



**Special points of interest:**

- ◆ **SCOA ACT Member Recruitment Campaign**
- ◆ **Recruitment Campaign to date**
- ◆ **Working while on a CSS Pension**
- ◆ **Federal Council—29, 30 & 31 March 2011**

**May 2011**

**JUNE 2011 General Meeting**  
**Southern Cross Club**  
**Woden**

**Monday 6 June 2011 at 10:30 am**

**Agenda**

Opening - 10:30 am  
 Confirm Minutes of December 2010  
 GM  
 Motion to raise subscription fees for 2012  
 Guest Speaker—Glenn Klein  
 Other Business  
 Close 12.00 noon

**Payment of Membership**  
**Subscriptions for 2011**

Membership subscriptions for calendar year 2011 became due on 1 January 2011.

**Ordinary membership \$29**  
**Joint membership \$40**  
**Surviving partner of contributor member \$21**

We would ask members to pay their membership subscription by credit card, cheque or money order.

Cheques should be made payable to SCOA (ACT).

If you are intending to pay your membership subscription by cash, please provide the correct amount. Please do not send cash through the mail.

You may use fax to send credit card details but please do not use e-mail.

Renewals sent by post should be addressed to:

**SCOA (ACT)**  
**PO Box 3989**  
**Weston Creek ACT 2611**

**NOT SCOA Federal Office at Pearce.**

**Notice of Motion to Raise**  
**Membership Subscription**  
**Rates**

In accordance with Rule 4.4.1 of the ACT Branch Constitution it is proposed that membership subscriptions for the calendar year 2012 be raised by one dollar per member unit. This means that the membership subscriptions to apply from 1 January 2012 will be:  
 Ordinary member: \$30.00; Member & partner: \$42.00; Surviving partner of member: \$22.00. The motion will be moved at the June General Meeting of the ACT Branch.

**Guest Speaker for June**  
**General Meeting**

Glenn Klein is the guest speaker at the June General Meeting. He is a member of the Financial Information Service attached to Centrelink. He will speak on the services provided for older Australians in the light of the draft report by the Productivity Commission, "Caring for Older Australians".

SCOA News is published by the  
 Superannuated Commonwealth Officers'  
 Association, ACT, Inc

SCOA (ACT) INC  
A B N : 6 2 - 1 4 1 - 6 3 7 - 5 5 6

**SCOA News**

## From the Branch President

The major concerns which continue to occupy a good deal of our time and energy include superannuation, taxation and Comcare: both in terms of the broad policy issues and as they affect individual members. We also try to inform members about other practical issues which arise for all of us as retirees. We do this in particular through our quarterly general meetings with speakers on such subjects as identity fraud, home care, arthritis, wills and estate planning and aged care.

Our collective strength is in our membership and participation. Where changing patterns of employment and superannuation options have led to falling SCOA numbers Australia-wide, we in the ACT have slowed the decline and maintained a membership of a little over 3,000. We still need to strengthen efforts to maintain and replenish our numbers in order to give our organisation not only financial viability, but the political impact and persuasiveness that only solid numbers can deliver.

Our persuasiveness with locally-based politicians rests of course on the justice and strength of our arguments, but solid membership numbers help ensure that we secure the attention that we merit.

I have reported previously on our recruitment plans within the ACT, targeting particular areas in an organised and intensive manner

through mailing, leafleting, shopping centre stalls and local public meetings.

The first such effort was targeted at the Weston Creek area during February. The initial indications have been encouraging, with modest but positive results. We are planning to repeat this in other areas of the ACT in the course of the year as well as actively exploring other channels to bring SCOA to the attention of present and future superannuants.

Please, if you have friends and neighbours who are Commonwealth or ACT superannuants, or are about to become a Commonwealth or ACT superannuant, give them a copy of SCOA News and encourage them to join.



