

Hello Mum

Good news.

I was speaking to Robert down at Coles this morning and he told me many of their growers had some good rains and this spring should see bumper crops that will see prices of veggies return to normal.

.As you know the price of tomatoes went from \$4.5 to \$9.00 per kilo but as Robert explained it is the seasonal nature of produce and everyone just has to pull in their belts for a little while until the sun shines and brightens up our days. But in the meantime Coles have dropped the price of pork legs to \$8.00 per kilo to help the budget.

But I must be honest Mum we are struggling to pay the mortgage now that interest rates have risen so high. But we are fortunate as Pamela found employment at Coles for three days per week and that replaces her job at the bank which closed last month otherwise we may have had to sell the house.

I wanted to put a little something in your bank account so I withdrew \$50 when I was at Coles as the ATM in town went when the bank closed. I will have to give it to you when we call next week. Frank down at the post office explained that he was to take over the business of banking but was unable to help with the transfer and withdrawal of funds electronically until he upgraded the computers and software. I also explained to him that I needed to speak to the bank as we are having difficulty paying the mortgage and I tried phoning 3 times last week but the phone rang out.

Frank explained that Elsie who arranged the transfer of banking duties to his post office was a lovely lady and she even gave him a gold watch. So Pamela, the kids and me packed a cut lunch of delicious cold pork sandwiches and set off to the big town to see Elsie about our financial difficulties.

Unfortunately when we arrived we were told that Elsie had left the bank and was now working for a large accounting firm in the Bahamas.

Struth talk about bad luck.

After some time we got to speak to Elsie's replacement Betty about the stress that the high interest rates was putting on the family. I said that our food budget with the help of Coles was under control and they had dropped prices where possible.

Betty explained that the interest rates were not controlled by the bank but the Reserve bank of Australia and unlike the tomatoes they could not drop the price of the interest.

She said you cannot compare tomatoes and houses. The price increase of tomatoes is paid for and done with when you buy the tomatoes but if a house you bought has gone up \$200,000 in the last 5 years most people will not have enough money to pay for the house and the price rise. Never mind the bank will loan you \$200,000 to pay the previous owner his capital gain, which unlike the tomatoes, will not go away but you can pay it off for the next 20 or 30 years and hopefully the banking bandits will at least reduce the interest that is added to the debt.

Please don't tell anyone I told you about what is called ..

PAYING CAPITAL GAINS FORWARD. The banks love it as it helps with their profits. But I have a family the same as you do and it hurts to know how the banks are taking advantage of their customers. If you tell anyone I will be called a whistleblower and probably lose my job.

There is however some good news as the Government has reduced tax on everyone's wages and the minimum wage has just been increased by 3.50 % and everyone will now be able to pay their mortgages and I would not be surprised now that the banks feel safe that when the Banking Bandits get together again the Reserve Bank will drop interest rates.

Love you Mum

Graham

PS :the kids are looking forward to visiting next week and maybe they could help Dad lime wash the old shed to keep the bugs at bay incase we need to use it sometime .

Ride the rail ... read on the rail ... pass to another rider !