

➤ FIVE STEPS TO SUCCESS: | Setting up your home business

1 Shop around for the equipment you need compare prices and ask other home business operators what they found best for them.

2 Consider a dedicated phone line for your home business, to ensure you always answer business calls in a professional manner.

3 Regularly back up your computer data. If you lose your information it could cause damage to your business, and vital contacts could be lost.

4 Check out your obligations and possible advantages when setting up your finances. Visit www.ato.gov.au/businesses

5 Make sure your work area is pleasant, comfortable and safe for both you and your clients.

➤ THUMBS UP



Thumbs Up to the wonderful staff and manager Jamie at BiLo, who are always helpful and nothing is too much trouble. Also a great place to get your Baffle Creek Milk supplies.
Kathy Barr

Bella Martino's has reopened on Perry St. Enjoyed it thoroughly. Great traditional Italian pizzeria and there is nothing else like it in Bundaberg.
Chris McLoughlin

Grandma's Kitchen, as always. YUUUUMMMM.
Sammii Louise Brodie

Indulge coffee shop on Bourbong St. Ultra friendly service and a fantastic coffee.
Lisa Spry

I recently had to use the Bundaberg Ambulance Service and spend a night in Bundaberg Hospital. The service I received was certainly tops. Everyone I had contact with was amazing. Thank you all so very much. They were all professional and friendly. Follow up physio treatment also tops.
Karen Behrendorff

Business 're-ignited'

Emily Prain

MORE than 50 people from the Bundaberg business community have brushed up on their leadership, sales, marketing and productivity skills, thanks to the first of a series of free workshops.

Organiser Yale Morgan said most industries were represented at the full day Re-ignite workshop, which heard from a variety of guest speakers, including animated presentations by Sydney-based business coach Tony Gattari.

Hosted by Global Care and Citicoast Church, Mr Morgan said the seminar was supported by the Bundaberg and district Chamber of Commerce.

"It's our way of giving back to our business community," he said.

"We give them information they can take and implement within their businesses straight away to make a change."

Mr Morgan said despite the success of the event, it had been disappointing to have 30 cancellations made by businesses on the day.

"We would definitely recommend businesses to attend the next one," he said.

But yesterday's workshop was one that no business should not have missed,



BUSINESS INITIATIVE: Tony Gattari, Yale Morgan and Ingrid Gattari at a workshop designed to encourage local businesses after the recent floods. PHOTO: MIKE KNOTT BUN290413BUS1

according to attendee Jennifer Mason from Dixon Homes.

"I think anyone who didn't come to this seminar lost out," she said.

"I think it's been very well executed and very valuable for the community. "There's some good little

gems in there."

Business coach and seminar participant Lester Lewis said all businesses could benefit from life-long learning.

"As a business coach, I've got to be at the top of my game," he said. "I come to these sorts of things to

refuel. The key issue for me, if I can take one of these things that I've learnt today and help my client, my day has been well spent."

Ezi Finance's Gary Golding said the business conference had been extremely motivating, particularly following the floods.

"It re-ignites you - it helps give you a boost," he said. "We're at Burnett Heads and, while we weren't directly affected, we had a lot of indirect effects."

The second instalment of the Re-ignite seminars will be held in the coming months.

Putting a little away will soon add up

FOR a couple of years now the Reserve Bank has been telling us that Australians are focusing on saving rather than spending, and it seems our approach is paying off.

Recent research from ING Direct shows the nation's households now have cash savings worth an average of \$15,427 - up from around \$5155 two years ago.

While some in the economy, particularly from the building and retail sectors, are urging us to open up our wallets, I reckon it's good news for most Australians because no other factor is as important in becoming financially secure as saving.

MONEY MATTERS



It's even more important than investing.

The trouble with saving is that it's not as much fun as spending. And it calls for discipline and commitment, something that doesn't come naturally to most of us.

I realise that saving is also a lot harder for some households than others. If you're a single income family with young kids, chances are there's not much fat to spare in the household budget. ING Direct's study confirms this, finding that among households

aged 35-49 - those most likely to be raising children, average savings are \$8060.

The thing is, having a buffer of cash savings doesn't just provide a foundation for wealth. It can offer a financial lifeline when unexpected bills or expenses crop up. So let's look at some simple but effective strategies to get started with saving.

First, it's important to realise that I'm talking about putting money in the bank. Next, set yourself a savings target. Make it achievable and measurable and remember, your savings target doesn't have to be impressive.

If you saved just \$2 each day from age 25

you would accumulate around \$36,000 by age 50. If you saved \$5 a day that figure would be around \$91,000; \$10 per day would be \$180,000. (Assumes 5% annual earnings).

This shows how powerful a long-term strategy can be. The trick is to save regularly without dipping into the cash unless you absolutely have to - and there is no time like the present to get started.

➤ Paul Clitheroe is a founding director of financial planning firm ipac, chairman of the Australian Government Financial Literacy Board and chief commentator for Money magazine. Visit paulsmoney.com.au



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17 May 2013

3:00pm to 5:00pm

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