



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

As we embark on 2018, I trust all FCCS members and their families enjoyed a happy festive season.

2017 proved to be an eventful year for FCCS with increased investment in banking technology. We recently introduced Android Pay where members are able to make contactless purchases using their mobile smart phone. Early in the New Year, Apple Pay will be introduced.

Building upon our well received Mobile Banking App, we have commenced work on upgrading to a new responsive website.

FCCS will be participating in the New Payments Platform (NPP) enabling members to be able to send and receive funds instantaneously to and from other customers of banks and credit unions securely in real time – 24 hours per day, seven days a week. FCCS will shortly be asking members to register for this service. Members will have the option of using their mobile phone number, email address or member number and BSB.

FCCS continues to build upon awareness of our award winning products and personalised member service. To assist in this strategic objective, Vivien Allen was appointed as Business Development Manager in June.

In addition to our financial planning seminars which FCCS has been running for a couple of years, we introduced the first in a series of helpful member seminars for First Home Buyers. This was very well attended and included guest speakers from the State Revenue Office and a local Real Estate Agency.

Regular financial planning and home loan seminars for members of all stages of life will be held throughout 2018. FCCS is committed to improving the financial well being of our members and in this newsletter we provide some tips to help you budget in the New Year.



After over ten years service to FCCS members, popular Mobile Lending Consultant Steve Francis retired in September. We wish him well for the future. Craig Elliott joined FCCS in August to take over from Steve and to ensure a smooth transition for members. Members will also be supported by Kim Ferry who has just joined our team as our new Lending / Sales consultant.



As a mutual credit union, FCCS is proud to give back to our local community, both financially and as volunteers. Our current community sponsorships are listed on our website in the About Us, Community Involvement section. December was a particularly busy time with Christmas events such as the Ford Retired Employees Associations annual Christmas functions and the Christ Church Community Christmas Lunch.



Thank you for your on-going support and on behalf of the FCCS Board, management and staff, I wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

Regards
Peter Vecoli



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New Year, new budget, new you

Here we are: the time of year we make promises to ourselves we don't keep. Well not this year! Not financially, anyway. We give you five steps for creating a budget that is as realistic as it is effective.

- 1. Establish your income** Begin by working out what your yearly gross income is. This will involve an assessment of last year's bank statements together with a consideration of changes for this year such as a pay rise, change in job and money earned via an ABN.
- 2. Determine your expenses** What are your regular outgoings? Think mortgage and car repayments, rent, health insurance, website domains, phone and internet bills, gym memberships and TV subscriptions like Netflix or Foxtel. Next, unfixed things like groceries and petrol, and finally, factor in semi-regular spends like specialist visitation and beauty treatments like haircuts. Now is a good time to assess extraneous items and consider alternative pathways—for example, do I still require the hosting of my website? Is my level of health insurance still appropriate? Could I save by bundling my internet and phone together? Trim the fat. □
- 3. What's the difference?** Are your outgoings greater than your income? Have you remembered to reserve money for tax? What about savings? You'll be at either a surplus or a deficit at this stage, but it isn't too late to make adjustments if it's the latter. If you're at a surplus, you can consider opening a high interest savings account, investments or superannuation contributions. □
- 4. Delineate the budget** Now that you know exactly where you stand (with yourself) it's time to write out your realistic budget. The Australian government website Money Smart has an excellent budget planner that may assist you.
- 5. Revise regularly** Try and set an hour or so aside a month to review your progress. Are you on track? Why/why not? What are some things that are interfering with your goals, for example, increases in fees, too many cafe meals and so on. Revise accordingly and use the information to hold yourself accountable.



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