

Chartered Accountants



**Hello and Welcome to the May 2003 Behind the Scenes.**

We hope that you had a safe and enjoyable Easter break and that you paused for a moment on ANZAC Day.

**Please don't forget** that 15 May is the deadline for individual tax returns so, if you are still to return information to us, please get organised as soon as you can.

**The inaugural Thorntons' Golf Day** seemed to go well and we sent a strong team to the **Cunderdin Tennis Day**, all players having a great time.

**It's that time of the year** that our partners and accountants get a chance to take a break. May and June will be a time that you might find someone away on leave when you ring (there will always be someone to help you though).

Meet Two More Members Of The Team

**Helen Dyer.** Helen has been an accountant with the firm for almost 9 years, having joined us from Deloitte, and now holds the record for being with the firm for the longest time. In March 1999 Helen married Wayne and in October 2001 they produced Jacob (he's the short one in the picture). It is expected that Jacob will have lots of brothers and sisters and will grow up to be an accountant too. Just to fill in a bit of spare time Helen and Wayne are building their new home this year (about to start!). Helen works from both the East Perth office and from her home office and is only ever an email or phone call away and is able to provide on the job training and close supervision to Jacob.



The Thornton Partners' Golf Spectacular

On Wednesday 9 April, 71 golfers battled it out for honours at the Burswood Golf Course. With a very respectable score of net 65 the team of Elliot Harris, Stephen Fuller, Milton Barker, and David Corney streaked to first position ahead of John Douthie, Greg Scorer, John Brideson and Garry Williams. In third place were Lou Carnicelli, George Urbaniak, Ian Thomas and Bill Mattingly. Martin, Nathan and Daniel Colgan had a good day out and managed to win the NAGA. Based on the number of times we heard "G'day mate...what are you doing here?" a lot of players knew each other. It seems that several of our country clients took the opportunity to spend a day or two in Perth with their spouse and to catch a show (or even the Sexpo for one couple!). All in all it was a great day and thank you for making it a success. The pressure is on to make this an annual event – highly likely.

W.O.W.!

Attached to the last edition was a case study showing the problems that can occur if the ownership of your personal and business assets is flawed, or confused. The case study was all about **Who Owns What**. It is clear that quite a number of you read the attachment and asked to have an analysis performed of your situation. We have been working through these and the results have been very useful to our clients to make decisions regarding their affairs. If you would like to know more about this process please contact your partner.

More Interesting, But Totally Useless, Information

- Coconuts kill more people in the world than sharks do. Approximately 150 people are killed each year by coconuts
- The spray WD-40 got its name because there were forty attempts needed before the creation of the "water displacing" substance.
- India has a Bill of Rights for cows.
- In New Mexico, over eleven thousand people have visited a tortilla chip that appeared to have the face of Jesus Christ burned into it.
- On November 29, 2000, Pope John Paul II was named an "Honorary Harlem Globetrotter."

**Referral Card**

I wish to introduce

Please provide my friend with your assistance, which includes a free initial consultation.

Sincerely, .....

**Our Services**

**Taxation advice, compliance and planning:**

- GST
- Capital Gains
- Income Tax
- FBT

**Business planning and structuring.  
Cashflow management.**

**Wealth creation & financial planning.**

**Retirement and superannuation planning.**

**Evaluation of businesses for purchase or sale.**

**Estate Planning.**

**Succession planning for business.**

**Business structures.**

## What Our Friends and Clients Are Up To

Lately, when you've called us and have had to be put on hold, you might have heard our new message (hopefully only a small part of it). It was produced by a local business, PhonePower. The message is loaded on to your computer (so there are no other machines to pay for). Any changes to messages can be made very easily and FAST, so you can change messages as often as you like without paying an arm and a leg. There is no annual fee and PhonePower arranges for everything that needs to be done, to be done. We found them good to deal with.

