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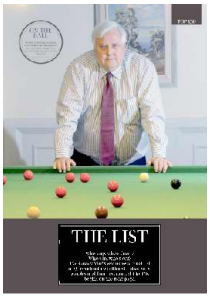

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ID 159905444 BRIEF INVESTORS INDEX 1

THE LIST

Who's up, who's down?
Who's in, who's out?
The Sunday Mail's exclusive annual list of Queensland's wealthiest individuals, couples and families, ranked 1 to 150, begins on the next page.

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89
BRAD WEBB
PROPERTY; CONSTRUCTION $114M
LAST YEAR No.92 $19M RISE
TOWNSVILLE

Raised in a housing commission home in Townsville's blue-collar suburb of Stuart, "Webby the Battler" , is also a survivor. The former apprentice diesel-fitter, 51, has built his BM Webb Group into a force – with everything from quarries to concrete production, industrial land development and property management. But he's done it in a steady, no-frills fashion. And he gives back in spades, supporting several local charities.

91
STEFAN ACKERIE
HAIRDRESSING $110 MILLION
LAST YEAR No.87 $3M RISE
BRISBANE

Hairdressing icon and boat lover Stefan Ackerie's latest mission is to ensure it isn't just the super wealthy who experience the joy he gets on his $15 million catamaran. This year, he started Razor Kat with a Chinese partner to make small RIBs (rubber inflatable boats) that he says are a cross between a jet-ski, rubber duck, tender and a tinnie. Stefan, 71, admits the venture is a move into uncharted waters, but he is excited by the unique vessels that will sell for about $10,000.

92
GEOFF MURPHY
CONSTRUCTION $109 MILLION
LAST YEAR No.85 $2M FALL
ROCKHAMPTON

Construction tycoon and grazier Geoff Murphy, 71, says this year his main focus has been on footy. The rugby league fanatic heads the consortium bidding for a central Queensland team when the NRL expands. Mr Murphy operates two commercial beef cattle properties. He's also managing director of the 50-year-old JM Kelly Group of companies. JM Kelly Builders is one of Australia's largest privately owned construction companies.

93
DARYL & LISA HOLMES
DENTAL SERVICES $108 MILLION
RE-ENTRY
TOWNSVILLE

Winners are grinners – and Daryl Homes has plenty to smile about. In seven years since floating 1300 SMILES – which provides dental facilities and support services – its value has grown from $14 million to a market cap of $154 million. The 48-year-old and wife Lisa, 39, still own nearly two-thirds of the shares. They now have 24 surgeries in Queensland and northern NSW. Mr Holmes aims to expand "gradually" to other capital cities. "The thrill of running a successful business is it creates the opportunity for me to give back," Mr Holmes says. The couple, who have four young children, live on the slopes of Castle Hill. He's deputy president of NQ Cowboys.

=94
SARINA RUSSO
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES $106M
LAST YEAR No.88 NO CHANGE
BRISBANE

A royal visit, study at Harvard Business School and an address to a forum of past world leaders – it's all part of another "extraordinary" year for jobs queen Sarina Russo. A highlight was the visit of the Duke of York, Prince Andrew, to her group's UK arm. Sicilian-born Ms Russo, 61, was five when she came to Australia with her parents. In 1979, she started The Office Business Academy, building it into a business empire with a turnover of more than $100 million a year. Her philanthropic Sarina Russo Foundation focuses on helping the disadvantaged across the country.

=94
KEVIN AND KATHY YOUNG
PROPERTY $106 MILLION
LAST YEAR No.74 $42M FALL
REDLAND CITY

Kevin Young carries around his favourite advertising line: "Which bank? They are all bastards!" The founder of The Investors Club admits it's been a tough 12 months and blames valuations and lending policies of "the bank monopolies". But the 65-year-old is "very optimistic" of an upturn. He has made a fortune from property and founded TIC in 1994 to help others do likewise. It now has 18,000 members and has helped create more than 3700 millionaires. Mr Young and wife Kathy, 63, have 189 properties, including their $3 million home at Raby Bay.

96
NORM RIX
DEVELOPMENT $105 MILLION
LAST YEAR No.86 $5M FALL
GOLD COAST

Norm Rix says it's never been harder to make money in the property game. With delays of up to three years in approvals, fees, charges and taxes and falling prices, margins are so tight it was difficult to make any profit. A bright spot this year for Rix Developments – which he runs with son Greg, 52 – has been the start of construction of their project at Upper Coomera – a 109-lot residential subdivision and a commercial site which will include a Masters hardware store, Aldi supermarket, Hungry Jack's restaurant, Caltex service station and Pit-Stop group of small stores. Now 77, Mr Rix is working on estate planning, but that doesn't mean he's looking at retiring any time soon.

