

Money info - Oct 09

Recession and redundancy regularly feature in news items at the moment and I expect that most of us are concerned about our finances. This current economic situation prompted me to look into areas concerning our money. I started with what the IRD can do for us...

- Did you know that if you are made redundant, you may be able to apply for a *Redundancy Tax Credit*? A flat rate 6% rebate (to a maximum level) is available if you qualify and can be paid to you in just a few weeks.
- If you've had money in financial institutions or insurance companies that has been untouched for six or more years, you might find your name on the IRD's *Unclaimed Money* listing. The list on the website was last updated earlier this year. Have a look, you could be in for a windfall!
- From 1st April 2009, a new *Independent Earner Tax Credit* was introduced. If you earn between \$24,000 and \$48,000 in a tax year, you could be in line for this credit of up to \$10 per week. If you find that you do qualify it is up to you to advise your employer of your new tax code to get the credit.
- Do you make payments to charity organisations and receive a year end tax credit? From January 2010, a new scheme for *Payroll Giving* is being introduced. If your employer offers the scheme, then you can make donations and receive the tax credit straightaway to reduce your PAYE.

For full details of all these schemes, check out the IRD website www.ird.govt.nz or ask your finance professional.