John Blount  
Jb.canberra@gmail.com

**SCOA (ACT) Inc  
Superannuated  
Commonwealth Officers'  
Association**

ABN: 62-141-637-556

Grant Cameron Community Centre  
27 Mulley Street  
HOLDER ACT 2611  
PO Box 3989  
WESTON CREEK ACT 2611

Phone/Fax: (02) 6287 3024  
scoa.act@scoa.asn.au

### Put it in your Diary

The September General Meeting of SCOA ACT will be held in the Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie, on Monday 5 September, starting at 10.30am. The speaker will be Mr Hena Power of Ord Minnett. His topic will be the global financial situation.

## SCOA ACT Member Recruitment Campaign

**To:** SCOA Members

**About:** The SCOA Recruitment Campaign

**The ACT Branch Recruitment Committee asks all Members who are able to do so to approach retired Public Servants and ask if they are members of SCOA, and offer a Membership Brochure to those who say they are not members.**

It is important that SCOA increase its membership numbers to add to its credibility in negotiating with the Commonwealth Government, and to build up the financial reserves that pay for SCOA's Campaigns.

### **How can you help?**

The Recruitment Campaign to date has reinforced what is known from research and experience—face-to-face contact beats all other approaches to recruiting new members.

Enclosed with this edition of "SCOA News" are two copies of SCOA's membership brochure for use in recruiting new members.

### **To whom should you offer these brochures?**

Anyone in receipt of a Commonwealth Public Service Superannuation Pension (and any serving Public Servant who is contributor to a Commonwealth Public Service Superannuation Fund and who is planning for retirement).

Commonwealth Superannuation Schemes covered include the 1922 Act Scheme, the CSS, PSS and PSSap Schemes.

**Information** about SCOA can be had from the SCOA Website: [www.scoa.asn.au](http://www.scoa.asn.au) or by contacting the ACT Branch Office by e-mail: [scoa.act@scoa.asn.au](mailto:scoa.act@scoa.asn.au) or by telephoning the ACT Branch Office on telephone: 6287 3024.

"The ACT Branch Recruitment Committee asks all Members who are able to do so to approach retired Public Servants and ask if they are members of SCOA, and offer a Membership Brochure to those who say they are not members."

## Minutes of General Meeting, December 2010

President John Blount chaired the meeting. Approximately 115 members were present.

MINUTES: Summary of minutes of the General Meeting of 6 September 2010 had been published in SCOA NEWS. They were taken as read and confirmed. There was no business arising.

IN MEMORY: The President spoke of the recent deaths of ACT Branch life members David Bywaters and Paul Free and their significant contributions to SCOA both in the ACT and nationally. Details of their contributions had been set out in recent issues of SCOA NEWS. The meeting observed a minute of silence in remembrance of them.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr Blount introduced Guest Speaker Bruce Arnold, a teacher in Law at the University of Canberra, who spoke on the extent and nature of identity crime. He answered questions from the audience. Mr Blount thanked Mr Arnold and this was carried by acclamation.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Federal President, Dr Annette Barbetti advised the meeting of the following matters:

- A Private Member's Bill has been introduced in the Senate by Liberal Senator Michael Donaldson, proposing improved indexation of superannuation pensions received by retired members of the Australian Defence Forces. It will possibly be debated in the next session of the Senate. There is no provision in the draft Bill for similar improvement for retirees from the Public Service.
- SCOA has asked Comsuper to provide a statement in writing of the reasons which they claim prevent them from enclosing SCOA membership brochures when pension updates are mailed out to clients.
- Comsuper have agreed to include age pension links in superannuation pension update information sent to clients. They have also been asked to clarify statements relating to Government contributions to superannuation for employees aged up to 75 years.
- The Report of the 16<sup>th</sup> Series Review of the CPI will shortly be released. SCOA will examine its implications for superannuants.
- Dr Vivienne Teoh has been appointed as SCOA's new Federal Secretary

Mr Blount said that SCOA Indexation Manager, John Coleman, is seeking a meeting with Rob Oakshott MP.

He also stated that local MP Gai Brodtmann has advised that she and other Federal Members are discussing ways in which they might further address the improved indexation of superannuation for Public Service and Defence Force retirees.

