

www.herns.com.au

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HOURS:

9am to 5pm
Monday to Friday

*Members of the Institute
of Public Accountants*



Welcome...

to the 2014 edition of The Informer from the team at
Hern & Associates

Since returning to Walkerville in January we have been overwhelmed by the warm wishes and support from our clients. At our Grand Opening and Family Fun Day we felt humbled by the crowd that came to celebrate with us. It has also been wonderful to be welcomed back by the Walkerville community and we have settled in nicely at our new premises on Alfred Street.

In this issue of The Informer we will outline how the 2014 Federal Budget will affect you, as well as news from the Australian Taxation Office. Tax time is coming soon and, if we haven't seen you yet, we look forward to welcoming you at our new office.

BUDGET
2014-15

How the Budget will Affect You

This year's budget has come with cuts, taxes and price rises that will affect everyone.

Here is a brief outline:

Families

The government has announced that the cut off point for families receiving Family Tax Benefit B will be \$100k taxable income (currently \$150k). Family Tax Benefit B will also be cut off when the youngest child in the family turns six. However, if the family is already receiving Family Tax Benefit B where the youngest child is six or over, they will continue to receive the benefit until 2017. All the current family benefit rates will remain on hold and will not increase with inflation until either 2016 or 2017.

The Large Family Supplement will now only go to families of 4 or more children (currently 3 children).

Medical

From 1 July 2015 patients that were previously bulk billed by their doctor may now have to pay a \$7.00 GP co-payment (the government will take \$5.00 of this) for the first 10 visits to the GP per year. After 10 visits, children under 16 and concession card holders will be exempt from the fee.

Hospitals will be allowed to charge a fee for anyone visiting an emergency room with ailments that could have been handled by a visit to the GP.

High Income Earners

Anyone earning over \$180,000 taxable income will have a 2% Debt Levy applied each year for the next 3 years.

Disabilities

The government will be tightening the criteria for the eligibility of the Disability Pension. Those under 35 will have to meet tougher criteria and if possible, will be re-integrated into the workforce.

Seniors

The Seniors Healthcare card will be harder to qualify for, with the untaxed superannuation of new applicants now counting towards the income test.

Petrol

The new petrol excise will see petrol prices indexed to inflation every six months.

If you have any queries about how the Budget will affect you, please call us on **8344 6011** or email **reception@herns.com.au**

Tax News

5 Day Promise for BASIC Income Tax Returns

Hern & Associates will continue to offer our **5 Day Promise** for Basic Income Tax Returns. If you can't come in to see us, why not send in your work? On receipt of your tax information in our office we can have your Tax Return back to you, ready to sign, in 5 working days. You can post your information to us or you can scan and email it to reception@herns.com.au

Our Fees for 2014

Our fees for a Basic Tax Return* will remain the same at \$220.00 via cash, cheque or EFTPOS. You can also choose the option of having our fee deducted from your expected refund.

**a basic tax return does not include rental properties or business schedules*

Important Information Needed to Complete Your Tax Return

The ATO will no longer be issuing refund cheques to any Individuals, Trusts or Entities and all refunds will be via EFT. Please ensure that you supply us with your bank details to avoid any delays.

Also, if you have Private Health Insurance, the ATO now require more detailed information, so please provide the statement which has been issued by your fund.

If your spouse does not have their tax return completed by us, please supply us with their income and private health insurance details as this is now required to complete your tax return.

Warning for Late Lodgments

The Australian Tax Office is cracking down even harder on late lodgments and issuing penalties.

For all Individuals, Entities and Trusts where one or more prior year tax returns, were outstanding as at the 30 June 2014, you must lodge by 31st October 2014.

If you have been prosecuted for non-lodgment of prior year tax returns, your lodgment due date is 31st October 2014.

This Year's Work Expense Claims Made Easy With Your Smartphone

Sage Point and Claim is the free receipt management app that helps process and record your tax deductions and claims with your smartphone. The app allows you to take a photo of your receipts and the expenses flow through to us so that at Tax Time we have all of your receipts recorded and you don't need to keep them. The system is also ATO compliant and that can give you peace of mind.

Look for the Sage Point and Claim app on **Itunes** and **Google Play**. In the setup, select your tax agent by choosing the suburb Walkerville and agent Brian Hern. Once setup, it will flow to your account at Hern & Associates.



Grand Opening an



Sunday 18 May 2014

We were thrilled by the support for our **Grand Opening and Family Fun Day**. It was a great celebration of what Hern & Associates is really all about - family and community. It coincided with National Families Week with this year's theme being 'Stronger Families, Stronger Communities' and it couldn't have been more appropriate. Thank you to everyone who attended and for the well wishes sent to us by those who couldn't attend. *We had a wonderful day!*



Walkerville's Volunteer of the Year

During National Volunteer Week in May, Brian was honoured to be named Walkerville Council's Volunteer of the Year. He was recognized for his work as auditor for the Walkerville Historical Society, Neighbourhood Watch, Friends of the Library and his wider community involvement on the boards of Clayton Church Homes and Payneham and Dudley Park Cemeteries Trust.

Congratulations Brian! A very well deserved award – we are very proud of him!

nd Family Fun Day



Office News...

Baby Frentsch is on its way...

leaving us again (temporarily) to add to her own family. We wish Kristy, Michael and Olivia all the best and look forward to meeting their new baby. Watch our Facebook page for the good news!

