



Special points of interest:

- ◆ **Honorary Life Members**
- ◆ **May 2011 ACT Government Budget**
- ◆ **FIS Seminars ACT Region August—December 2011**
- ◆ **Superannuation and the Commonwealth Budget**

August 2011

SEPTEMBER 2011 General Meeting

Ainslie Football Club

Ainslie

Monday 5 September 2011 at 10:30am

Agenda

Opening - 10:30 am
 Confirm Minutes of June 2011 GM
 Honorary Life Memberships
 Guest Speaker—Mr Hena Power
 Other Business
 Close 12.00 noon

**Speaker for September
 2011 General Meeting
 The State of the Global and
 Australian Financial Situation**

Our speaker for the September General Meeting is Mr Hena Power of Ord Minnett. Hena will speak on the current global and Australian financial situations. Hena is no stranger to readers of the financial section of the “Canberra Times”.

Hena has an economics degree with honours from Melbourne University. He spent four years as an economic and financial policy adviser in the federal Treasury Department, five years providing monetary policy and financial markets advice to the Prime Minister, ten years as a stock broker and manager with Dicksons, and is now a senior financial adviser with Ord Minnett stockbrokers.

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

Honorary Life Members

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

Awards & Presentations

To recognise the invaluable unpaid efforts of the volunteers on whom the Branch depends, the Executive Committee has decided to expand and formalise existing awards, including the existing provision for Honorary Life Membership. The following levels of recognition have been provided for:

Honorary Life Membership is to be awarded for particularly long and distinguished service, and will be restricted to twelve in number at any one time. Reflecting the significance of this recognition, the award is by resolution of a Branch General Meeting on the recommendation of the Branch Executive Committee.

The Meritorious Service Award is to be presented for distinguished or dedicated service and may be approved by the Executive Committee.

The Certificate of Appreciation is to be presented for volunteer service or individual meritorious acts, including on occasion recognition of acts of kindness by a commercial enterprise to the benefit of the Branch. They also may be approved by the Executive Committee.

Presentations

At the forthcoming General Meeting, on 5 September, it is intended to present framed certificates to Mr Ewan Hazell

Cont. on Page 3

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

SCOA News

From the Branch President

Carbon tax compensation is emerging as a major issue affecting our members.

There has been a lot of coverage and the publication of tables relating to typical situations, but the situations of many of us are not neatly encompassed by these tables and there remains a lack of clarity.

On the one hand, it does seem clear that those who are on a part-pension and/or have a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and/or have a taxable income under \$80,000 per year will receive compensation - although the quantum will depend on individual circumstances.

Other questions remain unanswered. Those with the relatively low average indexed superannuation will have a significantly reduced tax liability on that income but presumably would still receive the present 10% tax offset. Some change to the Senior Australians Tax Offset has been foreshadowed. Much of this remains unclear.

SCOA is putting together some typical situations or combinations of factors for Commonwealth superannuants which we will be raising with the Government to seek clearer information about likely outcomes. We expect that we will be in a position to provide some answers in future issues of *SCOA News* and/or *SuperTime*.

This might be a suitable time to remind members of the availability of objective (and free) assistance in relation to financial information and planning.

Centrelink's Financial Information Service provides general financial information (tel. 132300) including a series of very useful free seminars. We

provide information about upcoming seminars elsewhere in this issue of *SCOA News*.

Also, the National Information Centre on Retirement Investments Inc (NICRI) is an independent body funded by the Australian Government to provide the public with free information on planning and saving for retirement, investment options and effective use of financial resources in retirement. It does not represent government or the financial industry, and provides financial information, not financial advice. It delivers its services through a toll-free telephone inquiry service, a website, and presentations at external seminars and Centrelink's Financial Information Service seminars: www.nicri.org.au or telephone 6280 9977 or 1800 020 110.



John Blount
Jb.canberra@gmail.com

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

ABN: 62-141-637-556

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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
December
General
Meeting of
SCOA ACT
will be held
in the
Southern
Cross Club,
Woden on
Monday 5
December,
starting at
10.30am.
The topic will
be cyber
crime.

