

INCENTIVE SAVER NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2024

2024 is going out with a blast with 15 savers reaching their goal before Christmas. Guess what – most of them are putting their matched money towards upcoming Xmas costs. Many people leave saving for Xmas to the last minute. Then they're really stressed because they don't have the money to give their family the Xmas they want. These Incentive Savers started 6 months ago. They may not have the presents yet but the money is there! The stress is not.

NOTE: Fri 13th December – is the final date to get all bank verifications to me. After that I only have one week to get everyone's vouchers etc as I finish work on 20th December. Due to the large number of savers finishing at that time I'll be running around like a headless goose if everyone leaves it to the last minute!



If you finish just after this then still get in touch. No promises but I'll do what I can.

Congratulations Finishers!

Shontae *"Start!"*

Charmain *"Set yourself a small and affordable goal and stick to it. It's easier said than done but worth it at the end"*

Sharlani *"I made savings a priority - even just a little bit helps"*



\$64 BILLION DOLLARS

Wow I find these numbers unbelievable. After Donald Trump's victory in the recent USA elections a whopping \$64 billion was added to the wealth of the world's richest top 10 people.

Why? Because there was a surge in US share prices

Why? Investors are liking Trumps promise of tax cuts, cuts, trade tariffs and the scaling back some of the reforms Biden made (deregulation)

Remember – day to day investors will also have made gains.



MSD Payment Dates

For Superannuation – no changes to payment dates.



Week 23- 29 Dec

If you normally get paid on	You'll be paid on
Tuesday 24 December	no change
Wednesday 25 December	Tuesday 24 December
Thursday 26 December	Tuesday 24 December

30 December – 5 January

If you normally get paid on	You'll be paid on
Tuesday 31 December	no change
Wednesday 1 January	Tuesday 31 December
Thursday 2 January	Tuesday 31 December

Newsletter Topic – Christmas

Xmas presents: Our family are trying to change our ways. This year the target is \$20 per family member and it has to be something you can use on a beach holiday (because that's where we will be!) I've also been down to Habit for Humanity for their \$1 bag of tinsels.

Teresa at Shirley Community has offered some budget friendly Christmas ideas.

- Hubby makes cookies (we have used some brought ones in the past) and we get the kids to ice them, that's still a fun activity for my teens.
- My husband enjoys time in the kitchen so will be making fudges, and Xmas treats that we will put in boxes for the older family along with some of the kid's cookies.
- I let the kids draw on our windows with window chalk as well. You can pick it up in the \$2 shops. They come off easily and keeps young ones entertained for a while.



- I always get the kids to go through their toys and sort what might be donatable to others around the beginning of Dec so they can be donated.
- We do the Random Acts of Xmas kindness packets (Xmas card, candy stick etc) for the kids to give out. I try to encourage them to give them out to random people when we are out, at the supermarket, mall, park, etc, rather than school as otherwise they just give them to their friends.
- I used to print or get small colouring books with Xmas themed pictures and get the kids to colour them to make our own Xmas cards.

Parental Worries Never Change!

Many parents today are worried about the amount of screen time their children have. Read this from an article in a Rangiora newspaper in 1880's.

Looking back at your own childhood in the 1860's you remember Christmas presents being a lot simpler – fruits, nuts, perhaps a wooden toy. Children these days are spoilt by a flood of metal and porcelain toys coming from England. A particular favourite for boys are tin soldiers or small white porcelain dolls for the girls and books are always well received.

You just wish the children would spend more time playing outside rather than lost in their imaginations playing with these distractions! Children these days are glued to their books and toys. Back in the good old day's children were expected to occupy themselves constructively!

Thanks Lisa from CMM for sharing.



Aratupu Preschool Money Chats – around 9am

Date: Tuesday 3rd December –information about Wills in regard to relationship status/children.



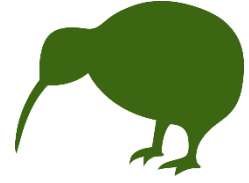
Resources

I know some of you were following the **Radio NZ Thrift** podcast series. They are up to series 3 with wonderful topics like Foraging, DIY car maintenance, The Preserving Queen, Buy Once Buy Well (wardrobe/clothes) Family Finances and so much more. Great holiday listening

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/podcast/thrift>

Investing Kiwisaver

I've been talking investing with a number of savers. A question often asked is "How do I know which provider to choose?"



For those who like doing a bit of in-depth research a helpful tool is **Morningstar Quarterly Report**. The report shows how different providers have performed. You want a provider who has performed well over the last 5-10 years – not just the last year. It can look a little overwhelmingly but here is a video put out by Moneyhub that helps you understand how to read the report. (its 2021 but the method doesn't change)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWs0QQ_72Jg

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.

NEWSLETTER LINK

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