OTHER BUSINESS: A member noted that SCOA NEWS was available by email and asked how he could obtain this service. He was advised to phone, email or write to the ACT Branch Office.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11.50am.

Advertise  
in *SCOA News*

Commercial  
Ads

\$500 full page  
\$300 half  
page  
\$150 quarter  
page

Charges for  
community  
organisations  
or individuals  
are  
determined by  
the Committee  
case by case

## Recruitment Campaign to date

**Weston Creek campaign:** Fourteen new members were recruited as a result of the recruitment campaign in Weston Creek. By far the most successful effort was by our members in Weston Creek – seven new members were recruited by our members there as a result of the bulletin sent to members in Weston Creek. Three were recruited through the handbill letterboxed in Weston Creek, one was recruited through the stall in Coleman Court, and three joined up after attending our meeting at the Weston Club, which was addressed by Federal President Annette Barbetti and Indexation Manager John Coleman.

**Seniors Expo:** Six people have signed up as members as a result of the stall at the Seniors Expo on Thursday 24 March. The stall was staffed by members of the Committee, including Stewart Homan from the volunteer list. The Assistant Secretary, Recruitment, Trevor Smith, moved around the Expo contacting stallholders and visitors to the Expo.

**Other membership recruitment activities:** New members also came from sources apparently unrelated to the Branch campaign. And SCOA ran a stall at the Canberra Show on Seniors Day.

**Summing up:** The recruitment campaign to date has reinforced what is known from research and experience – face-to-face contact beats all other approaches to recruiting new members.

“By far the most successful effort was by our members in Weston Creek—seven new members were recruited by our members as a result of the bulletin sent to members in Weston Creek.”

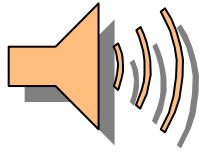
### WORKING WHILE ON A CSS PENSION

There is no problem working while in receipt of a CSS pension resulting from involuntary retirement. Working has no effect on the CSS pension paid following involuntary retirement. The CSS pension is a lifetime non-commutable pension and therefore not subject to preservation rules relating to working. There is no requirement to advise ComSuper about working and therefore there is not advice on their website to advise about working. Only invalidity retirees under age 65 are required to advise about working.

### CHRONIC DISEASE LIFELINE – ACT

The ACT Health Chronic Disease Telephone Coaching Service caters for the needs of patients with specific conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, chronic pulmonary disease or type 2 diabetes. The service aims to help people to improve self-management of their condition. People enrolled in the program will receive regular phone calls from a registered nurse to discuss their condition and help them to achieve their personal health goals.

All patients have to be referred by their health professional. For further information, see [www.health.act.gov.au/telephonecoaching](http://www.health.act.gov.au/telephonecoaching), talk to your GP or call Community Health Intake on 6207 9977.



## GUEST SPEAKER AT MARCH AGM — Campaigns and Lobbying in the New Political Environment

Guest Speaker at our March AGM, Kim Sattler, Secretary of Unions ACT, gave us an informative and challenging address on this subject.

She said that Unions have had to adapt to significant changes in the work environment. They have lost some of their traditional base. Many people can only get part time or casual work and they face rapid and frequent changeover of jobs. About two million people in Australia are on the precarious line of having insufficient earnings. Hence, many find it hard to predict their annual income and may feel they cannot commit expenditure to union membership. Added to this is the pay gap faced by women in the workforce, a gap which has increased significantly over the past ten years, both in the Public Service and in private industry.

Many young people are not aware of their rights at work and there is significant recent history of loss of benefits such as leave loading and superannuation through trading in salary arrangements. Prevalent in the hospitality industry is the annualisation of salary which results in employees working extremely long hours in peak periods with no overtime benefits and short hours in off-peak times.

Kim gave other examples and spoke of faulty contract arrangements. It is common, she said, for employee organisations to be struggling to get members and office bearers. She spoke highly of SCOA (ACT)'s ability to get significant numbers at General and Annual General Meetings (although we in SCOA feel we should be doing much better).