Cont. from Page 1

and Mr Peter Hurley who were previously awarded Honorary Life Membership at a Branch General Meeting last September.

Two new Honorary Life memberships are to be considered at the General Meeting on 5 September on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Citation

John Blank has provided long and distinguished service to the ACT Branch of SCOA since 2001 maintaining and enhancing the Branch's information technology hardware and software. He has also undertaken regular off site back-up of the system database and oversight of the Branch Internet & telephone communications systems.

Motion: That this General Meeting adopts the recommendation of the Branch Executive to grant Honorary Life Membership to John Blank, in accordance with the accompanying citation.

Proposed; John Blount
Seconded; Trevor Smith

Citation

Frank Mines has provided long and distinguished service to the ACT Branch of SCOA initially as Vice President and for the last decade as Branch Secretary as well as proxy Federal Councillor. His key contributions have included improved running of the Branch Office by attracting, training and deploying volunteers drawn from our membership; design and development of recruiting campaigns, editing and publishing SCOA News, organising mailouts and contributing his expertise to Federal Office.

Motion: That this General Meeting adopts the recommendation of the Branch Executive to grant Honorary Life Membership to Frank Mines, in accordance with the accompanying citation.

Proposed; John Blount
Seconded; Trevor Smith

Footnote. Members who would like a copy of the full citations can obtain a copy from the Branch Office, either in hard copy or in an electronic version.

AUDIT REPORT

The Auditor found the 2010 accounts to be correct and in accordance with legal requirements. Two minor changes were made resulting in a shift of one amount to a different expenditure category and a reduction of stated income by \$29.00 with an equal reduction of expenditure. This was reported to members at the June General Meeting.

E-MAIL DELIVERY OF NEWSLETTERS: Do you want your newsletters delivered to you by e-mail rather than in hard copy? Please let us know.



Two new Honorary Life memberships are to be considered at the General Meeting on 5 September on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Minutes of General Meeting, June 2010

President John Blount chaired the meeting. Approximately 75 members were present.

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

SPECIAL MOTION: Notice of Motion had been given in SCOA NEWS that this General Meeting of the ACT Branch of the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association agree that the membership fees for the calendar year 2012 be as follows:

Ordinary member: \$30.00

Joint membership: \$42.00

Surviving partner of contributor member: \$22.00

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr Blount introduced Guest Speaker Glenn Klein, a member of the Financial Information Service (FIS) attached to Centrelink. Mr Klein spoke of the services provided by the FIS, work bonus enhancements, costs of retirement villages, aged care support and age pensions. He answered questions from the audience. Mr Blount thanked Mr Klein and this was carried by acclamation. Mr Blount indicated that dates of future FIS seminars will be published in SCOA NEWS.

GENERAL BUSINESS: The President presented an update report on the indexation campaign which had been prepared by the Campaign Manager John Coleman, who had been unable to attend the meeting. Details included the following:

- Both the Government and the Coalition have now acknowledged that the CPI is inappropriate for indexing pensions. The Government is looking at an alternative index but this might be compromised because it is likely to be based on the CPI. The Government has also acknowledged there will be a 30% clawback due to reduced expenditure on Age Pensions.
- The Senator Ronaldson bill to provide fair indexation to some military superannuants is scheduled for further discussion in the Parliament. A Private Members Motion passed in the Representatives gave in principle support to the bill.
- Actuarial advice provided to SCOA indicates that the Future Fund has both financial and legal capacity to fund fair indexation, and Government estimates of the cost of improved indexation may be exaggerated by 50%-80% due to faulty assumptions. This advice has been sent to the Prime Minister and other key MPs.
- Meetings have been held with some key MPs and further meetings are being sought.

Federal President, Annette Barbetti, said that the recent Cornwell legal decision relating to a situation where a temporary employee had been incorrectly advised of his entitlement to contribute to superannuation, has set a precedent and others are encouraged to apply for consideration if they were similarly disadvantaged. Details were included in the recent edition of SuperTime. The SCOA ACT Office can provide details and forms for submission of a claim.

