

# Member Matters

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Join the 82% of members who don't pay excess transaction fees.



We're making it even easier to avoid fees with the Credit Union

We've listened to our members and created a simple, easy to understand structure that helps you save on your fees.

This is all part of our **straightforward, reliable banking approach** where Macquarie Credit Union rewards you for your loyalty.

Check out some of the benefits:

**1 FEE FREEDOM**

Even easier to transact fee free. Say goodbye to transaction fees for good.

**2 SIMPLE & EASY**

We've simplified our structure to make sure our members save.

**3 COMBINED TRANSACTIONS**

We've combined our transaction types into one; from rediATM access all the way to member cheques.

**4 TOTAL BALANCE BENEFITS**

Save, invest and borrow with the Credit Union to reduce or remove your fees.

**5 MEMBER FOCUSED LOYALTY**

At Macquarie Credit Union, we're invested in you.

Our new and improved Loyalty Programme (commencing 1 August 2012)

Transaction Type	Level 1 (\$0<\$4000)	Level 2 (\$4000<\$40k)	Level 3 (\$40k<\$100k)	Level 4 (\$100k+)	Excess Fee
rediATM/Bank@Post/over the counter withdrawals (incl transfers)/Member cheque/EFTPOS	10	20	30	Unlimited	\$2.00

Visit [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au) or call us on 1300 885 480 to find out how you can avoid transaction fees and charges.





## Hello and welcome to our July Member Matters.

It will be a very busy few months at the Credit Union. From nominations for the Board of Directors to Annual General Meetings, there are a number of house keeping things that we need to make our members aware of. Find out the dates of these events on page 3 of the newsletter.

As a Credit Union member you are a part owner of the Credit Union which gives you the power to help us make decisions. This time every year we give you the option to nominate yourself or someone else for the roles of Board of Directors. More information about how you can get involved is available on page 3.

Macquarie Credit Union is involved in a wide range of community activities. Over the last month we held a Red Day in support of Multiple Sclerosis with Kiss Goodbye to MS 2012 and contributed to the Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer. These charities cut close to home so the staff members at the Credit Union often like to help out where they can. Find out more about the MS Red Day and check out some great photos on page 4 of this newsletter. Staff will continue to assist various community and charity groups in the coming months.

The Electricity Supply Industry Field Days, with their main focus on health, will be held on the 24th and 25th of July 2012 at Coffs Harbour and Macquarie Credit Union will be there again this year to support the event.

A theme which has come up in our last few newsletters has been the competitiveness of our home loan rates in comparison to the big banks. You really do owe yourself a look at how much you can save. Check out the back page of this newsletter and calculate your savings on our handy calculators at [macquariecu.com.au](http://macquariecu.com.au).

Also check out the front page of this newsletter for our revamped Member Loyalty Programme. We have simplified our fee system to make sure our members save.

Last, but certainly not least, we have included an article on page 3 about card security. This article will assist you in determining what you need to do to stay secure and keeps you up to date with what the Credit Union is doing to protect you.

I hope you enjoy the new financial year edition of member matters.

Regards,

Matt Bow, General Manager

## How to make the most out of your tax return

No one likes paying tax but there are many strategies you can use to help maximise your refund this year.

- **File, file, file** - To make sure you get the most from your refund, know what you are entitled to claim for your occupation and keep the right records. Set aside your receipts into a folder, keep the ones you're unsure about and then check with someone once tax time is here. You can claim up to \$200 for these small expenses, provided you keep a diary record with the information that would normally have been shown on a receipt (date, business name, item purchased and purchase price).
- **Understand your offsets** - Unlike deductions, tax offsets directly reduce the amount of tax you must pay, with each dollar offset reducing your tax payable regardless of income. Whether you qualify or not, it's a good idea to check if you are eligible and take advantage of the offsets available to you. You can find out more about these offsets at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au).
- **Share the love** - If you're married or in a de facto relationship, talk to your accountant or financial advisor about sharing deductions; the partner with the highest taxable income should claim the most expenses.
- **Talk to a financial planner** - Be sure to seek independent professional advice before investing in any of the more creative and exotic tax schemes that commonly emerge around this time of year. Remember if it seems too good to be true, it probably is! Bridges Financial Planners can refer you to a financial planner who can assist with working out appropriate tax minimisation strategies for you individual circumstances.



Contact Macquarie Credit Union for details on 1300 885 480

## Importance of the Board of Directors

Are you willing to share your skills and knowledge and get involved with the Credit Union? After all, as a member you are also a co-owner of the Credit Union. Why not nominate to be a Director of Macquarie Credit Union. The Credit Union needs people with a diverse range of skills and knowledge to help it develop.

