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PHONE 03 5783 3440 FAX 03 5783 3441 EMAIL hbs@harrisbussol.com.au

HBS February 2011 Newsletter for Individuals

Dear Client

Welcome to the February 2011 edition of our newsletter containing tax information for individuals. If you did not recently receive our newsletter for business owners and would like to please [contact us](#).

Please feel free to [forward our newsletter](#) to a friend; they don't have to be a client to benefit from our FREE advice!

Is this unclaimed money yours?

Ever wondered what happens to those bank account balances when the bank loses contact with the client, or perhaps to unclaimed share dividends, or life policies? Want to know if there is unclaimed money sitting with your name on it, then [click here](#).

How to qualify for \$1000 from the Government

If you have an income under \$61 920 and make a personal contribution of up to \$1000 to your Super fund, then you may qualify for the Government Co-Contribution of up to \$1000. To find out if you qualify [click here](#) to use the online calculator. Remember you must make the personal contribution to your Super fund prior to June 30 2011.

Is this lost Superannuation yours?

If you've held several jobs over the past few years, or if you have moved repeatedly, you may have super funds that have lost contact with you and are maintaining an account on your behalf. Want to know if you have lost super then [click here](#) to do a search.

Will you have to pay the flood levy?

The Government announced on 27 January 2011 that it will introduce a flood levy for 2011-12 to assist affected communities recover from the recent floods and rebuild essential infrastructure. The levy forms part of a package of measures designed to assist affected communities.

Anyone earning under \$50 000, or who received an Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment will not pay the levy.

Taxpayers earning between \$50 000 and \$100 000 will pay an additional 0.5% on taxable income over \$50 000.

Taxpayers earning over \$100 000 will pay 0.5% on taxable income between \$50 000 and \$100 000, and 1% on income over \$100 000.

The levy will be paid through tax taken out of regular pay, in the same way the Medicare Levy is paid. Please ensure your

employer is doing this from 1st July 2011 onwards to avoid a tax bill at the end of the next financial year.

For more details please refer to the Prime Minister's [press release](#).

How to reduce tax and increase cash through salary packaging

A salary sacrifice arrangement is also commonly referred to as salary packaging or total remuneration packaging. It is an arrangement between an employer and an employee, where the employee agrees to forgo part of their future entitlement to salary or wages in return for the employer providing them with benefits of a similar value.

Common fringe benefits include:

- cars
- property (including goods, real property such as land and buildings, and shares or bonds)
- expense payments (such as the payment of your loan repayments, school fees, child care costs and home phone costs).

An effective salary sacrifice can increase your net disposable income (cash in your pocket). For an example please [click here](#). Please note that there is no mandatory requirement for your employer to provide this service, it is totally optional on their behalf.

For more information on whether salary packaging could benefit you, [make an appointment](#) for a free consultation with Kathryn or Allison via our website.

How to reduce your tax through investment properties

Hear the phrase 'negative gearing' but not sure what it means? Thought about buying an investment property for renting out but not sure where to start? We have the tools to show you the effect on your tax bill and on your cash flow, also how to structure to minimize potential Capital Gains Tax. Talk to us BEFORE you commit to that property purchase.

Key dates for Individual Taxpayers

Monday 28th February – Quarter 2 (Oct – Dec) quarterly instalment due to be paid

Thursday 31st March – Income tax owing as per 2010 assessment to be paid

Want to see some particular tax topic/tip mentioned here? Please [contact us](#) with your request, we are more than happy to oblige.

Regards
The HBS Team
Kathryn, Allison, Connie, Lyn, Nikki and Katherine

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 professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

PO Box 512, Wallan VIC 3756, Australia



**Make an
Appointment**



PURCHASE/LEASE PARADISE AT PEAK HILL



The Peak Hill Caravan Park and Convenient Store is located just off the busy Newell Highway 70Km south of Dubbo, is offered as a leasehold, however owner will consider offers for the freehold.

The caravan park has been successfully run by a couple for the last 5 years and during this time the turnover has grown from \$76000 to \$220000. The excellent location just off the highway and close to the clubs and shops makes it a very popular stopping point for the thousands of travellers moving north and south each year. The cabin business has a steady income from travellers local miners, (the new Tomingley gold mine is starting just 15K up the road) and boosted by events like the Elvis festival in Parkes. A unique tourist attraction 'The Big Fish Fossil Hut' has recently been added to the park. Extra land has been purchased for an extension to the park to cater for the growing number of "gray nomads" who are finding it more and more difficult and expensive to stop in parks along the coast.

The convenient store located in the office area of the caravan park is now established as a very popular shop for the local Peak Hill community. The operators residence is a 2 bedroom house attached to the shop/office for easy access during open hours.

The park has many other features that make it very popular with the traveling public interested persons please contact the owner for further details.

For more information refer to this [website](#).