Peter Hurley reported on taxation and other matters including the following:

- SCOA fees can be claimed as a tax deduction under 'Other Deductions D15'. Many older shareholders are not claiming their franking credits. Credits can be claimed retrospectively to 2001.
- Income limit for free tax help has been raised to \$50,000.
- SCOA has expressed concern that the proposed concession for carbon pricing might not assist Commonwealth superannuants who pay little or no tax and are on a part age pension.
- The new Centrelink work bonus is scheduled to operate from 1 July 2011.
- In SuperTime, members have been invited to put forward views on the future of SCOA.

Treasurer, Wal Collins, advised that the Auditor had reported that the books and accounts for 2010 had been audited and found to be correct and in accordance with legal requirements. Two minor changes were made resulting in a reduction of stated income by \$29.00 and an equal reduction of expenditure. The meeting passed this report unanimously

OTHER BUSINESS: A member asked about the impact of the recent House of Representatives approval of a Private Member's motion on improved indexation for Defence Force superannuation. The President, John Blount, said that although the passing of the motion by a unanimous vote was an endorsement of the principles included in the separate bill put forward by Senator Ronaldson, the House and the Senate were yet to debate that bill.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12.10pm.

MAY 2011 ACT GOVERNMENT BUDGET

Each year SCOA ACT puts to the ACT Treasurer a document called 'Issues of concern to Superannuants in the ACT'. Other issues are put forward on an ad hoc basis. The majority are issues drawn to our attention by members.

There were a number of successes in the recent Budget including:

Transport: bus stops: *Bus stops and shelters will be improved to ensure they are compliant with Disability Discrimination Act standards. SCOA's issue from an earlier year was to take into account the needs of senior users of ACTION buses.*

Walking and cycling infrastructure: *Walking and cycling infrastructure will be improved through the construction of on- and off-road cycle and community paths. SCOA put forward the need for more and improved footpaths two years ago and funds were included in last year's Budget for this purpose. It is pleasing that more funding has been provided in the current Budget.*

City path lighting: *Funding will be provided to increase lighting around community shared paths in order to improve safety and encourage increased use of the paths. A couple of years ago, SCOA included in a submission to the ACT Government the need for improved lighting, particularly in older suburbs and recreation areas. Some funding was provided last year. Further funding this year is welcomed.*

Accessible public toilets: *Public toilet facilities will be upgraded to increase the number of facilities accessible by older and infirm people, as well as carers with children. In the above submission to the ACT Government, SCOA sought improved planning of and funding for accessible public toilets. This funding is long over due.*

Taxi subsidy scheme: *There will be an increase in the number of vouchers and an increase in the subsidy per trip. There will be an investigation of the possibility of replacing the voucher system with a smart card. For several years SCOA has had discussions with ACT Government officials on the need for an increased number of vouchers and increased trip subsidy. Improvements have occurred and will be further enhanced by the above inclusion.*

SCOA also welcomes the following inclusions, as some SCOA members will benefit from each:

Health and ageing: *There will be an increase in services addressing the health problems of older people.*

Concessions because of climate change related policies: *There will be an increase in utility concessions available to eligible people to help cope with the rising cost of utility services.*

Social Housing: *Funding will be provided for 32 houses to house people with a disability supported by members of the surrounding community.*

Affordable housing: *Policies will be developed to improve housing affordability.*

Homelessness: *There will be an expansion of services for homeless people.*

In addition to the above, SCOA sought:

Improved rubbish collection: *The 'bulk waste collection' service introduced in April 2011 (see separate article) was part of what was being sought.*

For several years SCOA has had discussions with ACT Government officials on the need for an increased number of vouchers and increased trip subsidy.

Guest Speaker at June Meeting — Centrelink Services

Guest Speaker at our March AGM, Glenn Klein from the Centrelink Financial Information Service (FIS), gave us an informative address on recent developments in the services provided by Centrelink.

FIS is a free service, available to everyone, to provide information about investment options and their effect on pensions, allowances and taxation, and to help people make best use of their financial resources. The service is provided through seminars, phone and personal consultations.