97
BEVAN SLATTERY
TECHNOLOGY $104 MILLION
LAST YEAR No.95 $16M RISE
BRISBANE

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Tech tycoon Bevan Slattery, 41, has barely stopped for breath since he founded his latest venture, Next DC, in 2010. The company will reach 100 staff in the next six months after starting with 10, and the expansion has led to a series of capital raisings to pay for facilities and speeding up fit-outs of data centres. Mr Slattery, who made about $50 million from the $373 million sale of Pipe Networks in 2010, recently stepped aside as Next DC CEO in favour of Craig Scroggie, but remains executive director and deputy chairman. He enjoyed a brush with royalty when Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip took a trip on *Pure Adrenaline*, his 27m luxury boat, during their visit.

98
JOE FITENI

DEVELOPMENT $103 MILLION
NEW ENTRY
REDLAND CITY

He may be a multimillionaire these days, but Joe Fiteni remains a boots-and-stubbies builder at heart. A former plumber, the 59-year-old has built a reputation and a fortune over almost four decades on a simple strategy – developing good-quality house and land packages in an area he knows well. The archetypal local boy made good, Mr Fiteni has worked almost exclusively in the Redlands and bayside where he grew up, averaging 130 homes a year. His son Craig and son-in-law Adam Souter both work in the Fiteni Homes business.

99
NICK GIRDIS

PROPERTY $102 MILLION
NEW ENTRY
BRISBANE

A leading property investor/developer for decades, Nick Girdis has helped to both reshape Brisbane's waterfront and preserve it. In partnership with the Pidgeon family, Dr Girdis, 85, created the Dockside development at Kangaroo Point in the 1990s, turning a run-down ship-building area into a vibrant riverfront "village" and marina. They sold a 12-storey office block in Edward St for $46 million last year, but retain a portfolio of commercial and retail properties in the Brisbane CBD. Dr Girdis led the campaign to raise $5 million for the restoration of the historic Customs House.

100
JOHN FITZGERALD

PROPERTY; INVESTMENT $101M
LAST YEAR No.77 $43M FALL
GOLD COAST

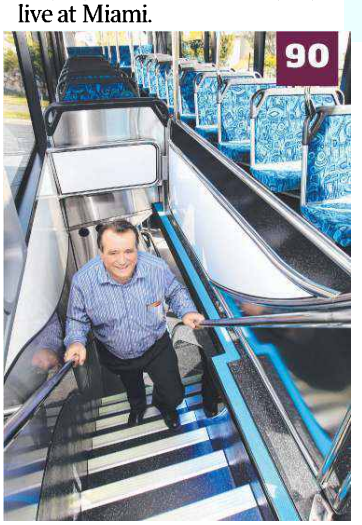
Teachers who used to tell John Fitzgerald he would "never amount to anything" are eating their words. The 49-year-old has amassed a fortune through his JLF Corp property development and investment group, and a personal portfolio of 40-plus homes, offices and land assets. And he uses the experience to coach people and motivate youngsters at his charitable Toogoolawa School for at-risk youth at Ormeau. Business has been "patchy", with growth in funds management countered by the tough property market.

101
ELKS FAMILY

POULTRY $100 MILLION
NEW ENTRY
SUNSHINE COAST

Almost a century in the chicken industry has given the Elks an impressive nest-egg. Woodlands Enterprises – owned by Don Elks, 85, and his wife Thelma, 79 – is one of the Queensland poultry industry's biggest players. Their properties have more than two million hens at any time and a string of broiler farms turns out birds for the chicken-meat industry. The business is run day to day by their son John (pictured), 56. A huge property portfolio includes offices, units and houses across southeast Queensland. Their home, overlooking Kings Beach at Caloundra, is in a street where they own six other properties.

90
TONY & JOE CALABRO

TRANSPORT $111 MILLION
NEW ENTRY
GOLD COAST

Brothers Antonio (Tony) and Giuseppe (Joe) Calabro (pictured) are really going places. They own Queensland's largest privately owned public transport company, Transit Australia Group, and their buses carry more than 30 million passengers a year, travelling more than 30 million kilometres. The family's involvement in the bus business began as Calabro Buses in Sydney 61 years ago, started by their father Giovanni and his brothers (former Cabramatta MP) Frank and Bappesimo. In 1989, Tony and Joe sold their interests in the NSW operations to buy Gold Coast-based Surfside. Four years ago, Surfside bought Transit Australia's Sunbus operations. Today it runs a fleet of about 650 buses on scheduled, school, tourist and other chartered services on the Gold and Sunshine coasts, Tweed, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns. It employs 1300 staff. Tony, 58, and wife Kim, 55, bought their home on millionaires row at Albatross Ave, Mermaid Beach, from jeweller Michael Hill in 2001. Joe, 55, and his wife Roma, 49, live at Miami.