The Board of Directors have a vital role in providing leadership and direction to the Credit Union, and is the governing body that makes the policy decisions.

By getting involved with your Credit Union you're:

- Giving something back to your Credit Union;
- Utilising your skills and attributes; and
- Giving yourself access to further training and development.

### Who are the Board of Directors of Macquarie Credit Union?

- They are members just like you! – their sole purpose is to improve the products and services of the Credit Union
- They are member-elected so they act as a representative for you
- They're motivated out of good-will rather than commercial gain
- They provide objective and considered insights to Credit Union decisions

## Nominations for Board of Directors

Nominations for the Board of Directors are to be in accordance with the Credit Union Constitution and must be sent to PO Box 1618 Dubbo NSW 2830 and received by the Secretary no later than 5pm on Friday 31 August 2012. Nominations received after this time will not be accepted. Nomination forms and copies of the Credit Unions Constitution are available from the Secretary.

Candidates are advised that Credit Unions are subject to the requirements of the Corporations Act, which along with a number of common law provisions imposes specific duties and responsibilities on Directors.

Over recent years there have been significant changes in the Corporations Act and the regulatory environment, which have significantly increased the responsibilities and accountabilities of Directors. It would be prudent for any member considering nominations to acquaint themselves with these matters.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 48th Annual General meeting of Macquarie Credit Union will be held at 5:30pm on Friday 23 November 2012 in the Macquarie Credit Union office, 23 Hawthorn Street, Dubbo NSW.

## Keep your cards secure

In this ever changing industry, banking and credit card scams are often very hard to detect. It's important to always stay aware of the threats in order to give yourself the best chance of detecting them.

### How card scams work

Scammers can get your credit card details in a number of different ways, including:

1. Tricking you into telling them your credit card number and your security code by pretending to be your bank or another company
2. Installing spyware on your computer to retrieve personal information
3. Physically stealing your credit card
4. Using ATMs to card skim
5. Accessing your details when you're using online shopping

### How can you protect yourself?

There are several things you can do to help protect yourself from these types of scams:

1. Check your bank account regularly to make sure there are no purchases unaccounted for
2. Do not write your pin down in a place where it can be found and make sure not to tell anyone what it is
3. Be cautious about who you give your credit card or other personal details to over the phone
4. Don't make any purchases on computers with a shared Wi-Fi network
5. Have up to date anti-virus software installed on your computer

### What is your Credit Union doing?

We have a service which provides 24 hour monitoring of our members' cards 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Members can now be even more confident in the safety and security of Macquarie Credit Union. The service will automatically be applied to members holding a Macquarie Credit Union VISA Credit Card or VISA Debit Card at no cost.

**Find out more about our card security measures by calling us on 1300 885 480.**

# MS Red Day

The staff at Macquarie Credit Union held a Red Day in support of Kiss Goodbye to MS. During the month of May they were also selling Kiss Goodbye to MS merchandise and raised over \$400 in support of the cause.

Kiss Goodbye to MS is an initiative of MS Australia to raise funds for vital research into preventing and treating the symptoms of multiple sclerosis, providing support and services for people living with the disease and ultimately a cure.

Check out some of the photos from the day.



## Electricity Supply Industry Field Days

coming soon

This year it will be conducted on Tuesday the 24th and Wednesday 25th of July. Once again we have been given the honour of being able to participate in the annual field days.

Come visit us on the day at the Norm Jordan Pavilion and we'll enter you into the draw to win a \$500 Online Savings account. Look out for us at the Field day!



Wouldn't it be great if financial institutions backed up their claims about low rates and great service?

**Well we are!**

We're providing you with all of the tools you need to be confident you'll be getting the best deal with us.

See for yourself

Name	Interest Rate	Comparison Rate*
Macquarie CU Standard Variable Home Loan	6.46%	6.49%
NAB Tailored Home Loan	6.99%	7.12%
CBA (Standard Variable)	7.01%	7.15%
ANZ (Standard Variable)	7.05%	7.15%
Westpac (Rocket Repay)	7.09%	7.22%
Bendigo Bank (No Monthly Fee)	7.65%	7.81%

This information was correct as at 18th May 2012. \*The comparison rate has been calculated based on a secured loan of \$150,000 repaid over 25 years.

## Contact us

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

**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. Full terms and conditions available in branch. Fees and Charges may apply.

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 Incorporating Essential Energy Credit Union & Post-Tel Credit Union  
 ABN 85 087 650 253 | AFSL 241132  
 Australian Credit Licence 241132 | BSB 802 126