Glenn advised that work bonus enhancements are scheduled to be introduced from 1 July 2011, dependant on legislation being passed by the Parliament. When calculating the effect of earned income on pension entitlement, the first \$250 earned per fortnight will be disregarded. Any amount unused in a fortnight can accrue, up to a maximum of \$6500 per annum.

The pension entitlement of persons living in a retirement village or receiving residential aged care can be affected by the financial arrangements which they have made with the village management or providers. The amount of contribution paid to enter a village may be taken as an asset. A contribution to the cost of daily care can be 84% of a basic single Age Pension with an income tested fee being determined on a principle of 5/12 of income above a threshold. Centrelink assesses a person's income on behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing. Persons should weigh up the advantages and disadvantages and seek advice. Good sources of advice are the Council on the Ageing (COTA), Government Seniors Information Service or Internet searches for articles, comparisons or directories.

If a person enters a care facility, their former home remains exempt for two years from entry to care, or indefinitely if their partner still lives there. It is also exempt if the home is rented and the person is liable to pay an Accommodation Charge, or pays an Accommodation Bond by periodic instalments. However, the rental income may be assessed for determining Pension and the Income Tested Fee.

Glenn pointed out that there are 2,200,000 Age Pensioners in Australia, of which 55% are on the partnered rate of pension and 45% on the single rate; 61% are on the maximum rate; 73% are homeowners, 22% are non-homeowners, and 5% are living in aged care.

To arrange an appointment for FIS advice, phone 13 2300. If you wish to get phone advice on a particular issue, you should call Glenn Klein on 6219 3207 if you live in North or Central Canberra, or call Karl Jordt on 6208 6646 if you live in South Canberra or Queanbeyan.

Glenn advised that work bonus enhancements are scheduled to be introduced from 1 July 2011, dependant on legislation being passed by the Parliament.

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.

FIS Seminars ACT Region August—December 2011

Seminar Title	Time & Date	Location
Understanding Retirement Income Streams	6.00pm Wednesday 17 August 2011	Belconnen Premier Inn 110 Benjamin Way, Belconnen
Understanding Shares	6.00pm Thursday 18 August 2011	Belconnen Premier Inn 110 Benjamin Way, Belconnen
Understanding your Pension	2.00pm Wednesday 14 September 2011	Quality Hotel Woden Cnr Melrose Dr & Launceston St, Phillip
Accommodation Options in Retirement	2.00pm Thursday 15 September 2011	Quality Hotel Woden Cnr Melrose Dr & Launceston St, Phillip
Retirement Reality and Investment Choices	6.00pm Wednesday 12 October 2011	Diplomat Hotel 2 Hely St, Griffith, ACT
Age Pension and your Choices	6.00pm Thursday 13 October 2011	Diplomat Hotel 2 Hely St, Griffith, ACT
Financial Planning and Choosing a Financial Planner	6.00pm Wednesday 16 November 2011	Belconnen Premier Inn 110 Benjamin Way, Belconnen
Salary Sacrificing	6.00pm Thursday 17 November 2011	Belconnen Premier Inn 110 Benjamin Way, Belconnen
Managing your Money	6.00pm Wednesday 07 December 2011	Quality Hotel Woden Cnr Melrose Dr & Launceston St, Phillip
Creating Wealth	6.00pm Thursday 08 December 2011	Quality Hotel Woden Cnr Melrose Dr & Launceston St, Phillip

Changes possible. Please confirm seminar titles and venues when booking in for seminars.

Bookings are essential: call 13 6357 or
Email: [fis.seminar.bookings @ Centrelink.gov.au](mailto:fis.seminar.bookings@Centrelink.gov.au)
Average seminar duration: 2 hours

The Centrelink Financial Information Service (FIS) is a free education and information service available to everyone in the community.

FIS has no association with financial products or fund managers. Some presentations have guest speakers from the financial industry.