If you would like more information call Ken at PhonePower on 92711874 or check their website [www.phonepower.com.au](http://www.phonepower.com.au) and see how it can help your business. Mention you are a Thornton's client and Ken will give you your 1<sup>st</sup> update (\$150) for free!  
(If you would like your business mentioned please let us know – it's a free service)

### Another Newsletter!

Recently we elected to join forces with the Associated Planners Group Limited so we and our clients could take advantage of the support (for Paragon Financial Services) that they are able to offer as the holder of the Security Dealer's Licence under which Paragon must operate (to provide financial planning advice). As they produce a periodic newsletter we thought we would include it with ours. You will notice the style is slightly different (it is a bit more technical that we produce). We hope that you will find it useful

### Speaking of Newsletters

You might notice (or you might not) that the Generation Magazine (formerly known as Prince err, as News For Life) is no longer enclosed. The publisher has decided that as he didn't have any advertising to sell, and it was being given away, and he was losing money by producing it, he wouldn't. Oh well...back to the West for crosswords.

### Important Tax Dates

BASs should be lodged by now for the March period. Individual returns must be lodged by 15 May.

### Cunderdin Golf

Come the middle of June and the fairways at Cunderdin will once again resonate with the shouts of look out!, bugger, and the occasional good shot at the annual Invitational (well, we get an invitation anyway). The Thornton Partners team is committed to arriving on time this year rather than waiting in the roadhouse until well after tee-off time in the hope that the wind will drop to gale force and warm up by 15 degrees.

### See You John

John Freame was featured in the previous edition of Behind The Scenes. It seems that the brief biography triggered a bout of homesickness so he and Michelle have decided to return to the east coast and start a family. John and Michelle will be well on their way to southern Queensland by the time you read this.

### If You Were Living In The USA

It can be interesting to compare elements of the tax system in different countries with Australia. If you were living and working in the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave some of the tax deductions that you would be entitled to include...

- Educator expenses up to \$250 (AS IF that's all the out-of-pocket money teachers spend on their classrooms).
- Deductible IRA (super) contributions up to \$3,000.
- Income on retirement earnings are tax free.
- Student loan interest up to \$2,500.
- Higher education expenses up to \$3,000 for yourself, your spouse or your dependents.
- Alimony if it was paid this year (property settlements and child support aren't deductible).
- Early withdrawal penalties for interest earned on time accounts such as bank CDs.
- One-half of self-employment tax and 70 percent of health insurance premiums, as well as contributions to qualifying self-employed retirement plans.
- Job-related moving expenses if your new workplace is 50 miles farther from your former home than your old job (you may have to use a yardstick to measure).
- Up to \$2,000 of the cost of your new hybrid car (to drive to your new job?)

Of course the Americans are masters of "add-on" taxes:

- Federal income tax at various rates.
- State income tax as a %age of federal tax.
- Federal unemployment tax at .8%.
- State unemployment tax at .9%.
- Social Security and Medicare tax at 6.2% for both the employee and employer.

There is a separate form for each federal and state tax (except the last which is combined), 4 different reporting and payment periods, and very heavy (much higher than here) penalties for late payment or lodgement of any tax.

#### **Our Partners:**

**Mark Thornton**  
**Clive Boyle**  
**Garry Williams**  
**Troy Anderson**  
**Bill Mattingly**

#### **The Rest of Our Team:**

**Alan Kamradt**  
**Anni Hii**  
**Darrel Roberts**  
**Darren Fissioli**  
**Dave Farnham**  
**David Corney**  
**Donna Lebowitz**  
**Helen Dyer**  
**Joe Siciliano**  
**Kara Ritchie**

**Katie Kha**  
**Kim Lee (on maternity leave)**  
**Kirsten Whitehead**  
**Kristina Baric**  
**Martin Watson**  
**Mary Sanderson-Miller**  
**May Chan**  
**Nancy Wong**  
**Raheleh Janfaza**  
**Sharon Francis**

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