

CITY BEAT

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CHEERS TO A DECADE

WHAT better time to hold a birthday than December. Dan Murphy's and First Choice are just oozing with specials.

One of the pulsating Gold Coast's major law firms, Ramsden Lawyers, clearly thought as much, celebrating its 10th anniversary this month. We know it's not 100 years or so but we reckon for a law firm on the Goldie to last a decade must be some kind of record.

Founded in 2003 by John Ramsden (illustrated), who recently turned the ripe old age of 36, the firm has survived the peaks and troughs of the Global Financial Crisis on the Coast, not to mention numerous property collapses such as MFS, City Pacific, etc.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT

SOME good news in financial planning circles. Readers may recall our piece on local financial planner Scott Quinlan and the so-called "ring disaster" on Heron Island.

Quinlan, from Whittaker Macnaught (soon to be re-badged as Solace Financial Group) proposed to his partner Brydie on the sand at the beautiful tropical atoll. She accepted and a large diamond ring – something we suggested could pretty well be spied from outer space – was placed on her finger.

A trek that night to watch the turtles resulted in the ring accidentally slipping from her finger, causing a mad search with torches. Alas the couple didn't find it despite returning at first light with metal detectors and help.

The ring was insured but insurer Suncorp denied the claim due to a lack of valuation despite a receipt of purchase.

Anyway Suncorp boss Patrick Snowball or someone must have caught a dose of Xmas cheer and recently waved the claim through.

TAXING ISSUES

SPEAKING of Snowball, didn't he use a tax debt as justification for offloading \$2.7 million in Suncorp stock the other month?

Well, it appears Matthew Thomas, chief executive of the tad-smaller debt chasing business Collection House, is taking a similar tack.

Thomas has offloaded \$249,300 worth of Collection House shares or almost 150,000 shares. It was "undertaken to fund an impending tax obligation".

Thomas still has 897,137 shares and had bought a bunch fairly recently.

VALE EDDIE LAPAGLIA

TRIBUTES are flowing in for retired businessman Eddie LaPaglia who died peacefully on Saturday.

Eddie carved out an impressive niche in the automotive industry.

His funeral will be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Paddington at 10am on Thursday.

Eddie was well known in business circles. He and his wife bought a beautiful Paddington abode designed by Robin Gibson and originally built for Terry Lewis.

WARREN ON A WINNER

WARREN "the property whisperer" Ebert held court yesterday at his Sentinel Property Group's annual investor knees-up at the Brisbane Club.

The syndicator this year spread its wings further into southern markets and will settle on a Melbourne property and two NSW assets before Christmas. Sentinel has added eight new properties to its burgeoning portfolio this year and is approaching total funds under management of \$500 million.

"It's been a great year," Warren said.

Spotted were former bread and pizza supremo Michael Sherlock of Brumby's and Anthony Russo and Scott Geiszler of Piza Capers.

