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BY JAMES McCULLOUGH
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HOW MUCH TO ROCKY?

YELLOW Cabs chief Neill Ford is moving north.

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The polo-playing Ford (below) has just acquired Rocky Cabs and is on the advertising bandwagon up north. In fact, he is on the radio there almost hourly saying how proud he is to be in the tropical north.

Ford doesn't muck about with taxis.

The keen rally driver and Mercedes enthusiast has built a multimillion-dollar taxi empire from very little and most of it on . . . blood, sweat and hard work.

CHANGE OF FORTUNE IMAGINE our surprise when we discovered this week that former high profile 1980s and '90s Brisbane businessman Ross Palmer was . . . bankrupt.

He recently declared himself bankrupt with debts of an estimated \$800,000. Bankruptcy trustee Nick Combis from Vincent accountants yesterday confirmed the move, saying the amount was owed mainly to financial institutions and the bankruptcy move was initiated by Palmer on a voluntary basis. Calls to Palmer met with no response yesterday.

FAMILY WIN DAY A LONG-running legal corporate stoush in New Farm, which had attracted significant interest, was wound up in the Supreme Court recently.

The Holzapfel family won a judgment against New Farm accountant Phillip Ham, who **sold** his home in the area last year for a cool \$5 million.

The Holzapfels took Ham to court over alleged breach of trust involving a family trust which had as its trustee a **company** controlled by Ham.

Supreme Court Justice Anthe Philippides ruled in favour of the Holzapfels and instructed Ham and the **company** to pay \$4.06 million after a long court case.

What was it all about? Apparently things turned sour with a dispute over whether Ham's **company** bought some **property** for itself or the Holzapfel family trust and who was entitled to the money when the **property** was **sold**.

TAX HORRORS THE neighbours are wondering how long before we see a few Louis Vuitton suitcases on the footpath.

After all, that's what the famous one time owner the late Senor Chris Skase did all those years ago as he left for Spain.

Local bizzoid Yii Hii bought Skase's old home in arguably one of the best streets in Brisbane, Dickson Terrace, and has been living there for a few years. Mr Hii's main interest is a mining **company** in the Philippines with the encouraging name of Investwell Mining.

Our spies report visiting Mr Hii and his charming wife often and being treated to a very elaborate **Chinese** tea sit-down despite the fact Mr Hii hails from Malaysia.

Anyway, as widely reported recently, Mr Hii now has a big problem. The Australian Taxation Office is chasing him for an unpaid tax bill allegedly \$70 million.

No doubt if he had to he could sell a few things. He could of course start in the garage. He owns two (yep, two) Bentleys, a Ferrari, a Rolls-Royce and one of the best cars ever produced . . . a Lamborghini.

Attempts to contact Mr Hii were unsuccessful.

GREEN SHOOTS JONES Lang Lasalle has announced an almost doubling of its Valuation and Advisory business in Queensland, led by the appointment of leading industry figures Troy Linnane and Dennis Morgan. Praise the lord.

The move sees virtually the entire Queensland **residential** development valuation team from Colliers International join JLL in Brisbane.

GEM JOBKIWI jeweller Michael Hill, which bases its international operations in Brisbane, has appointed Joe Talcott as its supreme salesman – well, chief marketing officer. He is one of Australia's best-known marketers, having worked at McDonald's and also News Corp, publisher of The Courier-Mail.

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