

Issue 6 – Feb 2006

## A New Year – A New Start

Welcome back to a totally new Investment year, another year filled with opportunity. All of our staff are now back on deck and fired up for a very big year, so give us a call and get started on your action plan for this New Year.

Most of us make a New Year resolution or two or even set some goals. Some make a commitment and develop an action plan to stick to each day. This is the way to success. A goal without an action plan and commitment, just doesn't get off the ground, in fact it is the cause of many negative effects in peoples lives. One of the most prominent aspects of coming to work at Independence Group each day is knowing that you are surrounded by goal setters. It's very motivating and just great fun. How is it at your place? Is it like that for you? I hope so.

As most of you are aware we are growing at a very fast pace and every few months we have new people join us, well this year we need even more, if you think that you might like to join a motivated team, then we would like to talk to you, please send an email with your details to the following address: [info@i-group.com.au](mailto:info@i-group.com.au). Don't forget to say why you would like to join us. Some categories we need new people for are: Advisors / Coaches, Para planning and general Support staff, but more than all of these we need Leaders. At I-Group we expect all of our Team to be Leaders, to accept responsibility to innovate and serve.

Welcome back & cheers!

**John McAllister**

## Using Your Power, Self-Determination

Here is an article that we came across and would like to share with our readers:

Our lives are defined by the decisions we make each day. The decision-making process can be empowering, allowing us to enjoy the benefits of self-determination. Yet it can also be a source of anxiety because decisions force us to face the possibility of dissatisfaction and inner conflict. As a result, many of us opt to avoid making decisions by allowing others to make them for us. We consequently turn our power

over to spouses, relatives, friends, and colleagues, granting them the stewardship of our lives that is ours by right. Though the decisions we must make are often difficult, we grow more self-sufficient and secure each time we trust ourselves enough to choose.

**Excerpt from DailyOM [today@dailyom.com]**

## Plan For a Rewarding 2007

If becoming financially independent is a serious goal of yours, then, residential investment property must be considered. Research shows that property is consistently a major source of wealth for people on Australia's BRW 200 Rich List. If they did not build their wealth from property they usually invest their fortune in it.

At Independence Investments we prefer a long term view to investing in property, with long term trends backing this. Well positioned property should double in value - on average - every seven to ten years.

There currently are a lot of articles in the press regarding forecast rental increases. General consensus of a hike in rents is based on evidence of low vacancy rates in major cities including Brisbane. Supply and demand pressures take over. Low supply of rental properties means the investor profits from a higher yield (rent). This has a positive influence on cashflow, hence better affordability. However, higher yields make investing in property more attractive and buyer demand then fuels the next growth in property prices.

To find out the benefits an investment property portfolio could bring to your financial independence please book a time suitable to you.

**Contact Garry or Ian Tel :02 4962 5900**

## Savings Tip 2007 – # 1

Does Investing really have to be difficult? Has the festive season put a dint in your regular savings pattern?

If so here's a very simple tip for you to share with family & friends to help you save for Christmas 2007.

Save all loose change that enters your home in a money box & use the proceeds for gifts later this year. If you think about it putting around \$3.50 a day for a year equals \$1,277.50 each year. Better still use half

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the proceeds on gifts & use the other to start another investment. Once the amount is large enough the option of leveraging (gearing) this investment can also be considered. We believe this is a much better idea than using the credit card!!!

IG Financial Planning can help you commence a regular savings or gearing strategy with as little as \$1,000.

**Just call Lee-Anne on 4962 5814 to find out more.**

## A Blessing in disguise

(Article by: Oscar Aguiar)

For those who know me, know what I went through in recent times, but are there lessons to be learnt?

I now look back on my By-Pass Surgery (May 2006) as a blessing in disguise. It forced me to look at myself with brutal honesty and to see certain behavioural patterns that I had not seen previously. In fact it would be more honest to say that I began to see things in myself that I had been unwilling to see before:

- Exercise
- Diet
- Work (load, stress)
- Relationships
- Risk
  - Financial Planning
  - Wealth Protection
  - Income Protection

My goal is to now tackle each one of the above in a holistic manner. As an analytical type of person, I like to get down to the core of the issue to get the best possible understanding so as to improve my health, relationships, life style and financial future.

“Goal Setting” is really no different to making New Year resolutions. If you did make one or more, will they be SMART goals?

(**S** - specific, **M** - measurable, **A** - attainable, **R** - realistic, **T** – time relevant)

*“There is only one success – to be able to spend your life in your own way.”*

CHRISTOPHER MORLEY

## Together we can.....

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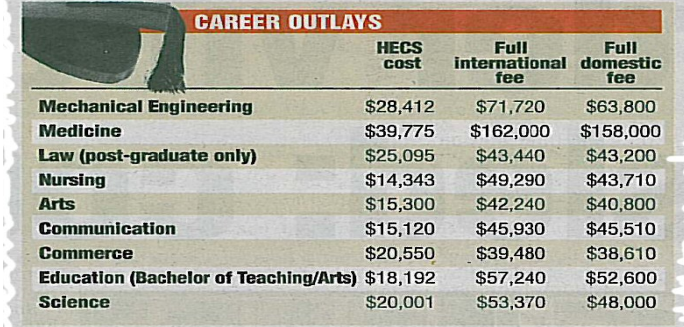
Comments and contributions always welcomed.

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## The Rising Cost of Education

Here are some rather disturbing excerpts from a recent article in the Herald (18<sup>th</sup> Jan 07):

- Full-fee positions up more than 65%
- The continued increase in the number of full-fee place offers comes at a time when Australian universities are required to generate an increasing amount of revenue from student fees.
- Students kicking off their university studies this year will be paying on average twice as much as those who studied a decade ago.
- The cost of degrees such as engineering, accounting and science have risen more than 140%, while social science, humanities and visual and performing arts are 70% more expensive.
- Some full-fee paying students who take out personal loans in their early 20s to fund their education could still be paying the debt back when they reach 40.
- Australian skills crisis will only worsen with up to 40,000 Australians turned away from university in 2007.



	HECS cost	Full international fee	Full domestic fee
<b>Mechanical Engineering</b>	\$28,412	\$71,720	\$63,800
<b>Medicine</b>	\$39,775	\$162,000	\$158,000
<b>Law (post-graduate only)</b>	\$25,095	\$43,440	\$43,200
<b>Nursing</b>	\$14,343	\$49,290	\$43,710
<b>Arts</b>	\$15,300	\$42,240	\$40,800
<b>Communication</b>	\$15,120	\$45,930	\$45,510
<b>Commerce</b>	\$20,550	\$39,480	\$38,610
<b>Education (Bachelor of Teaching/Arts)</b>	\$18,192	\$57,240	\$52,600
<b>Science</b>	\$20,001	\$53,370	\$48,000

The Editor's column concluded with the following remarks: “Parents wanting to give their children a top quality education and a debt free start to their working lives should be planning financially from the time their children are born”.

Reading all of the above, it's a fact that finance will be a barrier to children's further education for many families. At Independence, we can help you to put a strategy in place that will cater for your children's education.

**Article by: Oscar Aguiar**