COMMONWEALTH SUPERANNUATION CORPORATION (CSC)

The ARIA and Military Super Boards have recently been merged to form a new entity called the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC). There will not be any changes to Scheme Rules as a result of the merger. ComSuper will continue to administer the CSS and PSS Schemes; Pillar will take over the administration of the PSSap. Further details can be found on ARIA's website at www.aria.gov.au

The
Centrelink
Financial
Information
Service (FIS)
is a free
education
and
information
service
available to
everyone in
the
community.

Subs for 2011

SCOA annual subscriptions become due at the beginning of each calendar year. Fees for 2011:

Ordinary membership \$29

Joint membership \$40

Surviving partner of Contributor membership \$21

Cheques should be made payable to SCOA (ACT)

Renewals should be sent to:

SCOA (ACT)
PO Box 3989
Weston Creek
(Not SCOA Federal Office)

Membership Form

Please Tick one. New Member Renewing

Member Number (if applicable)

Please complete your personal details.

Title _____ Surname _____

Given Name(s) _____ YOB _____

Mailing Address _____

P/Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Name of Spouse/Partner _____

Retired from/Employed by _____

Where did you find out about SCOA? _____

Please choose payment method

Cheque Money order

Credit Card

Please make cheque/money order payable to SCOA ACT.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

MasterCard Visa

Credit Card Number : _____

Expiry Date: __ / __ Amount \$ _____

Name on Credit Card:

Signature:

SCOA annual subscriptions become due at the beginning of each calendar year.

Claiming your membership subscription in your 2011 taxation return

The portion of your subscription you can claim in your 2011 tax return is outlined on the receipt you have received for your subscription. If you have only recently paid your subscription and haven't received a receipt, contact the ACT Office on (02) 6387 3024 or email scoa.act@scoa.asn.au

The Tax Office Ruling on what portion of your subscription you can claim in your tax return is on SCOA's website www.scoa.asn.au

The Tax Office has indicated the amount should be claimed in 2011 against Item D15 which is in the Supplementary Section of the tax return.

SUBS FOR 2012

It would help ease the workload of SCOA ACT office staff in January and February 2012 if members would consider making an early payment of their subscriptions for 2012.

The fees for 2012 will be ordinary membership: \$30; joint membership: \$42; surviving partner of contributor member: \$22. The fees for 2012 will take effect from 1 January 2012.



The bulky waste collection service is provided free of charge to Canberra households where the resident holds a Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card, ACTION Gold or Veterans Affairs Gold Card.

Superannuation and the Commonwealth Budget

Members may have read an article in the June edition of the Public Sector Informant lift-out of the Canberra Times (June 7 2011) entitled *Accounting for a super mystery* by David Richardson of the Australia Institute.

The article raised the possibility that the Government has erred in the way it budgets for our superannuation, suggesting that "taxpayers now effectively pay three times to fund public servants' superannuation".

Were this suggestion to be true, it would change the affordability arguments associated with our claim for reasonable pension indexation considerably.

Consequently, our Treasurer, Wal Collins, has examined the issues raised in the article and the sections of the Budget associated with our superannuation with the help of an accountant experienced in Government budgeting.

Wal has concluded that the Budget has validly and consistently accounted for public sector superannuation and that the concerns expressed in the article arise from a misunderstanding of the treatment of superannuation within the accrual accounting regime of current Government budgeting.

Members who would like to understand more of the detail of these issues can contact Wal through the Branch Office email: scoa.act@scoa.asn.au

Spring time brings a spring clean to our Office

We welcome SAM to our office. SAM is the acronym for our new computer membership database. SAM stands for (S)COA (A)dmistration of (M)embership and allows us to do a lot of things we could not do in the past.

One of the improved things is that we are better able to communicate electronically with members where members elect to receive receipts, newsletters and other correspondence by email.

Every member who provides us with their email address will receive their newsletter both by email and normal post unless they advise that only the electronic version is required. The advantage of receiving your newsletter electronically only is that you will not only receive it sooner, but you will be saving SCOA postage costs and the environmental costs of using paper resources.

Similarly, it is proposed that all receipts for membership payments will be sent by email to members who supply an email address unless they indicate they wish to continue to receive printed receipts with their next posted newsletter.

