



# The Strategist

## Practice update

> Hello and welcome to our Christmas edition. 2018 was certainly a busy year!



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PRINCIPAL  
SENIOR FINANCIAL PLANNER

Late in 2017 we took over Rockford Financial Services and our financial advisers have met with a large number of their former clients. On behalf of the MBA Financial Strategists 'family' we extend warm wishes to you all and look forward to being of continued service to you.

2018 was certainly a growth year for MBA FS. To assist us in managing this we employed several new team members. Our mortgage team was boosted in 2018 with the appointment of Maggie Wan a Mortgage Adviser who joins Valerie O'Riley - Mortgage Client Service Specialist. Maggie comes to us with experience as a mortgage broker previously with Yellow Brick Road and can help you with mortgage or debt management advice. You can make an appointment with Maggie on her webpage via Meet The Team on our website, or simply call Sally at the office. We also welcomed Administrative Officer Lauren Colls, who is providing excellent admin support to our growing financial advice team.

On the economic front, according to the latest statement from Philip Lowe at the RBA "the Australian economy is performing well."\* Lowe outlines that business conditions are positive and non-mining business investment is expected to increase. He also indicates that growth in household income remains low, debt levels are high and some asset prices have declined.\* The cash rate remains unchanged at 1.50%. Given the economic landscape, we recommend you review your superannuation asset allocation to ensure you are in the best position possible for the external environment - and your individual goals and objectives.

In this issue we have outlined tips to have a 'financially savvy' Christmas. Note we also have a range of helpful articles and videos on a range of topics in the Resource section of our website [www.mbafs.com.au](http://www.mbafs.com.au).

We would like to wish you and your family a very peaceful and safe time during the Festive Season - and take this opportunity to say 'thanks' for your continued support.

The summer break is an excellent time to take a breather from the daily routine and take stock for the New Year. Give Sally a call now to make an appointment and start 2019 off well prepared!

\* Source: Statement by Philip Lowe, Governor: Monetary Policy Decision No 2018-31. Date 4 December 2018

### Meet the team



F: Sharon McDonald, Peter Berresford, Michael Cirson, Mark Borg, Raimon Lewandowski, Darren James, Darren Holst, Brian Lynch, Margie Borg and Nick Munro  
B: Cathy Bampton, Megan Ryan, Liz Vaughan, Maggie Wan, Valerie O'Riley, Sally Goodwin and Kerry Lewandowski

### Advice and Services provided

- ☑ Deposit and payment products
- ☑ Budget and cash flow management
- ☑ Centrelink and other govt benefits
- ☑ Debt management (inc borrowing for personal and investment purposes)
- ☑ Arranging for listed securities, shares and debentures to be bought or sold via a platform and broker
- ☑ Personal and Employer superannuation
- ☑ Estate Planning
- ☑ Financial Planning
- ☑ Borrowing within your SMSF
- ☑ Investment strategies (strategic asset allocation)
- ☑ Personal insurance (all forms including death, TPD, TSC, income protection)
- ☑ Ongoing advice and services, inc regular portfolio reviews
- ☑ Retirement income streams, including pensions and annuities
- ☑ Salary packaging
- ☑ SMSF - Self Managed Super Funds

### MBA Financial Strategists

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Our office will be closed from Friday 21 December and will re-open on Monday 7 January 2019.

## Merry (financially savvy) Christmas



> How do you navigate the expense of Christmas, while keeping the celebrations stylish and bountiful? Our top tips include:

### Set a Budget

Setting a Christmas budget is one of the simplest and most effective ways to control expenditure. Budgets will vary wildly from family to family, depending on your income, outgoings and expectations. But whatever your budget, stick to it. Set one budget for gifts, one for food and beverages, and one for holiday activities.

### Festive feast

Christmas may be a time of loving, laughing and giving. But that doesn't mean you need to do all the giving. Delegate the Christmas feast so the whole family shares the expense. If you're supplying the prawns and turkey, ask a sibling or close family friend to bring the ham and another to bring a cheese platter. Remember, many hands make light work....and a healthy bank balance.

Eating a special meal with friends and relatives is a Christmas ritual for many people, but it can be an expensive one. Some ways to make the Christmas meal more affordable include rotating the hosting duties (and the cost) between extended family members each year, buying items in bulk, asking each guest to bring a dish or drink, or getting your guests to chip in some money towards the cost of the meal. And don't forget to use up any leftovers!

### Holiday gift

Don't know what to buy each other? Gift a family holiday! Pooling your resources and sharing the cost of a holiday – either with your own little clan, or the extended family, is a great way to celebrate Christmas. Hire a holiday house at the beach, or get away for a night in wine country – either way, you'll relax knowing you've got your financial bases covered.

### Keep receipts

It makes good financial sense to return gifts that are unsuitable or unwanted. Keep receipts to make the process quicker and more efficient after Christmas.

### Reward points

Got a stack of reward points on your credit card? Kill two birds with one stone by using them to purchase gift cards.

### Financial gifts

If you're sick of buying computer games and want to give your child something truly valuable, give them shares in a blue chip company, or a deposit for their long-term savings account. Not only will it make them feel grown up, but they'll thank you in years to come.

### Shop online – and compare

We all know that shopping online can save you \$\$\$, but remember to compare before you buy. Google 'price comparison websites in Australia,' and you'll find a list of eager participants ready to start searching on your behalf.

### New Year's resolution

When everything has settled down in the New Year, set aside an afternoon to shop around for better deals on car, house and health insurance; and gas and electricity suppliers. You'll be amazed by how much you can cut down your outgoings for 2019.

## Christmas hours

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Planning tomorrow, today.

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