Welcome Lyndal...

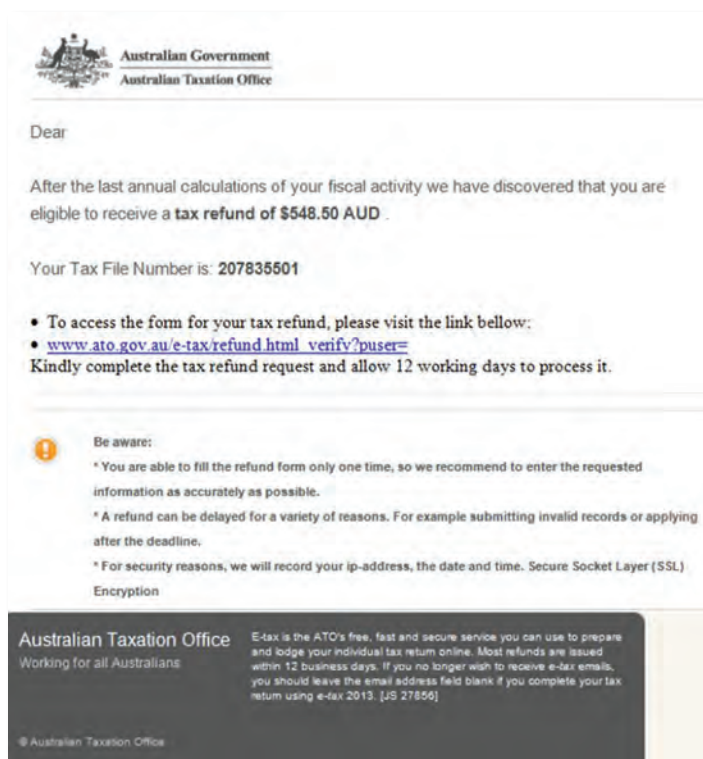
Lyndal comes to us from Westpac and is also part of the Hern family. Lyndal will be at the front desk welcoming clients and helping with any queries. She looks forward to meeting clients in the busy tax season.



GST

*Remember that **10%**
doesn't belong to you*

This year marks the 14th anniversary of the GST (Goods and Services Tax) and it still presents a challenge for some business owners. Over the 14 years, Australia has experienced growth and then the hardship of the GFC. Small business owners have struggled with rising costs and debtors defaulting on payments. We have seen many clients who have been caught up in tax debt because when it comes time to pay your GST, the money has already been spent. Keep in mind that the extra 10% you collect in GST for products or services sold belongs to the Australian Taxation Office, not you. The best way to avoid stress at BAS time is to put the money aside and avoid the temptation of spending it.



Tax related scams

Warning!! Be aware of the latest ATO phishing scam!

There is a new fraudulent email circulating at the moment posing as an official ATO email.

The latest scam, disguised as an official Australian Taxation Office email, mentions that you will be eligible to receive a refund by completing an online form. By clicking on the link it asks you to update all your personal details and requests your credit card details.

If you receive this email, please delete immediately. Please **DO NOT** click on the link as it may contain a potential virus.

TELL TALE SIGNS OF A SCAM EMAIL

- They don't use your name – they refer to you as Sir or Madam
- they use the word AUD after the dollar figure
- use an invalid tax file number
- they ask you to follow a link which asks for personal information and credit card details

Please remember that the ATO will NEVER send you an email requesting personal or confidential information via email or SMS. If you have any doubts please contact us on 8344 6011 so that we can help you.

What's new with **MYOB**[®]

Hern & Associates has the opportunity to host a MYOB information night. Come and see all the new features MYOB has to offer such as:

- MYOB Live
- Mobile Office – manage your accounts on the go
- MYOB Paydirect – the quick and easy way to take credit card payments on your smartphone
- MYOB Add-ons – how to build on your MYOB software with add-on solutions such as CRM, Email Marketing, Rostering and much more.

You will also have the chance to discuss any questions or problems you are having with our local MYOB manager.

If you would like to learn more about MYOB, please register your interest with Adrienne by calling 8344 6011 or emailing admin@herns.com.au.

We will contact you when a date is confirmed.



Lester Jarmyn
Senior Estate Planner

Lester has over 30 years experience in estate planning and Wills preparation, joining Australian Executor Trustees in 1976.

As a Representative of Australian Executor Trustees together with Hern & Associates, Lester is able to assist clients in the areas of:

Specialist estate planning advice, including taxation planning and advisory services

- Will and Power of Attorney preparation
- Estate Administration
- Trustee services – Testamentary Trusts, Living trusts, Family Trusts and Charitable Trusts
- Attorney Services

Lester will be in our office on:

Wednesday 3rd September

10am, 11.30am, 2pm & 3.30pm

Please contact Hern & Associates on 8344 6011 or email Adrienne at admin@herns.com.au to book a free, no obligation appointment.

ROXBY DOWNS VISIT

Brian will be visiting Roxby Downs on

Saturday 19th July and Sunday 20th July

To make an appointment, please call 8344 6011 or email reception@herns.com.au

PETERBOROUGH VISIT

Brian will be visiting Peterborough on

Friday 8th August

To make an appointment, please call 8344 6011 or email reception@herns.com.au



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