

July 2016

IT'S A NEW FINANCIAL YEAR - LET US HELP YOU TURN YOUR DREAMS INTO REALITY

Are you buying a car?

Our loan will help you on your way. Drive away with your new car or motor bike sooner or refinance your current car/motor bike loan.

- ✓ Borrow up to \$70,000
- ✓ Variable and Comparison Rate 8.49% p.a.
- ✓ No application fee, early repayment fee or security registration and discharge fees
- ✓ Make additional lump sum repayments anytime
- ✓ without penalty



WARNING: This comparison rate applies only to the examples given. Different amounts and terms will result in different comparison rates. Costs such as redraw fees or early repayment fees and cost savings such as fee waivers, are not included in the comparison rate but may influence the cost of the loan. A loan amount of \$30,000, a monthly repayment frequency and a term of 5 years have been used to calculate the comparison rate. Terms and Conditions are available on request. Normal lending criteria apply. Fees and Charges may also apply.

Are you renovating your home, purchasing a property, or having a holiday?

Our home loan provides flexibility to utilise the equity in your home to finance a range of purposes at home loan rates.

- ✓ New mortgages from \$50,000 and top-ups from \$5,000
- ✓ Variable rate and fixed rates available
- ✓ Combination and split loans available
- ✓ Loan term from 5 years to 30 years
- ✓ Make additional lump sum repayments and redraw anytime on variable rate loans with no fee

An example of a member who utilises the equity in their home



Our member would like to buy a new car for \$50,000.

Their home is valued at \$800,000. Their mortgage with FBECU is \$400,000 with a loan term of 25 years. They have built up accessible equity.

We can provide finance to purchase the car at the same interest rate as their mortgage. To save interest costs and help our member own this car sooner we will suggest a 'split loan' and a shorter loan term - say 5-7 years for the new loan.

To discuss your financing needs call FBECU on 02 9267 3098 and our friendly and professional lending staff will work on a solution with you.

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8 THINGS FIRST HOME BUYERS SHOULD KNOW



There's no better feeling than moving into a place of your own – what could be more exciting? Well, independence does have its perks but it can also be a little overwhelming. Before you purchase those ottomans and throw rugs, make sure you read these 8 must-knows to help you understand the process.

1. There are A LOT of options

What many first home buyers don't realise is that there is a lot more to a home loan than just the interest rate. From redraw facilities to additional repayments and everything in between, certain features are quite valuable depending on your situation. Talk to us and we will help you sort through what's important to you.

2. You need be prepared. No seriously, be prepared.

Buying your first home is a huge step and you need to know what you're getting in to. A big part of the process is savings and then more savings, so start saving now.

3. How much should I have for a deposit?

Putting down a larger deposit can have many benefits over both the short and long term. With a deposit of 20% you can access a wider variety of loan options and it also means you most likely won't have to pay Lender's Mortgage Insurance costs. However, with prices at record highs in Australian capital cities, saving for a large deposit could take much longer than you would like. There's a trade-off in speed versus cost when it comes to deposit and it's a balance that you'll have to consider.

4. The First Home Owner Grant

If you're buying a house for the first time the Government may provide a grant tax free to help you on your way. Check out www.firsthome.gov.au for further details.

5. Think about the future

Chances are you're not going to stay in your first home forever, so it's a good idea to future proof your investment. Look into statistics about suburbs you want to buy in. Are prices likely to increase or decrease? Is there a new rail-line? Does it have better access to schools and shops? Thinking about these will help you turn the biggest profit when it comes time to sell.

6. Make a checklist/schedule

When it comes time to start looking for property make sure you have a plan on the next steps. Schedule home inspections, contact FBECU for finance and do research in your spare time. Keep updated, keep informed and keep busy.

7. Make sure to check the property thoroughly

Even if you think you've found your dream home during an 'Open House' inspection, don't jump to any hasty conclusions. Carefully check the property for any defects. Watermarks in the showers, sagging ceiling, mould and cracks are all signs of serious long term problems. As a first home buyer you do not want these in your first year (or at all). Any money saved on repairs is a bonus.

8. Get the nitty gritty sorted early

Once the process has started and you've all but acquired the keys to your new place, make sure you look in to things like utilities and moving costs early. Gas, water, telephone and internet all take time to get set up so start the organising it sooner rather than later. Booking removalists or hiring a truck is better done earlier than later.

Happy house hunting and remember to contact FBECU on 02 9267 3098 when you're ready to discuss your mortgage requirements with our friendly and professional staff. We have a solution for you!

MERGER STRATEGY INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce that

FIREFIGHTERS MUTUAL BANK

Will be the name of our financial institution, should our proposed merger with Teachers Mutual Bank go ahead.

Earlier this year we announced our plan to join forces with Teachers Mutual Bank. We are pleased to report that all matters are progressing well as we prepare for the Special General Meeting to be held in the second half of the year. This is an exciting chapter in our history and we hope to have your support.

For more information please visit our merger strategy information page on our website at www.firecu.com.au

For enquiries regarding this matter or to provide us with your feedback please contact:

- Mr. Jim O'Connell, the Credit Union's General Manager; or
- Ms. Melissa Touchard, the Credit Union's Deputy General Manager;

By phoning the Credit Union office on 02 9267 3098 or 1800 800 225 (outside the Sydney metropolitan area), during working hours or email your feedback to strategy@firecu.com.au

Thank you to all members for your continued support.

