



"Plan today, protect tomorrow"

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Mortgages are stable or possibly going to fall a little this year. The NZ dollar is predicted to slide to US70 cents (it is currently around 73-74c), petrol may continue to decline in price and unemployment is very low.

Added to the challenges listed above for 2015 are the ISIS threat and turmoil in Australian politics. BUT – what does it all mean to you? Will any of it or all of it affect your year?

The trick is to match your finances to your goals & key life events of 2015, so any negative impact from one of these factors will be negated to a large extent. Do this:

1. Work out your current financial position (debts and assets, income and expenditure)
2. List the big things that you

anticipate for the year ahead, such as marriage, divorce, birth of a child, major travel or new job.

3. Now consider the financial impact of each one. Will any of them mean that you incur more debt or change your income or add to your regular outgoings? Be realistic.

4. Now add in the worst case scenarios, such as losing your job or suffering major illness that requires say 6 months off work. This is to help you grasp the severe impact some changes can have on your life .

5. What you end up with is the way your year will end financially. Is it where you want to be?

My job is to help you minimise the financial impact from changes to your life. Ask me how.

A new year and a new look on life. Psychologically the start of any year has many pondering their jobs, their marriages, their finances and their general feelings..

It's a natural human trait to do so. Take your time formulating your goals. Seek guidance in specific areas such as your finances and spend time researching options, particularly if it's about property, employment, travel or education.

I hope you reach your goals and life aspirations. Even just taking the time to write them down is rewarding!

Malcolm Aston

Name Changes



These famous bands changed their names early in careers.

ABBA was formerly 'The Engaged Couples'. THE BEACH BOYS was originally 'Carl and the Passions'.

THE BEATLES started life as 'The Quarrymen'. BLONDIE called themselves 'Angel and the Snakes' while DIRE STRAITS started out as 'The Café Racers'. THE ROLLING STONES originated as 'Satan's Jesters' and THE WHO as 'The High Numbers'.

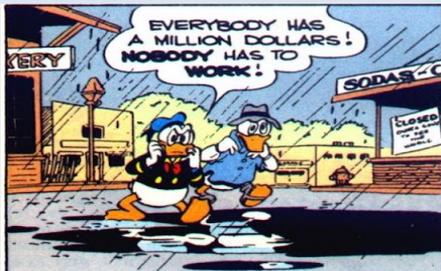
GENESIS was formerly 'Garden Wall' and DR HOOK was 'The Chocolate Papers'. THE SPICE GIRLS were named 'Touch' and THE MAMAS AND THE PAPAS were 'The Mugwumps'.

The newer names all sound so much better!

A 1951 Disney comic:

Scrooge McDuck is running a farm, employing his nephews. Donald Duck however is tired of being a labourer and quits, joining his cousin Gladstone Gander in search of luck.

Scrooge keeps all his money in a corn silo at the farm. When a cyclone hits, the cash is spread all over the area.



Gladstone is holding out his hat and \$2 million of Scrooge's money lands in the hat.

Gladstone and Donald decide to spend the money on traveling so drive to the village to buy gas. When they arrive, they learn that money has been raining everywhere and now everyone is a millionaire! As a result, no one works anymore!

Therefore they can no longer buy gas, take the bus, or even buy shoes. Donald gives up, and returns to Scrooge, where he gets his job back.

Eventually, all the millionaires go to Scrooge's farm to buy food. But prices have drastically increased, with an egg now costing \$1 million and a cabbage costing \$2 million! Scrooge soon gets his money back and all is back to normal.

Why the fable was published by Disney is unclear. The message has been described as politically right-wing and a "classic defence of the capitalistic system". It was possibly a criticism on the 1951 US President, Harry Truman.

Brain Food answers: 1) A towel 2) a palm tree 3) Priest 4) The girls are two of triplets

Who owns your insurance policy?



John died unexpectedly at 51 of cancer. He had divorced 13 years earlier and remarried 8 years ago. He had a child with his second wife along with a \$280,000 mortgage. He had a life policy that paid out \$300,000 upon death. This went to his previous wife, as she was the 'owner' of the policy.

He also had another policy that paid out six times salary from his current employer. This \$540,000 also went to his first wife as the nominated beneficiary.

The second non-working wife was now left with a mortgage, a young child and no cash pay-out! Just because you are the life assured does not necessarily mean you are the owner, unless the policy was set up that way. *This is why it is important to review your insurances after a change in marital status. Please call me if this is of concern to you.*

Beware mixing your business with your personal life



Many business startups use personal assets like the family home as security for capital.

This is fine if you have the right protections in place such as family trusts and insurances. This is particularly important to protect against an inability to generate an income if the business relies on your personal work efforts or that of a business partner.

It is very easy to set up such protections, so that an issue on one side doesn't affect the other.

I am able to advise you on the right mix of protections for if you have indeed mixed personal and business assets.

Call me now for a conversation about how I can help.

Brain Food...

1. What gets wetter the more it dries?
2. What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?
3. He has married many women, but has never been married. Who is he?
4. Two girls were born to the same mother, on the same day, month and year, at the same time and yet they're not twins. How can this be?



I am delighted to say that most of my new clients are referrals from happy existing clients. Please pass my name and number on to friends, work colleagues and family whom you believe may benefit from my services.