Kim spoke of the changes which have occurred in bargaining and lobbying. Procedures have become very complex and legislation sometimes places difficult limits. No longer can unions predict media reactions as they vary significantly and are compounded by modern communication technology including facebook, blogging and twitter. Union staff have had to learn to use all available technology and techniques and to adopt creative ways to campaign.

Kim answered questions from the floor relating to compensation, anti-union sentiments, lobbying, bargaining and trade-offs. She said that we should not expect quick results from campaigns. Big and significant gains only come after long campaigns lasting years and usually require significant trade-offs against the ideal situation.

### Disclaimer

**SCOA News is produced for the information of members of SCOA ACT Branch. It is written with care, in good faith and from sources believed to be accurate.**

**However, readers should not act, or refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information in SCOA News about financial, taxation or any other matter. Having regard for their own particular circumstances, readers should consult the relevant authorities or other advisers with expertise in the particular field. Neither SCOA nor the Editor accepts any responsibility for actions taken by readers.**

“Many young people are not aware of their rights at work and there is significant recent history of loss of benefits such as leave loading and superannuation through trading in salary arrangements”.

## Federal Council—29, 30 and 31 March 2011

The ACT Branch was represented by the ACT Councillor, Graeme Evans, and his proxy, Frank Mines, who stood in for Graeme during the first half of the Council meeting while Graeme was recovering from an operation.

**Membership fees and capitation fees:** Capitation fees were raised by \$1.00 per member unit. Federal Council recommended that Branches raise their membership fees by \$1.00 per member unit.

**Bereavement Book:** It was agreed to list the contents page of the Bereavement Book on the website but not its content. It was also agreed to have the ACT Public Trustee review the contents of the Bereavement Book.

**Cornwell case:** Following on the success of the Cornwell case about people who were denied the superannuation they were entitled to, the Commonwealth Department of Finance was tasked with dealing with similar cases brought to its attention. Because the Department of Finance seemed to be slow in dealing with these cases, a Senate inquiry has been set up to see if the resolution of these cases can be expedited.

**Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation:** The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, which will replace ARIA, will have three representatives nominated by the ACTU and two representatives nominated by the Chief of the Defence Force. SCOA is lobbying to have SCOA represented on the board.

**Donations and bequests:** During a discussion of finances it was revealed that some Branches have received donations from members of

up to thousands of dollars. A motion to ask members to include bequests to SCOA in their wills was lost.

**Federal Councillors' incidental allowances:** It was decided to discontinue the incidentals allowance Federal Councillors from interstate received while attending Federal Council.

**Review of honoraria.** There will be a review of honoraria paid to members of Federal Office staff in lieu of salaries. There will be no review of the salaries paid to the two salaried staff.



### SCOA'S VOLUNTEERS

SCOA ACT has an e-mail list of volunteers who assist with the quarterly newsletter mailouts, the processing of membership renewals in the peak December-January period and in some recruiting activities. There is no obligation on volunteers to participate in any particular activity. There are currently 21 members on the volunteers list. If you would like to be put on the volunteers e-mail list, please telephone Frank Mines on mobile 0409 035 352, telephone 6253 9096 or e-mail him on: [frankmines@bigpond.com](mailto:frankmines@bigpond.com).

#### CORRECTION

There was a printing error on our last edition envelope. In some cases, the paid date was incorrect. We would therefore encourage you to check the date on your May 2011 envelope. If you feel the date is incorrect, please let the ACT Office know.

“Federal Council recommended that Branches raise their membership fees by \$1.00 per member unit”.

## Caring for Older Australians

The Productivity Commission has released a Draft Report on 'Caring for Older Australians' and is scheduled to present a final report to the Government by the end of June 2011 for its consideration.

The Productivity Commission has received a substantial volume of written comments on the Draft Report and has also hosted public hearings in most states and the ACT. Peter Hurley represented SCOA at the ACT hearings and outlined SCOA's position on several aspects of the Draft Report.

