

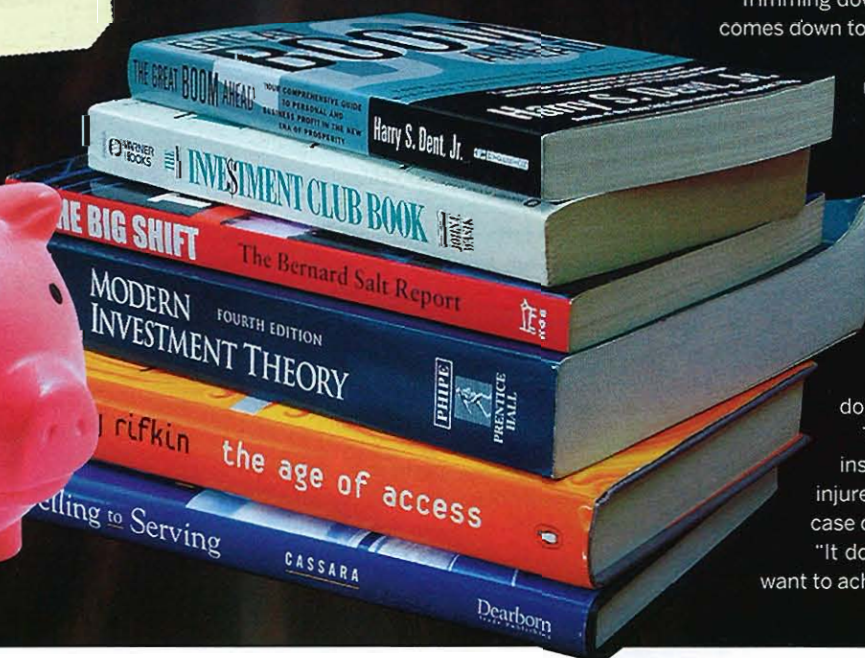
THE RIGHT ADVICE Tony Sarai says saving can be simple.

financialLine



TIPS FOR SAVING

- Leave the car at home and take public transport or walk when you can. You'll save money on fuel and parking
- Flog your old clothes, shoes and unwanted items around the house (housemates don't count) on eBay for extra cash
- Don't take out a loan to buy something you could save up the cash for over a few months
- Consider a pre-paid or capped mobile phone plan so you don't exceed your budget
- Pay off as much as you can afford to clear 'bad debts' like credit cards



i want it all

What does it take to save for your future dreams? The sacrifices might not be as large as you thought.

WHEN it comes to money, we all want it, we like to spend it and we often marvel at how it manages to seemingly dissolve into thin air after pay day.

For the 20-something age bracket, usually a stage of life where you'll start earning good money and building the foundations for your financial future, wise planning is vital, says Upper Mt Gravatt financial advisor Tony Sarai of FinancialLine.

"If we go back generations, that's when, if our parents and grandparents had to purchase something, they had to save up the money, whereas nowadays we don't have that discipline in saving for what we want to do," he says.

"And when we do have that discipline, it's not for anything financial (such as a holiday or car).

"What has changed is that image is everything."

Living beyond our means is said to be an unfortunate side effect of being born in the Y generation, the period social commentators place between 1980 and 1999. If you were born then, you're typecast as ambitious, consumerist and with a tendency to want it all and want it now.

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So how do you ensure your hard-earned cash isn't going to waste?

"It comes down to the individual and what they can achieve," Tony says.

He says if you're saving for a home deposit or end-of-year getaway, debiting your everyday bank account into a high-interest savings account is a great way to save each week.

"Depending on the circumstances there are things that can make (accumulating savings) fast, like finding bank accounts that don't charge fees to finding banks that pay up to 6.5 per cent interest."

Consolidating your bank accounts and credit cards can save on fees and make repayments simpler, Tony says, together with finding areas in your budget you can afford to cut back on.

"Trimming down on excess lifestyle for some people is not an option but it comes down to what you want to achieve," he says.

"If there's things you can trim off, then fantastic, but I'm not saying live on rice and water.

"You've got to want to do it."

Tracking your superannuation contributions may turn up a surprising amount of money as well, Tony says.

"Gone are the days where job security was for 20-odd years and you'd only have one superannuation fund.

"Rolling that over is the best thing to do to save on fees, as there are some companies that charge fees if you've got a small balance."

The Australian Tax Office lost super line (13 10 20) can track all your previous employers' contributions so you don't lose out.

Tony says other measures such as income protection insurance can ensure you don't get caught short if you're injured at work or need to take an extended period off work in case of illness, but the general rule is to live within your means.

"It does come back to mind over matter," he says. "What do you want to achieve?"