

## Senior Financial Planner joins Ord Minnett

Ord Minnett Newcastle has strengthened its Advisory team with the recruitment of Mark Smith as a Senior Financial Planner

Mr Smith has around 35 years' experience in financial advisory roles, and has worked directly in financial planning since 1986.

He joins Ord Minnett after having established his own Newcastle-based Financial Planning practice, Inspired Planning. Prior to setting up this small successful boutique operation, Mr Smith was a consultant to a range of planning organisations.

From January 2002, Mark was a director of Financial Planning with Prosperity Personal & Corporate Advisers where in his role he was involved with the development of that group into an operation with in excess of \$500mil-



Mark Smith of Ord Minnett Newcastle

lion Funds under administration.

Mark Smith was the co-founder and Principal of Financial Security Personal Investment Business (FinSec), one of the antecedent firms that merged to form Prosperity.

His other major role in financial services was as a stock broker and financial planner with Bain & Company and Deutsche Financial Planning.

Newcastle Branch Manager Alison Perrott said she was delighted to be welcoming someone of Mr Smith's calibre and experience to Ord Minnett Newcastle. She said "Mark brings an enormous amount of knowledge and expertise to our team and will allow us to grow our financial planning and specialist superannuation advisory services".

Mark Smith is a Chartered Accountant by background, is a Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and is recognised as a Financial Planning specialist by the Institute of Chartered Accountants as well as holding an Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning.

## FordComm moves

Communication specialists, FordComm has recently re-located to new offices at 426 King Street, Newcastle West (the former Hunter Water building). They can be found on Level 2.

The telephone number remains the same: 4929 2063.

## New Director Appointment at VBD

Troy Wink and Greg Valentine of VBD Chartered Accountants have announced the recent appointment of Scott Norrish as a Director of the firm.

Mr Norrish will continue to work closely with both clients and colleagues, as a specialist in business, taxation and superannuation.

He has worked with VBD for the past 18 months, and has in excess of 11 years' experience in a public practise accounting. Scott Norrish has established a reputation for providing his clients with meaningful and valuable advice, across a broad range of areas including taxation, superannuation and developing strategies that help grow clients' wealth.

VBD Director, Greg Valentine, welcomes Mr Norrish as an additional Director of the firm and is excited about the future ahead.

"We're looking forward to this new chapter in growth and development of our firm, and for our clients' businesses".

## NUsport appoints CEO

The region's largest health and fitness facility has appointed Mr Chris Hicks as CEO.

Mr Hicks joined NUsport in 1998 and was the Director of Commercial Services until taking on the role of Acting CEO in March this year.

NUsport Chairman, Michael Johns, said that Mr Hicks had been a great asset to NUsport and as CEO would add further value by bringing his business expertise to the organisation as it continued to lead the way in health, fitness and sporting management in the region.



CEO of NUsport, Chris Hicks

"Chris has already been integral in developing a business direction that is built on the organisation's ability to provide services for the students and staff of the University and the wider community," Mr Johns said.

Mr Hicks said that he was looking forward to working with the team of more than 130 staff to provide quality services through NUsport and its facilities at The Forum Sports & Aquatic Centre University and The Forum Health & Wellness Centre Harbour-side.

"Our strong links with the University and the health and sporting communities positions the organisation well to continue to provide even greater services and facilities to the more than 1 million visitors each year," he said.

Chris Hicks is a qualified accountant specialising in financial management, business administration and systems. Prior to joining NUsport he worked in the hospitality and building industries. He is an active member of the Hunter business community and is a Director of Hunter Life Education.

## Andrew Bagnall named Newcastle's Young Engineer of the Year

GHD's Andrew Bagnall was named the Engineers Australia Young Engineer of the Year (Newcastle) at a function held on September 10 at Newcastle City Hall.

The award acknowledges exceptional young engineers who have reached a high level of achievement and involvement in engineering and the community.

"It's a real honour to receive this award," said Mr Bagnall.

"This recognition validates the importance that my key areas of interest - Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD) and Building Information Modelling (BIM) - are going to play a significant role in engineering and the wider community into the future."

Andrew Bagnall has been instrumental in developing the ESD practice at GHD into a sustainable business unit. ESD is now a core component of GHD's built environment offering.

GHD Newcastle Operating Centre Manager Tasos Katopodis said, "I applaud Andrew for this award - it fittingly recognises his tenacity and drive in working closely with our clients to

grow the understanding and adoption of ESD."

Mr Bagnall has played a key role in the introduction of BIM into GHD's Property and Buildings business. He offered, "BIM allows significant efficiency benefits to organisations by enabling them to virtually design and construct a building long before construction begins on site. It integrates the many components of a project such as architecture, engineering, project management, and building operations & maintenance together onto one model."

To drive the adoption of ESD and BIM in the wider built environment community, Mr Bagnall has presented at architecture and engineering industry groups, universities and international conferences. He was also a mentor for Indigenous students interested in an engineering career at this year's Engineering Aid Indigenous Summer School.

In May 2010, Andrew Bagnall was named in the Engineers Australia Most Inspiring Young Engineer list for his work in ESD.

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