

ACUMON CONNECT

SUMMER ISSUE | DECEMBER 2022

WELCOME

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter, we hope you are well and feeling prepared for the festive season ahead.

2022 certainly was a quick year, with a mix of optimism and uncertainty throughout it. The team at Acumon would like to take this chance to wish you and your family all the very best for Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

OFFICE CLOSURE: Our offices will be closed from 12 noon on Friday 23rd December and will re-open at 8.30am on Monday 16th January.

Hopefully, you can enjoy a break too, and if we can assist with anything prior to our closure please just let us know.

We've kept this edition brief as we know this is a busy time of year for many. You'll find some details to wrap up the year, a delicious Christmas recipe and finally a brief guide that we hope might help with your Christmas budgeting.

We look forward to working with all our valued clients again next year.

Many Thanks,
Scott Christian & The Acumon Team.

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KEY DATES FOR JANUARY 2023

- 15** **Lodge tax return large & medium entities as per the latest year lodged & taxable head company**
- 21** **Lodge & pay monthly Activity Statements**
- 28** **Make quarter 2, 2022-23 super guarantee contributions**
- 31** **Lodge TFN report for closely held trusts**



AUSTRALIAN SUPER FUNDS GORGE ON CRYPTOCURRENCY

The value of cryptocurrency assets inside Australian self-managed superannuation funds (SMSFs) increased by 589.9% (\$1.17bn) between June 2019 and June 2022, according to the latest ATO statistics.

While cryptocurrency is a relatively small asset class at only 0.16% of the \$837bn held in SMSFs, it is a growing asset class, larger than collectibles and personal use assets, and overseas property. Smaller funds, with an asset value below \$200,000, are more likely to have a larger proportion of their value in cryptocurrency.

To read more head to the '**Our News**' section on our website: acumon.net.au/about-us/our-news.

Here you will find a selection of blogs and industry updates.



AGED CARE & SMALL BUSINESS - FEDERAL BUDGET 2022

The Federal Budget released in October this year was conservative by nature. Here are a few points to note regarding **Aged Care & Small Business**.

The Government is committing \$2.5 billion over the next four years to help fund more care for older Australians and to increase nursing numbers in care facilities. The package includes:

- Mandating that facilities have a registered nurse on site 24 hours per day from 1 July 2023
- Increasing average care minutes per resident to 215 minutes per day from 1 October 2024
- Better food options that are fresh, healthy, and safe
- Strengthening regulation of aged care providers
- Capping administration and management fees charged by providers in the Home Care Packages Program

The Budget also included several measures designed to support the small business community.

These included supporting small and medium-sized businesses to improve energy efficiency and reduce their energy use, delivering a simpler and fairer industrial relations system, and supporting small-business well-being.

As part of their support for small business well-being, the government will commit funds to extending the tailored small business mental health and financial counselling programs, NewAccess for Small Business Owners and Small Business Debt Helpline.

INTEREST RATES

In our blog, 'how high will interest rates go?' we look at rising interest rates and the pressure the Reserve Bank of Australia Governor has faced after making comments in October 2021 that suggested interest rates would not rise until 2024. At the time however, Australia was coming out of the Delta outbreak, wage and pricing pressure was subdued, and inflation was low. That all changed and changed dramatically. Inflation is now forecast to reach 7.75% before trending down. We're not expected to reach the RBA's target inflation rate range of 2% to 3% until the 2023-24 financial year.

If you have a mortgage interest rates obviously have a direct impact on your personal cash flow and opportunity to build savings. Particularly as many fixed-interest rate mortgage / lending product come to an end in 2023. If you'd like to look at strategies to address any concerns you have in this area don't hesitate to reach out to the team here at Acumon.

And for businesses, the rate increase has a twofold effect. It is not just the rate rise and the higher cost of funds in their borrowings. That by itself is significant but at this stage, if anything, it is the lesser issue.

The more significant impact comes from negative consumer sentiment and the flow through effect on sales and cash flow.

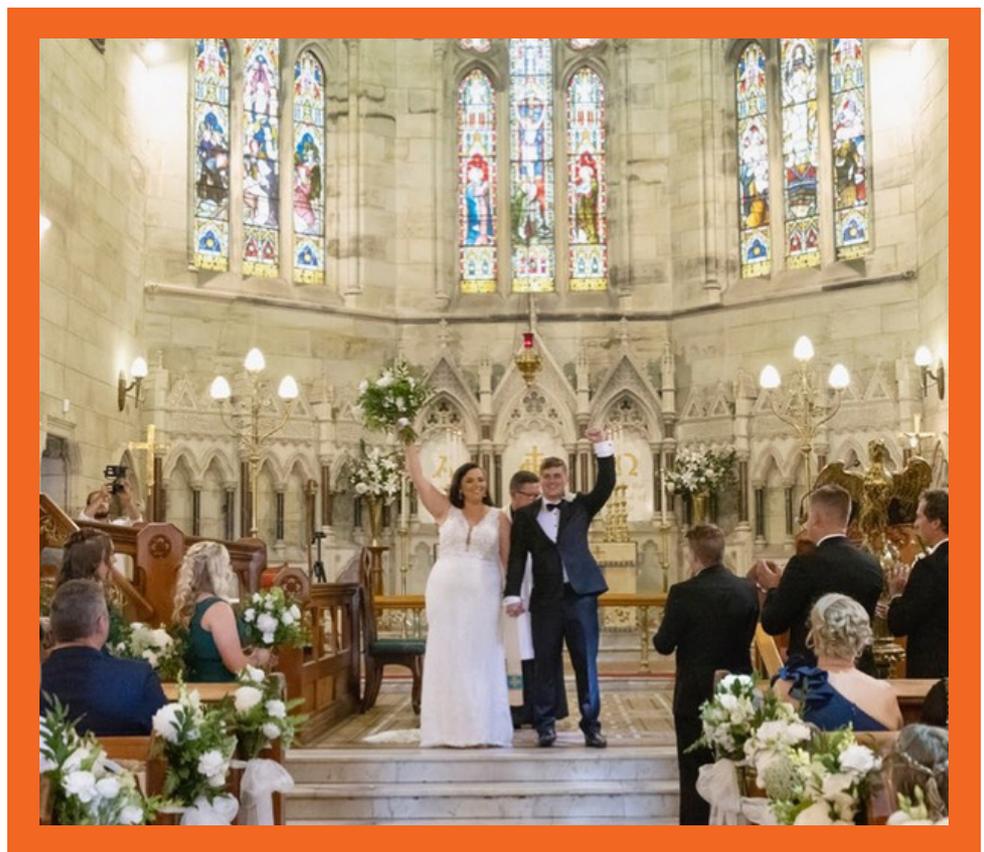
- In general, your debts should not exceed around 35-40% of your assets. There will be some exceptions to this with new business start-ups and first home buyers.
- Review the cost of cash in your business, reviewing rates, and the configuration and mix of loans to ensure you are not paying more than you need to.
- If possible, avoid having private debt as well as business and investment debts. You can't get tax relief on your private debt.
- Keep an eye on debtors and don't become your customer's bank.

