

Incentive Saver Newsletter

July 2024



It's not the amount you save - it's the conviction to save

Hi everyone

Winter for me is about warm fires and doing puzzles to relax. This last Christmas I asked for op-shop puzzles as my Christmas present. My sons gave me a Murder Mystery puzzle. When I opened it, out tumbled 1000 pieces all various shades of brown. I must admit at that point I nearly gave up. My target was 10 pieces a night (not always achieved) but I wanted to prove that I could do it. Well 3 months later it's nearly finished.



It's like saving money. We often underestimate what we are capable of. Like the quote above. It doesn't matter if it's a small amount as long as you believe you can do it.

PS If anyone's looking for a challenge let me know and once I'm finished it's all yours.

CAPACITY 

Due to the popularity of the Incentive Saver we are now at capacity for 2024.

There is now a link to all newsletters on CMM website <https://www.mmsi.org.nz/What-We-Do/Work-with-Adults-Parents-Whanau/>

Michelle is our 40th saver to complete her Incentive Saver Journey. Whoohoo! Her tip:

“Start small, create the habit then when able increase savings. Just do it even if only a little”.



Michelle also used the trick of setting up her savings account at another bank so she would have less access to it.

Podcast Star

We have our very own radio star. Charlene completed her Incentive Saver last year but agreed to be interviewed by Katy Gosset for Radio NZ about her savings journey.



A big thanks to Charlene for having the courage to put herself out there and share her journey.

Here's the link for those who want to listen. It is part of the Thrift series of podcasts <https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/thrift/story/2018937184/starting-to-save>

Money Matters Talks (Arranged in conjunction with Shirley Community)

Topic: **Being the Money Boss** Want more control over your money? Linda and Teresa will share ideas about organising your money, bank account setup, etc.

When: Wednesday 3rd July

Where: **Park Centre** The room behind the Shirley Community Café at 17 Acheson St Shirley.

Time: 10.00am Morning tea then talk.

Upcoming Sessions

14th August – After Pay – Edward from Community law

Note: If you're an Incentive Saver then attending a talk counts as a session



Money Chats for Aratupu Preschool Savers

Time: 9ish

Dates:

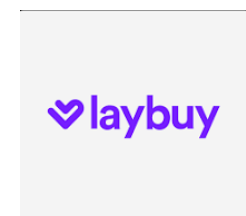
1. Tues 2 July
2. 6th August
3. 3rd September
4. 5th November



Laybuy in Liquidation

The big news in the Buy Now Pay Later sector is that Laybuy is now in liquidation. AfterPay is still going.

- a) Genopay closed in April 2023
- b) Humm (was Oxipay) closed In September 2022



Newsletter Topic – Uber Eats

Uber Eats was set up in 2014 in California USA as UberFRESH. It renamed to Uber Eats in 2015.

How do they make money?

1. Restaurants – have to pay a one-time fee to sign up to Uber Eats platform. Uber Eats charge a commission of 30% on each order, therefore the restaurant charges higher prices on its Uber Eats menu to cover these costs. This means the prices you see on the Uber Eats menu are often higher than if you walked into the restaurant yourself.
2. Delivery fees – usually 15% of order total



Keep in mind: Your Uber Eats meal comes at an inflated price. You're paying more for the actual food plus the delivery costs (and I believe an option to tip the driver who we all feel sorry for because they don't earn much).

Snippets

Free Money - IRD Unclaimed Money

It's been in the news recently but money guru Frances Cook explains it nicely.

It's "unclaimed money", that's held by the IRD, but no it's not a tax refund.

It's money that companies owe to you, but they don't have your current details in order to send it to you. So maybe when you changed power companies when you moved house, or if you ever had bonus bonds, or a bank charge that ended up being refunded. Sometimes it's money that's owed to someone who has died, and they don't know how to get in touch with living relatives. So, if you're that living relative, you can also submit a claim.

IRD can hold on to this money for 25 years (allowing you lots of time to claim). Currently there is \$477 million dollars waiting to be claimed. You will need to provide evidence.

You can search through MyIR or the IRD website. Here is the IRD link

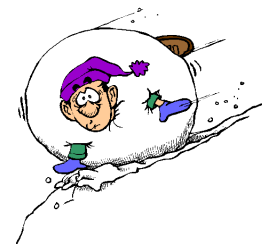
<https://www.ird.govt.nz/unclaimedmoney/claiming-unclaimed-money/search-the-database>



Debt Snowball

This was discussed in the last newsletter. Here's an app recommendation from Moneyhub
<https://www.debtpayoffplanner.com/>

Note: This app automatically uses Debt Avalanche (highest interest first). You can switch to Debt Snowball (which pays off smallest debts first). Both are very effective methods.



Debt Avalanche - saves more on interest





Debt Snowball - works because paying off debt feels good and motivates you to keep going.

Tax Buckets just after I wrote about how our tax system works. After 14 years the government decided to change the amounts for each bucket. From 31 July you can earn more in each bucket before you move into the next tax bucket.

Note: This is how the government is giving people the tax breaks it promised. The higher your earnings the more you'll benefit. You can debate the fairness of that!

Quick recap. Imagine our tax system works like filling 5 buckets of water (buckets of money actually). You must fill the buckets in order.

Here are the new numbers.

1	2	3	4	5
10.5%	17.5%	30%	33%	39%
				
Up to \$15,600 Was \$14,000	\$15,601 – \$53,500 Was \$48,000	\$53,500 - \$78,000 Was \$70,000	\$78,000 – \$180K	\$180K + same

Resources

Cooking - Crouton app

This app was designed by a Christchurch man, Devin Davies, and recently featured as Apple Stores App of the Day – a big achievement.

It is a meal planner and recipe management system (even I could be tempted to give it a go!)



Lastly there's nothing like paying \$7.10 for a large latte to send me scuttling back to my office plunger. Thank goodness Shirley Community Café and Thrive City Mission Cafe exist in my life.

Happy Saving!

Thank you also to those of you who spread the word about Incentive Saver amongst family, friends and clients.

If you are interested to know more about the Incentive Saver scheme or want your name added to the newsletter list just send me an email

Linda Smith Financial Mentor lindas@mmsi.or.nz

If you no longer wish to receive newsletters from me please reply with “unsubscribe” in the subject line.