

\$80 water bill rebates – SE Qld



A one-off government water rebate of \$80 will be paid to householders in South-East Queensland in the first quarter of 2013. It will be applied as a deduction from the water bill which households receive.

Renters who pay the consumption component of a water bill as part of their tenancy agreement should have the rebate passed on to them by their landlord.

The Queensland Government will also ensure that SE Qld households in retirement villages, and those that don't receive a bill directly from a water service provider or a Council, will receive the rebate. For further information, go to www.dews.qld.gov.au or contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Lost Superannuation

Do you have any lost or unclaimed superannuation? SuperSeeker searches the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) lost members register for any super you may have lost. Your super fund will report you as a lost member if they have not been able to contact you or if they have not received any contributions for you for a period of time. Currently, about \$17.7 billion is in over 6 million lost and unclaimed super accounts.

With changes introduced by the Australian Government, lost super will, from 31 December 2012, be transferred to the ATO if the account is under \$2000 and has been inactive for one year or more. Previously the amount was \$200 with no contributions for five years. Also, from 1 July 2013, the ATO will pay interest equivalent to inflation on unclaimed super.

When searching for your lost super, you will be requested to provide your Tax File Number, family and given names, and date of birth. SuperSeeker is available at www.ato.gov.au/superseeker or by phoning 132 865.

Broadband for Seniors – Website

Older Australians have greater access to training resources and information to help them get online, with the Australian Government's updated Broadband for Seniors website at www.necseniors.net.au

The website has online courses and links to tips on computing issues. It also has a listing of internet kiosks (computer terminals for internet access). The Broadband for Seniors program has been a huge success, with seniors accessing the internet and obtaining basic training in hundreds of internet kiosks organised by community-based organisations across Queensland.

If you don't have internet access, phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500 for details of your nearest kiosk.

How to Stay On Your Feet

Every day, 133 older Queenslanders have a fall requiring medical attention, even though falls are mostly preventable. Falls have a big impact on mobility and independence, but there are steps that can be taken to reduce the risk.

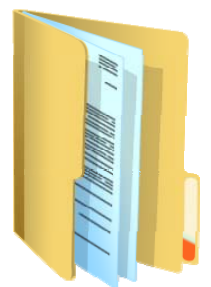
The Queensland government has a website with information for seniors and anyone who works or cares for seniors, about helping seniors stay on their feet. There is a very useful checklist with information on wellbeing, nutrition, physical activity and health conditions at www.health.qld.gov.au/stayonyourfeet/documents/33381_full.pdf or phone 1300 135 500 for a copy.

Minors Trusts

If you have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew aged under 18 you can make provision for them in your Will by setting up a minors trust.

You can specify how much money you would like to give them, if money is to be granted yearly for living and educational expenses and if the child is to receive the benefit at an age later than 18.

To find out more about minors trusts phone 1300 360 044 and ask for your local Public Trustee service centre.



Conservation Clinic – South Bank



Date: Feb 7th 1pm – 3pm

Description: Do you have a rare book, family heirloom, work on paper, treasured object, film or photograph that you want to know how

to care for correctly at home? Free professional consultations are available to offer advice on how to maximise their longevity. Bookings required.

Venue: State Library of QLD, Meeting Room 1A, Level 1, Stanley Place, South Bank.

Phone: 07 3840 7779

Web: www.slq.eventbrite.com

Sand Sculpting – Surfers Paradise

Date: February 15th – 24th

Description: See Australia's best sand sculptors in action at the Australian Sand Sculpting Championships. The theme is 'Sand Safari' - expect lions, elephants, zebras, hippos and more.

Venue: Surfers Paradise Beach, The Esplanade, Surfers Paradise, QLD, 4217

Phone: (07) 5584 3700

Web: www.surfersparadise.com

Chinchilla Melon Festival

Date: February 14th to 17th 10am – 10pm

Description: The Melon Fest includes old favourites like melon iron man, melon bungee, melon tossing, pip spitting and melon skiing as well as a street parade, markets and concert. Mostly free.

Venue: Various locations throughout Chinchilla

Phone: 07 4679 4471

Web: www.melonfest.com.au

Wildlife Care Basic Training - Townsville

Date: February 23rd 10am - 5pm

Description: Presented by North Queensland Wildlife Care, topics include reptiles, birds, zoonosis, macropods, native tucker and much more. Bookings essential. Cost: Non-member \$15, Members \$5.

Venue: 25 Aitken Street, Townsville

Web: www.nqwildlife.org.au

Email: info@nqwildlife.org.au

Phone: 0414 717 374



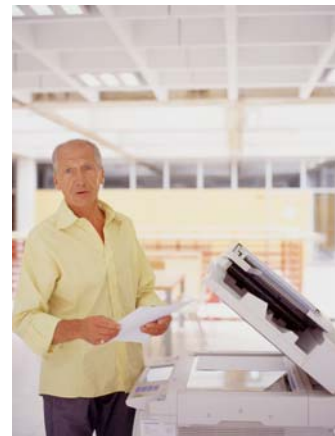
Other events on Seniors Enquiry Line's 'Events' pages include: Bundaberg Chinese New Year Celebrations, Discover the iPad – Caloundra, Grape Stomp Festival – Montville, Rhythm & Revs – Maryborough, Keeping Stingless Bees in the City – Kenmore, Toowoomba Swap, Agnes Water Blues and Roots Festival.

New \$1000 bonus for businesses that hire mature-aged workers

Businesses that hire a mature-aged worker can now receive a new \$1000 bonus from the Australian Government to increase mature-age participation in the workforce and to address negative attitudes towards mature-age people.

2500 Jobs Bonuses of \$1000 each are now available each financial year until 2016, and any business can apply no matter how big or small.

Employers are eligible if they provide ongoing employment opportunities to job seekers aged 50 years and over and who are registered to look for work with a Job Services Australia provider.



More information is available at 1800 805 260 or go to www.deewr.gov.au/experienceplus

Younger Onset Dementia

'Younger onset dementia' is the term used to describe any form of dementia that develops in people under the age of 65.

An internet forum has been set up which provides a place where people under 65 with dementia, their families, carers and friends can gather and share information. It provides a place to share your stories, connect with others in a similar situation, ask questions and share information. To join the forum, go to www.talkdementia.org.au

There will be a conference on 'Younger Onset Dementia: A New Horizon National Summit' in Melbourne on Wed 20th March, 2013. It is free for consumers and carers. For details, phone (03) 9815 7807 or email: anna.mackintosh@alzheimers.org.au

For any information about dementia, you can phone the National Dementia Helpline on 1800 100 500.

Quote of the Month

True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves, and the world around us.

Socrates

If you have any comments or contributions for Snippets or would like to be added to our mailing list, you can reach us at: sel@ucommunity.org.au or phone 1300 135 500.