



Picture: Tait Schmaal

# Risky move leads to thriving future

## YOUR INVESTMENTS AUSSIES SHARE THEIR FINANCIAL STORIES

**KATE Heylen**, director of online software development company *Deadline*, says balancing an investment in culture through travel with sound financial outcomes is her key financial priority.

### What is your favourite type of investment and why?

My preference is property. My experience with this type of investment has been positive compared with shares, which have offered far less returns.

### What is the best investment advice you have received?

It was to invest in yourself. Any investment you make in your own development will come back to benefit you. In 1996, I took a risk and did a HTML computer programming course, which provided me with the opportunity to start my own website development business.

### What has been your best-performing investment?

It would have to be my business. My husband and I established the business 15 years ago as a small graphic design venture and it has grown into a successful online software development company.

### And the worst?

Internet technology shares I received as a gift, so thankfully I was not directly out of pocket.

### How do you approach investment risk?

I only risk what I am willing to lose and never take risks that will place me in an unmanageable financial situation.

### Where do you get your information about investing?

Most of my investment advice comes from my husband. As a team we regularly discuss our short, medium and long-term investment goals. For a long time, we invested everything into our property but more recently we have decided to invest in travelling and seeing the world. I also receive professional investment advice from my accountant and a business advisory team.

### How would you invest \$25,000 if you were given it tomorrow?

I would put most of it towards a

new business I am looking to start in the next three to six months. I would also "invest" in a new handbag, something golf-related for my husband and a trip to the toyshop for my two daughters.

### How do you feel about investing in managed funds?

I think they are a good investment. We take advice from our accountant and review the fund's performance annually.

### Do you use a financial planner?

My husband and I run our own business, so we have a team of financial advisers that we work with to regularly review and develop both our business and personal finances.

### How do you feel about overseas investment opportunities?

I would rather invest locally.

### Do you make extra repayments off your mortgage?

Yes.

### How well do you treat your credit card?

I use it wherever possible for convenience and to earn frequent flyer points, however, the balance is always paid off on time to avoid interest payments.

### How do you feel about life and disability insurance?

It's critical for business owners.

### What's the most extravagant purchase you have made?

That depends on how you define "extravagant". Some would say my new car, others the Chanel handbag I bought on a trip to India. However, my husband would say the \$2 we regularly get slugged when we use the wrong ATM.