CONGRATULATIONS CALLAN & ASHLEIGH

On behalf of the team at Acumon we would like to wish Callan Stammer, our principal & his new wife Ashleigh a huge congratulations on their beautiful wedding. After Covid restrictions meant their original plans were cancelled, they were finally able to celebrate on 26/11/22.

Callan will be on annual leave, enjoying his honeymoon until 19/12/22.

We wish them all the very best!



RECIPE OF THE SEASON

MELTED SNOWMEN BISCUITS

Get creative in the kitchen and try one of these delicious, melted snowmen biscuits

INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 cups (375g) plain flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
175g butter, softened
3/4 cup (165g) caster sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 egg
1 cup (160g) icing sugar mixture
1 1/2 tbsp milk
Snake lollies, to decorate
24 white marshmallows
Dark chocolate writing icing, to decorate
2x 120g pkts M&M's minis

METHOD

STEP 1

Sift the plain flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl. Use an electric mixer to beat the butter and caster sugar in a bowl for 5 mins or until pale and creamy. Beat in the vanilla and egg. Stir in the mixture.

STEP 2

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured surface. Knead for 1 min or until smooth. Divide the dough into 2 portions and shape each portion into a disc. Wrap in plastic wrap and place in the fridge for 30 mins to chill.

STEP 3

Preheat oven to 180C. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper.

STEP 4

Roll out 1 pastry disc between 2 sheets of baking paper to 5mm thickness. Use a 7cm round pastry cutter to cut 12 discs from the dough, re-rolling trimmings if necessary. Place discs 3cm apart on the lined trays. Bake for 12-15 mins or until lightly golden. Set aside to cool. Repeat with the remaining dough to make 24 biscuits.



STEP 5

Sift the icing sugar into a bowl. Add enough milk to make a thick spreadable consistency. Spoon icing over the cooled biscuits and spread towards the edges to form the melted body.

STEP 6

Use kitchen scissors to cut 24 small triangles from an orange snake lolly to form the noses. Gently dip the bases of the noses in icing. Attach to the sides of the marshmallows. Use the writing icing to pipe eyes and mouths onto the marshmallows. Press marshmallow heads onto iced biscuits. Use kitchen scissors to cut heads from snake lollies. Cut down the length of the snakes to make two long thin pieces. Wrap around marshmallow heads to form scarves.

STEP 7

Place red and green M&M's Minis down the centre of the biscuits to form buttons. Use the writing icing to pipe arms on each biscuit. Store in an airtight container for up to a week.



CHRISTMAS BUDGETING

Christmas is an exciting time, but it can also be stressful. And sometimes expensive!

But there are things you can do to improve your money management over the festive season.

We hope that these tips will not just help during Christmas but can be implemented throughout the year to assist in focusing on your financial goals.

- **Decide On Christmas Spending Money**

Decide how much you are able and willing to spend. The average global Christmas budget is \$900 per family. Discuss whether or not you can budget, higher or lower or even at the average price. And remember, a good budget is one you can afford and not regret in January!

- **Make a list (before you start shopping)**

By knowing what you are getting, more so, what you need to get, you will hopefully prevent steering away and just grabbing whatever you think will work straight off the shelf.

- **Stick to your Budget**

You've worked hard to create your budget and your list, now it is crucial to stick to it. Nothing shows running out of money like an empty cash envelope or a declined prepaid card. Budget tracker apps are also an excellent way to visibly see if you have or do not have much money left.

- **Ignore Sales**

There is always the temptation to buy, buy, buy at this time of year. Particularly if there is a 'bargain' to be had. Even if there is a sale, sale, sale, stick to your list. If it's not on your list, pass, no matter how good the sale might seem.

- **Stop Impulse Buying**

Just a little bit of money here. A little bit over here. Over time, those impulse purchases add up to a much larger amount.

- **Stop Buying**

Plain and simple. Stop spending money on Christmas presents once you have fulfilled your list. Especially stop spending money once you have spent all of your Christmas budgets.

The material and contents provided in this publication are informative in nature only. It is not intended to be advice and you should not act specifically on the basis of this information alone. If expert assistance is required, professional advice should be obtained.

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