The Productivity Commission recognised that Australia has a significant care system but that the system suffers several key weaknesses, including:

- it is difficult to navigate and the quantity of services is limited;
- quality can be variable, there are gaps in service coverage and limited choice for care recipients;
- pricing, subsidies and user co-contributions are inconsistent and inequitable within and between care settings; and
- workforce shortages are exacerbated by uncompetitive wages and over-regulation.

It was also mindful that the system will be further challenged by an increase in numbers and expectations of older people, a relative decline in informal carers and the need for a larger workforce.

The Commission's proposals address these weaknesses and challenges and promote higher quality care. The focus is on enhancing the wellbeing of older Australians - promoting independence, connectedness and choice. Under the proposed reforms, older Australians would:

- contact a simplified 'gateway' for: easily understood information; assessments of care needs; assessments of financial capacity to make co-contributions; entitlements to approved services; and care coordination - all at a regional level;
- receive a flexible range of care and support services that meet their individual needs and that emphasise, where possible, restorative care and rehabilitation;
- choose, where feasible and appropriate, to receive care at home or in a residential facility and choose their approved provider;
- contribute in part to their cost of care (with a maximum lifetime limit) and meet their accommodation and living expenses (with safety nets for those with limited means);
- have access to a government sponsored equity release scheme to pay for their care and accommodation charges if they have assets but limited annual incomes;
- choose between paying a daily charge or an equivalent bond for the accommodation costs of residential care - with both aligned to the real cost of accommodation;
- retain their age pension when selling their home (and if paying a lower capital sum or a daily charge for their new accommodation) by purchasing an Australian Pensioners Bond; and
- choose whether to purchase additional services or a higher quality of accommodation if that is what they want and can afford to do so.

*Continued on Page 9*

**“The Productivity Commission recognized that Australia has a significant care system but that the system suffers several key weaknesses”.**

*Continued from Page 8*

Safety and quality standards would be retained but current limits on the number of residential places and care packages would be removed, as would be the distinctions between low and high care and between ordinary and extra services.

The Productivity Commission has proposed establishment of a single body to oversee and administer aged care and progressive implementation of proposed changes over several years.

SCOA will continue to monitor developments and make representations as necessary.



## SAVE MONEY ON JUNK PICKUP IN THE ACT

The ACT Government has announced on 20 April that pensioners and concession card holders will receive free home collection of their bulk waste under a 12-month trial program. It will cover large waste items such as furniture, white goods and large appliances, which can be picked up from driveways outside eligible homes. SCOA has been lobbying for collection of bulk waste for some years, and has asked for it in recent pre-Budget submissions. This trial was announced in the 2009-10 ACT Budget. The collection will be done by Tiny's Green Shed from the Mugga Lane recycling facility.

Those eligible for the service will be permitted to have only one free collection per year. They will have to pay fees for subsequent collections. Those who are not eligible for the free scheme can have bulk waste removed for a fee of about \$127 for two cubic metres. Bookings for collection can be made on 6162 5176.

If you have metal waste and are not eligible for the ACT Government's free collection, an alternative is to contact the locally owned business Ezyscrap. They provide free collection for anything metal or predominantly metal (such as white goods), they pay you for taking away non-ferrous metal waste (e.g. copper, aluminium, etc) and they pay cash for cars (in any condition). Their phone number is 1800 553 753 and their website is [www.ezyscrap.com](http://www.ezyscrap.com).

“Membership subscriptions for calendar year 2011 became due on 1 January 2011”



## ACT BRANCH WEBSITE

The ACT Branch Committee is considering whether to establish a website to complement material held on the SCOA federal website. It is believed the website would help promote services to ACT members and be used in local recruiting campaigns. It could also be used in the payment of membership subscriptions.

SCOA members who would be interested either in assisting in the building of the website or in assisting in its maintenance once established should contact Frank Mines on mobile: 0409 035 352.

