

## Your Union Member Benefits Update



Member Connect is 100% union owned and **adds real value** to union membership by saving members money. Our services include:

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Why don't you explore the benefits? Call 1300 362 223 or visit [memberconnect.com.au](http://memberconnect.com.au)

Members Equity Bank, Industry Fund Financial Planning and former Governor of the Reserve Bank, Bernie Fraser all feature in our October newsletter to provide you with an update about weathering the financial storm created by the deterioration of global investment markets. It's not all gloom and doom though, read about the inspiring 2008 Union Aid Abroad APHEDA study tour to Timor Leste, our fabulous footy winners and free giveaways!

*Photo: ASU member Carol Milne the 2008 ACTU/ME AFL tipping comp winner with Charlie Gianni (ME)*



**Members Equity Bank (ME)** is a licensed bank governed by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) and is 100% Australian owned by leading Industry Superannuation Funds. More than 200,000 Australians enjoy low cost home loans and attractive interest rates on deposits.

Due to the continuing volatility in global financial markets, governments are taking unprecedented steps to support their respective financial systems. The Australian Government, while recognising the inherent strength and resilience of our banking system, has also taken strong and decisive action.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has announced that the Australian Government would provide an unlimited guarantee on deposits for the next three years, effective immediately. This guarantee applies to all deposits held with ME.

ME is financially sound with secure funding channels in place. ME is in a strong financial position and our customers can have every confidence in the future of their bank.

For further information please contact ME on **1300 63 22 65** or visit [www.membersequitybank.com.au](http://www.membersequitybank.com.au)



- Do I retire or transition to retirement?
- How long will my super last?
- How can I maintain regular 'pay days' when I am no longer working?
- What's the best way for me to invest in my retirement?

**IRIS Retirement Incomes Streams**, are one of the leading providers of pensions and super income streams for Industry Super and union members.

The **IRIS Advantage**

- No entry or exit fees
- Transition to Retirement option
- No commissions to advisers
- 10 Investment options
- Online access to manage your investment
- Personal Customer Service (talk with a 'real person' not a machine)

*You've worked hard, now retire well*

To find out more call **1300 367 485** or visit the new IRIS website at: [retirewithiris.com.au](http://retirewithiris.com.au)

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Super Income Stream and this PDS should be considered when deciding whether to invest in these products. This article is intended to provide information of a general nature only and does not take into account your personal or financial situation or needs. You should assess your own financial situation or obtain appropriate financial advice before making any investment decision based on this information.



Based predominantly in Dili but trekking all over the country in our trusty tour bus, Jill & Rebecca from Member Connect along with the 7 other unionists participating in the Union Aid Abroad APHEDA study tour visited 7 of the 13 districts of Timor Leste over 7 days in August 2008.

Our travels took us to various community development projects run by local Non Government Organisations (NGO's) who work in partnership with APHEDA. We met with Local Project co-ordinators, participants and community members involved in women's literacy and income generation projects, mechanics and carpentry workshops, a sustainable agriculture project and a community radio station. Our itinerary also included a meeting with the PM of Timor Leste, the leaders of the Trade Union movement and left us time to enjoy the spectacular scenery and beaches!

To find out more about our adventures in East Timor and view photos and videos [CLICK HERE!](#)



Last week, many of us saw Bernie Fraser, former Governor of the Reserve Bank and one of the most respected financial voices in Australia, make an address to 5 million Industry Super Fund members in a [national telecast broadcast](#) simultaneously on Channels 7, 9 and 10. Bernie Fraser is a long-time advocate and fearless supporter of Industry Super Funds, and asks members to remember during this period of volatile markets that super is a long term investment.

If you missed the broadcast or would like more information, visit [Member Connect](#).



The Australian Movie Voucher is an online movie ticket buying service available to all union members. It's easy to use too.

**Step 1.** [Click here](#) to visit the Australian Movie Voucher website

**Step 2.** Click on 'Purchase Tickets'

**Step 3.** Enter your details on the online form. Tickets are only **\$9.00** each and there is a minimum purchase of 5 + postage and \$4.95 handling.

**Step 4.** Once you've received your movie tickets in the post you can visit the Australian Movie Voucher website for session times and head to the movies.

Vouchers have a 12 month expiry date so they make great gifts too!

For more information visit [www.theaustralianmovievoucher.com.au/union](http://www.theaustralianmovievoucher.com.au/union)

**COMPETITION:** Email [Member Connect](#) with the name of one participating cinema in the Australian Movie Voucher Deal and you'll go in the running to win one of two double passes to the Movies! **Hint:** answers can be found on the Australian Movie Voucher website!



For those of you who may have missed it, the ACTU in partnership with Members Equity Bank ran two online AFL and NRL footy tipping exclusively for union members in 2008. First prizes awarded to the highest tippers in each competition were two \$1000 [InterestME Savings Accounts!](#)

It was the Ladies who came up trumps this year with **Carol Milne**, ASU member from Victoria topping the AFL ACTU/ME tipping comp leaderboard and **Mary Ferreira**, ASU member from NSW who took home the prize for the NRL comp! For tips on how Carol got the inside edge on other AFL union tippers [CLICK HERE](#) to read the exclusive interview with Member Connect!

If you'd like to be part of our 2009 tipping competition or you are keen to invite other members in your workplace to join in, make sure you have [subscribed](#) to our newsletter and we'll keep you posted!

***Photo:** NRL comp winner: Mary Ferreira (ASU), Neil Colebrook (ASU), Max Simpson (ASU) and Jeff Sim (Members Equity Bank).*



For all you who thought finding your lost super wasn't fun, think again! **AUSfund**, Australia's Unclaimed Super Fund brings you [Supermutt Challenge](#) – the 2008 Treasure Hunt Arcade Game. Negotiate the various levels of this game as the character 'Supermutt', and see how much lost super you can dig up. The faster you can find it, the more points you earn, but beware of pesky cats and other angry animals that you will encounter during your search! Challenge your friends to beat your highest score – the top ten scores will be published online. To play, visit [Supermutt Challenge](#).

Currently, over 5 million Australians have lost super. To find out if you are one of them visit [www.unclaimedsuper.com.au](http://www.unclaimedsuper.com.au) or call AUSfund on **1300 361 796**.





Members Equity Bank (ME) will no longer charge members of unions a \$25 dishonour fee for union deductions where there are insufficient funds in their account.

"From now, payments to unions from our customers will not be charged a dishonour fee even if the member does not have sufficient funds in the account," Tony Beck, Head of Corporate Affairs for ME

"This does not mean that we will honour the original payment if there are insufficient funds in the account. We definitely will not be paying the union subscriptions for the customer. But it does mean that our union customers will not get charged the extra fee for a dishonoured payment."

Mr Beck said trade unions and their members were valuable partners in Members Equity.

For more information on Members Equity Bank products and services, [click here](#).



*"There is a union for every working person in Australia and this new website makes it easier than ever for workers to get the protection and security of union membership,"* **Jeff Lawrence ACTU Secretary.**

Have you ever come across people who are in need of a union but are not sure which union to join? [Unions Australia](#) is a new online membership and advice service for working Australians. Unions Australia can help with questions about rights and entitlements or if you know someone who wants to join a union it is now easier than ever.

To find out more visit [www.unionsaustralia.com.au](http://www.unionsaustralia.com.au) or phone 1300 4 UNION (1300 486 466).