Bulky Waste Collection

The ACT Government commenced a \$1 million, 12-month trial of a bulky waste collection service on 27 April 2011.

If you have used the service, SCOA ACT would like feedback on your experience as the service is subject to review.

SCOA ACT lobbied for the service.

The bulky waste collection service is provided free of charge to Canberra households where the resident holds a Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card, ACTION Gold or Veterans Affairs Gold Card.

Eligible households are entitled to one free collection during the trial period. Other households will incur a fee based on the condition and ability to reuse the waste items.

Items that will be accepted during the trial are household furniture and appliances, mattresses, garden tools and equipment, timber, white goods, sinks, baths, building materials, metal products and scrap metal.

Items that will not be accepted include garden waste, food waste, sheet glass, mirrors, household chemicals or hazardous waste and building waste.

The service had been awarded to Goran Srejjic, trading as Tiny's Green Shed. For more information please visit <http://www.tams.act.gov.au/> or call Tiny's on 6162 5176 for information or to book the service.

Support for SCOA Members in the Northern Territory

The Northern Territory has public servants working for both the Commonwealth Government and the Northern Territory Government. There are public service retirees in the Northern Territory who either worked there previously or moved there from Canberra or other parts of Australia after retirement.

While there has been SCOA activity in the Northern Territory during some federal election campaigns, activity at other times has been negligible.

Contact with individual SCOA members in the Northern Territory could be the beginning of a greater provision of services to SCOA members in the Northern Territory.

SCOA members in the Northern Territory who would like a greater involvement in SCOA should contact the ACT Branch Office of SCOA on telephone: 02 6287 3024 or e-mail: scoa.act@scoa.asn.au or Frank Mines on mobile: 0409 035 352 or e-mail: frankmines@bigpond.com.

Recognising a Stroke

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness could spell disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognise the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognise a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S *Ask the individual to SMILE.

T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)

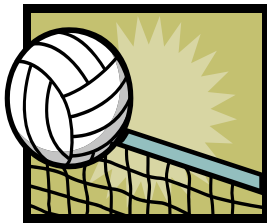
(i.e. It is sunny out today.)

R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call the emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke.

The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.



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.

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.

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. Therefore, SCOA is always grateful when those 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'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.

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

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(sourced from www.abs.gov.au)

JUNE QUARTER KEY POINTS:

THE ALL GROUPS CPI

- ✦ rose 0.9% in the June quarter 2011, compared with a rise of 1.6% in the March quarter 2011.
- ✦ rose 3.6% through the year to the June quarter 2011, compared with a rise of 3.3% through the year to the March quarter 2011.

OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- ✦ The most significant price rises this quarter were for fruit (+26.9%), automotive fuel (+4.0%), hospital and medical services (+3.4%), furniture (+6.0%), deposit and loan facilities (+2.1%) and rents (+1.1%).
- ✦ The most significant offsetting price falls were for vegetables (-10.3%), audio, visual and computing equipment (-6.3%), electricity (-1.5%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (-1.5%), milk (-4.6%) and toiletries and personal care products (-2.3%).

CENTRELINK'S FINANCIAL INFORMATION SERVICE

SCOA ACT receives many enquiries from members about financial information and advice. Many are dissatisfied by their experience of the private sector in this regard. While Centrelink's Financial Information Service provides information about the options facing enquirers it does not make any recommendations for action. SCOA ACT has had a number of excellent presentations by Centrelink's Financial Information Service at its quarterly General Meetings.

SCOA ACT Membership

(at 15 July)

Life	9
Joint	1184
Ordinary	1483
Partner of deceased Contributor	324
Total	3000

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.

ACT Branch Executive Committee (as at 22 July 2011)

President: John Blount
Imm Past President: Peter Hurley
Vice President: Annette Barbetti
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, Tony Portelli, Anne Willenborg
Public Officer: Bob Steins

IT Manager: John Blank
Administration Officer: John Richmond
"SCOA News" Editor: Kylie Pryde