

CITY BEAT



WITH JAMES McCULLOUGH

Still cooking

REMEMBER Michael Sherlock. The one-time boss of Brumby's has been busy since selling out of the group, consulting to several companies - and writing books.

"I am trying to become the **Richard Branson** of Australia," he proudly told City Beat yesterday.

To that end, Sherlock last night launched his first book, *Jump Shift*, a joint venture with fellow author **Alan Anderson**.

The tome is a bit of a guide to corporate success, something your diarist is always wary of.

Nonetheless, when Sherlock took over Brumby's the media reported that a dead rat had been found on one of the shop premises.

The share price was then just over 50¢ on the Bendigo Stock Exchange. He grew the company over the next four years, selling out to the Retail Food Group at an impressive \$3.40 a share.

Nudge...

OH DEAR. Following the news that Premier **Anna Bligh's** right-hand public servant **Ken Smith** is off to the Old Dart, we hear of an interesting development.

As widely reported, Smith is preparing for his forthcoming London sojourn after the long-serving Department of Premier and Cabinet director-general was named Queensland's new agent-general in London.

Well, the current Agent-General in London, **Andrew Craig** apparently learned of

in the next three years. Talk is that a gent called **John Story**, soon to exit Suncorp as chairman, may well be in line for the gig. Stay tuned.

'Can-Do' feeling

THE state's business community was quietly celebrating yesterday on the news that the dysfunctional LNP may eventually have a leader of substance capable of knocking off listing Premier **Anna Bligh**.

"He has a great chance and probably will get there," one prominent director volunteered to City Beat at lunch yesterday, not, of course, wanting to be named.

Others pointed to **Can Do Campbell's** leadership and

to be resolved yesterday in Melbourne, but was delayed as the judge needed a bit more time to review the case.

Law firm Slater & Gordon alleged that Sandhurst, a subsidiary of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, failed in its duty to properly monitor the company. Nearly 8000 mainly senior investors were caught up in the 2007 collapse of Fincorp. The majority have recovered just 50¢ in the dollar. The legal action may now get them a bit more.

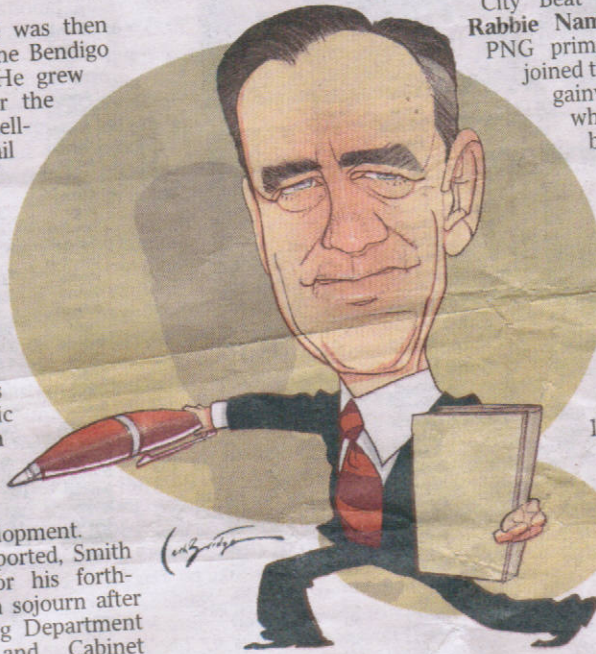
Mine hopes

IF THIS happens it will be huge. The dream of reopening the Panguna copper-gold mine on Bougainville may be closer to reality than some thought.

City Beat notes that **Sir Rabbie Namaliu**, a former PNG prime minister, has joined the board of Bougainville Copper Ltd, which ran the mine before it was shut in 1990 due to widespread civil unrest across the province, which is now an "autonomous region" of PNG.

BCL, owned 53.58 per cent by Rio Tinto, 19.06 per cent by the PNG government and 27.36 per cent by public shareholders, has been working away for a few years now trying to win the right to reopen the operation

- while trying to ensure carpetbaggers didn't convince anyone to dispossess it of an asset that a number of others



Michael Sherlock wants to be our Richard Branson

success, like Bligh during the floods, as an indication he