## Our Office at Holder

The ACT Branch has recently renewed its lease on the premises it uses as an office at the Grant Cameron Centre, Holder. The lease is for five years and costs \$291.57 per month with a three per cent rise each year to allow for CPI increases. As well as the premises, the rent covers water, electricity and sewerage.

The office is generally staffed from Monday to Friday, although not necessarily all day. Among those who use it most frequently are the data entry team lead by the Admin. Officer, John Richmond, which includes his understudy, Bert Blink, and Gavin Ford from the volunteer list.

The IT Manager, John Blank, and his assistant, Myles Hannan, are in frequently in connection with the offsite backup of financial and membership data. This became important in 2003 when the Grant Cameron Centre was damaged by fire during the firestorm on Saturday 18 January and was closed for some time.

John Blank is also in frequently in connection with the maintenance of the existing data base management system, which is being replaced in May by the new "SAM" system. The development of the "SAM" data base system, based on Microsoft Access, has been conducted by the Assistant Secretary, Info. Tech., Peter Barker.

Other Office-bearers and Committee members also use the office as a base for Branch activities.

The Branch has the use of conference rooms in the Centre and these are used for Committee meetings and the mailout of the quarterly newsletters. The actual development of the newsletters is done offsite, at Federal Office in Pearce in the case of "Supertime", and by the "SCOA News" editor, Kylie Pryde at her home.

## Please Help!

The Admin. staff are continually having to reverse and resubmit dishonoured credit card transactions from members.

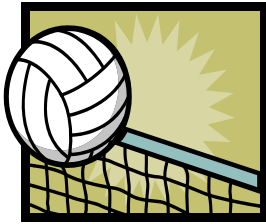
To help in this matter could you please assist them by:

1. Ensuring the credit card details provided are neatly written;
2. The details provided are accurate;
3. Do not use felt tip pens. This is particularly so if the renewal form is on glossy paper. More often or not the written details will become smudged and become very difficult to read.
4. Please ensure that the type of credit card is clearly marked as is the amount you wish to pay.

One other point that often causes problems is members who don't know or have forgotten their membership number. Such members often write in the box provided for the number. This is of no use to the staff and can cause problems as the number has to be written elsewhere on the form.

Admin. Officer

"The office is generally staffed from Monday to Friday although not necessarily all day".



### SUPPORTING THE CLUBS THAT SUPPORT US

SCOA ACT is fortunate in being provided with venues for its General Meetings by the Southern Cross Club, Woden, and the Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie. SCOA ACT urges its members to reward the generosity of these clubs by patronising their premises and taking up membership in the clubs. Their fees are as follows:

**Ainslie Football Club:** Associate Membership: \$5.00 for one year or \$10.00 for three years; Senior/Pensioner Membership: \$2.00 for one year, \$4.00 for three years.

**Southern Cross Club:** Ordinary membership: \$10.00; family membership: \$12.00; senior or pensioner membership: \$5.00; senior or pensioner family membership: \$6.00; for a three year membership the rates are: ordinary membership: \$25.00; family membership: \$30.00; senior or pensioner membership: \$12.00; senior or pensioner family membership: \$15.00.

## Donations to SCOA

The Branch is grateful to those members who make donations to SCOA. Although most of the work of SCOA is carried on by volunteers, there is inevitably the need for expenditure on items such as media advertising, rent of premises, purchase of equipment, and so on. SCOA's only source of income is the subscriptions paid by members. The relatively modest level of the retirement incomes of most members is a constraint on the amount of money that can be raised from this source. SCOA is always grateful when members who do have adequate incomes make donations to SCOA. However, donations to SCOA are not tax deductible as the Taxation Office does not classify SCOA as a charity.

**“SCOA News” is a supplement to “SuperTime”. Print Post approved PP231677/00006**

### E-MAIL DELIVERY OF NEWSLETTERS:

Members are encouraged to receive their SCOA newsletters by e-mail. Newsletters sent by e-mail are sent earlier than the posted version and would provide financial savings for SCOA ACT in the form of reduced printing and postage costs. E-mail transmission of newsletters is also kinder to the environment. If you would like to assist us in this regard please advise the ACT Branch Office by e-mail at [scoa.act@scoa.asn.au](mailto:scoa.act@scoa.asn.au). Thirty-one members responded to our invitation in the February edition of “SCOA News”. Thank you!



