up to \$31,400\* with a Credit Union home loan

Comparing home loans can be a daunting and time consuming task so it's important to get the best deal in order to secure your future. A home loan can sometimes be stretched to over 25 or 30 years so make sure you're prepared with all the information you need. Don't worry we've done all the hard work for you.

As you can see, our home loan still saves you thousands of dollars...

Institution	Variable rate % pa	Comparison rate % pa	Application fee	Monthly fees	Monthly repayments	You save (over 25 yrs)
Your Credit Union (Standard Variable)	6.96	7.01	Nil	Nil	\$1,760	
ANZ (Standard Variable)	7.55	7.61	\$600	\$5	\$1,855	\$28,500
CBA (Standard Variable)	7.56	7.64	\$600	\$8	\$1,857	\$29,000
Westpac (Rocket Repay)	7.61	7.69	\$600	\$8	\$1,865	\$31,400

This comparison is of standard variable loans with comparable features. \*Based on a \$250,000 loan (higher amount) over 25 years and is current as at 16th November 2011.

## 2011 Annual Members Dinner

The 2011 Annual Members Dinner was held at the Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo and was a fantastic opportunity for Members, staff and directors to get together have a drink, a chat and enjoy some great entertainment.

On behalf of Macquarie Credit Union we would like to say a big thank you to all those members who came along, we hope to see you again next year.



# Looking to buy your first home?

First home buyers looking to buy established homes in NSW will no longer be eligible for the stamp duty exemption as of 1 January 2012. Previously the government was offering concessions on stamp duty of up to \$17,990 but only for contracts signed before the 31st December 2011.

Apart from the stamp duty exception, eligible first home buyers can still claim a grant of \$7,000 to assist with costs associated in purchasing a home. Remember the stamp duty exemption may still be available to you when building a new home. Visit [www.osr.nsw.gov.au](http://www.osr.nsw.gov.au) to find out more.

## Tips

Entering the property market is a big deal and although buying your first home can be exciting it can also be extremely daunting, especially given all the aspects you need to consider. There are a few things you can do to make the process a little smoother.

### 1. Do your research

Make sure you know how much you will need to borrow to buy the home you want or have in mind. Many property buyers waste countless weekends searching for the perfect property only to find out they cannot borrow the amount they need to purchase the home or their budget is unrealistic. Be clear about your budget from the start and stick to it.

Do research online, read the papers and look at as many homes as you can to get an idea of values in the areas you like. You can also research recently sold properties online through sites such as [realestate.com.au](http://realestate.com.au) or [domain.com.au](http://domain.com.au). You can also check out our borrowing power calculator at [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au).

### 2. Budgeting

Try and record on paper where your money is going, where you can cut back and where you can save. Don't forget to add some pocket money for yourself. Giving up those holidays and never going out to dinner again are two very different things - so be realistic.

At the end of the budgeting stage you should know exactly what kind of repayments you can afford. Visit our website [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au) to calculator your repayments.

### 3. Make sure you know what you're after

With the amount of properties on the market at the moment and the prospect of spending your weekends inspecting prospective homes, it makes sense to try and cut down the amount of homes you inspect. The simplest way to do this is to make a list of the features you would like.

Consider the following:

- What area you want to live in (selecting specific suburbs is preferable).
- The number of rooms and/or bedrooms you need.
- Type and size of property you require (i.e. house or apartment 112sqm).

- Must haves – pet friendly building, outside living area, carpet, floor boards, parking etc.
- Preferable features - air conditioning, additional toilet, internal laundry etc.

### 4. Find out about your entitlements

Download the NSW Government First Home Benefits Factsheet from the Office of Sate Revenue website [www.osr.nsw.gov.au](http://www.osr.nsw.gov.au).

### 5. Be prepared to move quickly

More often than not buyers miss out on properties they want because they are not organised enough or are not in a position to buy it quickly enough.

- Speak to the Credit Union and get pre-approval for your loan before you start getting serious. We have a dedicated First Home Buyers Home Loan to help you get organised quicker. Call us to find out more on 1300 885 480.
- Make sure your deposit is accessible in case you need it quickly.
- Find yourself a conveyancer or property solicitor that is local to you (having an out of town conveyancer can slow the process down when it comes time to signing contracts. Timing is crucial when buying a property).
- Prepare yourself for your due diligence – strata searches and building reports can slow down the process significantly, any good solicitor will recommend you carry these out so speak to him/her about it in advance and organise any contractors you may need.

For more information on concessions for first home buyers and eligibility you can download the First Home Benefits Factsheet or obtain more info from [www.osr.nsw.gov.au](http://www.osr.nsw.gov.au).

Macquarie Credit Union can help you with your first purchase with our First Home Buyers Home Loan.

**Please contact us today on 1300 885 480 to find out how we can help.**

# Insure for peace of mind

It is important to understand that home insurance is not only a luxury, it is a necessity. Bushfires, floods and severe storms throughout Australia highlight the fact that natural disasters can and do happen, yet each year many Australians risk their most precious possessions by not having adequate insurance.

No matter what type of home you own, personal property insurance is your responsibility and you should know exactly how much cover you have. Now is as good a time as ever to double check what you are covered for and taking the right measures to ensure you and your family can have peace of mind.

## What does your cover include?

Many people fail to take into account the 'hidden costs' of rebuilding a home, such as the removal of debris, hiring architects, surveyors, legal fees and temporary accommodation. It is important to check that your insurer covers these additional benefits over and above your sum insured. Sometimes these benefits are deducted (which can be tens of thousands of dollars) from the amount you have insured your home for, leaving you with a lot less money to rebuild.

## Are you underinsured?

Make sure that your home and contents are adequately covered by updating your insurance policy. Constantly revise your policy to make sure you include recent renovations or new expensive purchases, such as a large television. This will avoid much of the hassle, frustration and potential financial hardship that underinsuring your home can cause.

## Do you have proof?

To avoid any discrepancies and any delays in receiving your insurance money, make sure you document everything. Photograph and videotape the entire contents of your home and the home itself. Consider storing a copy of the documentation at a relative's house, and/or in a safety deposit box. This will dramatically shorten the length of the claims process if a disaster does occur, as you will have an inventory of your possessions that the insurance company will demand.

We work with CGU Insurance who offer a range of quality home insurance products at competitive rates. It's quick and easy to get a quote through us, simply call 1300 885 480. We'd be happy to help.

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OVER \$20,000 IN PRIZES  
UP FOR GRABS**

**CUtips** CUtips is a **free** online footy tipping  
competition open to everyone!

Macquarie Credit Union  
*straightforward, reliable banking*

**Join soon at [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au)**

## Contact us

Telephone	1300 885 480	Head Office	23 Hawthorn Street
Phone-a-loan	02 6884 8650		PO Box 1618
Email	<a href="mailto:info@macquariecu.com.au">info@macquariecu.com.au</a>		Dubbo NSW 2830
Web	<a href="http://macquariecu.com.au">macquariecu.com.au</a>	Fax	02 6882 6909

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To report the loss, theft or unauthorised use of your Visa Card or Redicard call the Hotline on 1800 224 004, 24 hours a day, everyday. Please also contact us to report the loss, theft or unauthorised use.

Any advice in this magazine is of a general nature only and has been prepared without considering your objectives, financial situation or needs. To decide if a product is right for you, please carefully read the Conditions of Use for that product available from our branch or from [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au). Full terms and conditions available in branch. Fees and Charges may apply.

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