

KARMICHAEL HUNT

24 | AFL footballer

Now with the Gold Coast Suns AFL team, he's broken the sporting mold by playing multiple football codes.

Sceptics – and they were numerous – scoffed when Karmichael Hunt announced he was quitting rugby league, where he played for the Brisbane Broncos and represented Australia, to sign with new AFL franchise the Gold Coast Suns. But his remarkable code-swapping feat appears to have paid off, with seasoned observers predicting he will do more than make up the numbers in AFL. In doing so he's become the first man to play league, union and AFL at a senior level.



MEN OF INFLUENCE 2011

men's style



HAMISH MCLENNAN

45 | advertising executive

The global CEO of Young & Rubicam is heading home.

Recently in the news after announcing he was leaving his current job as global chairman of Y&R in New York (the youngest person to hold that post) later this year to head back to Australia, McLennan was also mentioned as a possible new CEO of the Ten Network. Well connected, he got his start in advertising in the mail room of George Patterson Bates.

HATEM SALEH

39 | MD, Atlantic Group [v]

The former restaurateur is a key player in Melbourne's function and catering industry, from South Wharf to Central Pier and the new Atlantic Restaurant at Crown Casino.

I knew what I wanted to do with my life when...

I was sitting in a classroom at university doing an accounting degree. The class was all about accounting theory and I just knew then and there that hospitality was for me – mingling with customers to ensure they walk away with a memorable experience.

Who has been your greatest motivation in life?

My accountant... who at the time I was thinking of opening up a function centre at South Wharf told me I'd be making the biggest mistake of my life. Needless to say, he is no longer my accountant!

Your biggest break?

The Central Pier project. Tendering for this development of 7,500sqm of waterfrontage in Melbourne's Docklands (and winning in a highly competitive process). I'm proud to say that this precinct is now known as the hottest destination for parties and events. Two derelict cargo sheds were transformed to the tune of \$31 million.

How do you deal with setbacks or difficult challenges?

In April 2006, the Victorian State Government announced plans to redevelop the South Wharf site and subsequently issued notice to compulsorily acquire the land where Atlantic Group [v] had been successfully operating for seven years. This was a major setback but gave us the inspiration to rebuild a business five times the size as the previous one at a new location (Central Pier, Docklands). There was obviously greater risk but also greater reward. Four years on, history now tells that this venture is a great success. It taught me not to give up in the face of adversity.

Are there any wise words guiding your actions?

My staff would tell you – "No is not an option!" For me it's "if it feels right in your heart, then you are making the right decision."

What is something you think every man should know?

Take time out to enjoy life. It's too easy to get swept up in the day to day madness.