### FAX CHANGE

The ACT Branch now has a phone/fax machine on its telephone number: 6287 3024. From now on, all fax messages to the ACT Branch should be directed to this number. The ACT Branch's dedicated fax number: 6287 3023 has been closed down and Telstra asked to re-direct calls to this number to our phone/fax number: 6287 3024 for a period of twelve months, commencing on 28 October 2010.

“The ACT Branch now has a phone/fax machine on its telephone number: 6287 3024.”

## Have you provided your current e-mail address to SCOA ACT?

SCOA ACT is making increasing use of e-mail addresses to keep members informed of developments and/or requirements. Much can happen in the three month period between issues of "SCOA News" and not all developments find their way onto relevant websites.

So if you have an e-mail address but have not advised it to SCOA ACT please give consideration to doing so. If you have changed your e-mail address but have not advised SCOA ACT of the change, it would be appreciated if you would now provide the current e-mail address. The SCOA ACT e-mail address is [scoa.act@scoa.asn.au](mailto:scoa.act@scoa.asn.au)

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(sourced from [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au))

### MARCH QUARTER KEY POINTS:

#### THE ALL GROUPS CPI

- ✦ rose 1.6% in the March quarter 2011, compared with a rise of 0.4% in the December quarter 2010.
- ✦ rose 3.3% through the year to the March quarter 2011, compared with a rise of 2.7% through the year to the December quarter 2010.

#### OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- ✦ The most significant price rises this quarter were for automotive fuel (+8.8%), vegetables (+16.0%), deposit and loan facilities (+4.6%), fruit (+14.5%) and pharmaceuticals (+12.5%).
- ✦ The most significant offsetting price falls were for furniture (-6.2%), audio, visual and computing equipment (-7.2%), milk (-6.2%), overseas holiday travel and accommodation (-1.6%) and motor vehicle (-0.5%).

The increase in the CPI for the 6 months ending March 2011 is 1.96%. This means that ComSuper pensions will increase by 2.0% on pension payday 14 July 2011.

### CENTRELINK'S FINANCIAL INFORMATION SERVICE

SCOA ACT receives many enquiries from members about financial information and advice. Centrelink's Financial Information Service provides information about the options facing enquirers but it does not make any recommendations for action. The Financial Information Service can be contacted on telephone: 13 2300.

## SCOA ACT Membership

(at 19 April 2011)

Life	9
Joint	1186
Ordinary	1489
Partner of deceased Contributor	331
<b>Total</b>	<b>3015</b>

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNION

If you were a member of the Community and Public Sector Union while in the public service, you are entitled to continue as an Associate Member. The annual fee is \$24.55. The benefits that go with membership can be accessed on the CPSU's website: [www.cpsu.org.au](http://www.cpsu.org.au). We are grateful for the support given by the CPSU to our indexation campaign.

### ACT Branch Executive Committee (as at 19.4.2011)

President: John Blount  
Imm Past President: Peter Hurley  
Vice President: Annette Barbeti  
Vice President: Graeme Evans  
Secretary: Frank Mines  
Treasurer: Wal Collins  
A/S Finance: Vacant  
A/S Information Tech: Peter Barker  
A/S Membership: Vacant  
A/S Recruitment: Trevor Smith  
A/S Minutes: Joe Clark  
A/S Correspondence: Bob Steins  
A/S Research & Compensation: Ian Buchanan  
Federal Councillor: Graeme Evans  
(Proxy) Frank Mines  
Members: Ewan Hazell, John Coleman  
Public Officer: Bob Steins  
  
IT Manager: John Blank  
Administration Officer: John Richmond  
"SCOA News" Editor: Kylie Pryde