SUPPORTING OUR RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS

A new volunteer Retirees' Peer Support Program has been established to support retired firefighters and their families experiencing personal difficulties. These challenges can be mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, PTSD, anger or family breakdown. Retiree Peer Supporters are not counsellors but will direct retired firefighters to appropriate professional help such as GPs, counsellors, psychiatrists and other supporting agencies.

Individuals requiring support will be treated with respect and all conversations will be confidential.

For more information, call or email Graham Manners (0413240380) retiredpeersfrnsw@gmail.com; or FRNSW's Wellbeing Co-ordinator (9265 3910), mark.dobson@fire.nsw.gov.au.

ENHANCE YOUR MOBILE SECURITY

The fast-paced embrace of mobile devices in our everyday lives is leaving us vulnerable to financial risks. In order to better protect yourself against these risks we recommend that you enhance your mobile security.

1. Take caution when you connect to a website where you're entering sensitive information (such as internet banking), make sure there's an **https://** at the beginning of the URL web address as it represents a secure connection. A pad lock symbol in the URL also denotes a protected network. Try to use encrypted Wi-Fi networks that require a password authentication.

2. Ensure that your mobile phone has a passcode or fingerprint access. Simple, but critical! It will instantly boost your mobile security.

3. Check your Privacy Settings. Make sure that you configure your privacy settings to your own accord for apps, social media accounts and other digital services.

5. Research the reputation of an app before downloading it. Find out who created it and how long it has been available. Both safe and harmful apps are likely to have a great deal of reviews and reports online. Read through the terms and permissions required by the app - be sure you understand the risks disclosed to you.



6. Keep track of your finances. Remember to check your statements as often as you can for any suspicious transactions and contact FBECU as soon as possible on 02 9267 3098 should you have any queries.

7. In case your device is lost or stolen. You can set up remote tracking and enable the locking and/or wiping functions, so that if your device is lost or stolen, you can block, lock or wipe the handset. Refer to your mobile phone provider for further details.

Also take similar caution when you use cloud storage to save and share files. Always be careful who can access them and what information is shared. By implementing some or all of these tips, you'll be far ahead of most people in terms of their mobile security.



MEMBER LOYALTY DRAW

Quarterly draws of \$1,500 to be won!

Full details regarding eligibility and competition terms and conditions are available on our website www.firecu.com.au

TAX TIME HELP ...

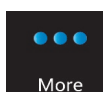
To help with your tax preparations make sure you retain your June statement which details the interest you have earned on your Credit Union accounts over the 12 months to 30 June 2016. This information is also available online by logging into your Internet or Mobile banking.

Internet Banking

1. Log on to Internet Banking
2. Select '**Accounts**' from the menu bar,
3. Then select '**Interest**' from the dropdown menu
4. The screen will display Interest earned, Interest charged and Withholding tax for the year ending June 2016.

Mobile Banking

1. Log on to Mobile Banking on your Mobile device.
2. Select '**More**' icon
3. Select '**Interest details**' icon
4. The screen will display Interest earned, Interest charged and Withholding tax for the year ending June 2016.



Get your tax refund faster ...

You can arrange to have your tax refund paid directly into your Credit Union account.

You will need to provide the Credit Union BSB number **802 825** and your **membership number** when lodging your tax return with the Australian Taxation Office, tax agent or your accountant.

Tax File Number (TFN) withholding tax

If the Credit Union doesn't have your tax file number (TFN) it will withhold tax from your interest at the highest marginal tax rate. You can claim a credit for the amount of tax withheld when you lodge your tax return.

It is not compulsory to quote your TFN and you don't need to provide your TFN if:

- you are under 16 years of age
- the account is in your name, and
- the account earns less than \$420 interest each year.

Contact the Credit Union anytime should you wish to lodge your TFN.

NEWS *in brief*

Bank Holiday Closure

The Credit Union will be closed on Monday 1st August 2016 for the Bank Holiday. Internet, mobile and phone banking will operate as normal.

At FBECU we encourage and appreciate your feedback!

We want to get it right... and you can help us by providing your feedback. The ability to have your say knowing it is being listened to is an important part of the FBECU difference.

You can contact us by telephone on 02 9267 3098; email us at contactus@firecu.com.au or online at www.firecu.com.au/contact-us

We welcome your comments and suggestions and appreciate you taking the time to assist us with our focus on continual improvement and quality member service.

FBECU is committed to fraud prevention and provides an extra layer of security for members banking online

As part of our monitoring service, you may receive a telephone call from us to confirm an online transaction.

If we are unable to contact you, we will leave our office number 02 9267 3098 for you to call back during business hours. Details of the transaction will not be divulged in the message for security and privacy reasons.

Credit Union's Annual Report

Members can register to receive a free copy of the 2016 Annual Report by calling us on 02 9267 3098 or 1800 800 225.

24 Hour Shift Calendar and 10/14 Roster Calendar for 2017

Members can view and print out the **2017 FRNSW 24 Hour Shift calendar** and **10/14 Roster calendar** from our website under publications.



FIRE BRIGADES EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION LTD.
Level 9 / 1 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010 PO Box 855 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Phone 02 9267 3098
contactus@firecu.com.au

Fax 02 9283 2654
Web www.firecu.com.au

Toll Free 1800 800 225

Your needs and financial circumstances have not been taken into account. You should consider whether or not these products are appropriate for you. Lending criteria, terms and conditions, fees and charges may apply.