

From the Other Side



Anna Waddington-Feather reports from Australia

Anna Waddington-Feather trained as a journalist before satiating her travel lust and fascination with the ancients as a tour leader for an adventure travel company. After hanging up her backpack, she developed her writing and communication talents in the corporate world and has over ten years of experience in the credit finance industry, working with many high profile clients. Now living in South Australia, Anna works within an International market – making her tax return a nightmare!



James Devonish (speaker) and Lindsay Chuck (right)

Show me the Money

Getting money upfront is a concept we all dream of, and sadly, gone are the days of a ‘gentlemen’s agreement.’

After another hike in interest rates and Personal Properties Securities Act 2009 (PPS) on the horizon next year which will replace over 70 duplicitous registers in Australia, the Australian Institute of Credit Management (AICM), South Australia: Protecting your Debt, A Guide to Securities seminar, couldn’t have been better timed.

Presented by James Devonish, a solicitor with Lynch Meyer, a variety of

securities were discussed. He suggested wherever possible companies steered clear of worker’s liens due to the detailed legislation involved.



ACIM Securities Seminar

He also advised businesses which trade internationally; Australian legislation only protects goods on these shores, those trading internationally will be governed by the trading country’s legislation, which may not offer the same securities as Australia.

Two year countdown for Financial Advisors

Financial advisers didn’t have quite the relaxing ANZAC public holiday

on 26 April 2010 when the government announced the ban on accepting commission on payments for financial products.

Set to come into force in July 2012, the new laws in Australia “are designed to tackle conflicts of interest that have threatened the quality of financial advice that has been provided to Australian investors, and the mis-selling of financial products that culminated in high profile corporate collapses,” financial services minister Chris Bowen said in a statement.

But advisers have a bit of time and not just because they don’t come into force for a couple of years. As the ban won’t be retrospect, millions of dollars can still potentially be paid for several years to come.



Hooray for Henry

In May 2008 the treasurer announced Australia’s Future Tax System Review, with the review panel being chaired by the Secretary to the Treasury, Dr Ken Henry AC. On 2nd May this year The Henry Review 2010 was announced and the Rudd government’s response has been cautious, deciding to rule out or delay

most of the 138 recommendations made.

The mining industry has complained at the resources rent tax, but the increase in compulsory superannuation (pension) from 9% to 12% will contribute to addressing the critical retirement funding issues. Small business has balked at this, but it is set to benefit from a 2% reduction in company tax.

A case of watch this space over the coming months.

Drink to the Future

In the last edition of *CREDIT CONTROL JOURNAL (incorporating Asset & Risk Review)*, Andrew della Casa highlighted the case for fine wine investment ... this might not be the case in Australia where current conditions in the Australian wine grape industry have been described as the worst for 50 years.

Wine connoisseurs may have heard Cockatoo Ridge Wines entered voluntary administration amid fears of bankruptcy this year but thankfully the Government ignored the Henry Review recommendation for a volumetric tax on wine. Predictions of rocketing cask wine cases, a major source of income for many wineries, led to industry spokesmen stating the tax would have been the death of the Australian wine industry.

So with an estimated 95 million cases of unsold wine in Australia, best you stick to your traditional French and North American wine investments ... or there again, you may get yourself a bargain.