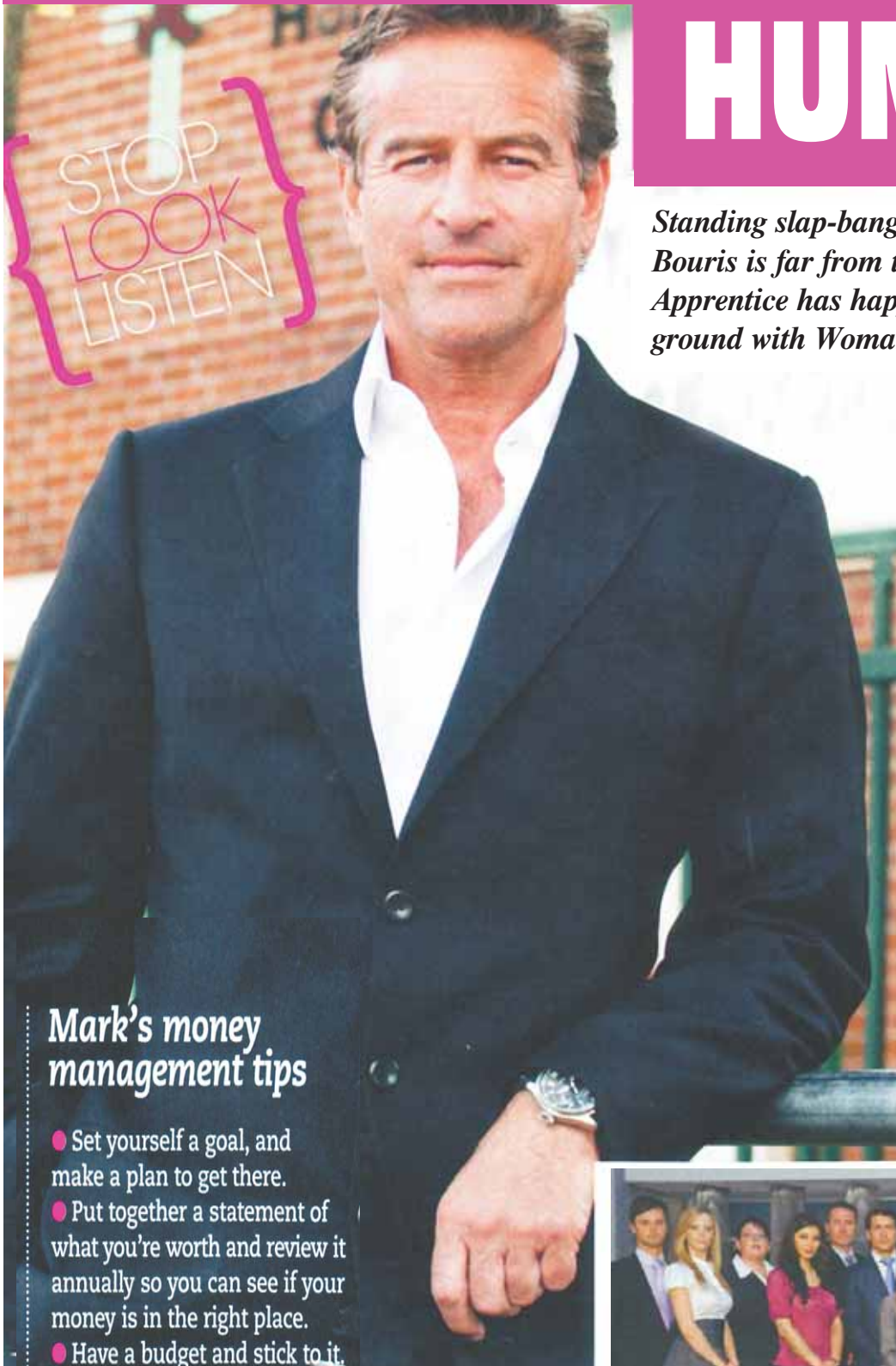


MILLIONAIRE MARK'S HUMBLE ROOTS



Standing slap-bang in the middle of suburban Lakemba, millionaire Mark Bouris is far from the trappings of his usual luxurious life, but the star of The Apprentice has happily travelled back to his old South-Western Sydney stamping ground with Woman's Day - and is having a hard time going unnoticed.

“I used to go to school around here”, says the businessman. “I always taught by the De La Salle Brothers. “They were all pretty nice, but yes, there were a couple of tough ones. I’d say I copped my fair share of the strap, but I’m not scarred for life or anything - I think I bloody deserved it!

The eldest of three children Mark 53, spend his formative years growing up in the nearby suburb of Punchbowl with his Greek born father and Australian mum, before leaving the area as a teenager.

A student at St John's College, Mark says he enjoyed his school days, and on his way home he would frequently make a detour past the fish and chip shop.

“I used to catch the bus from right outside and he’d give me free chips”, he says of the owner, a fellow immigrant and close friend of Mark’s dad’s family. “Not my friends - just me, because they treated me like I was family”.

Mark is clearly nostalgic for the “simpler times” he grew up in. These days, the busy businessman barely has time to breathe, let alone sneak out for a bucket of chips. But he’s never forgotten where he came from, and his upbringing has instilled in him the work ethic that’s seen him rise to the top.

“No-one ever told me I should work hard, it was just something I saw everyone around me doing”, he says. “I came from a big Greek family and that’s just what everyone did. You tried to improve your lot”.

At school, Mark did well enough to go on to University, where he studied commerce and law and went on to gain a Masters in Commerce. He then began work at an accounting firm and slowly worked his way through the system. After successfully establishing Wizard Home Loans -

then with his partners, who included Kerry Packer, selling it in 2006 for a staggering \$400 million - he’s now regarded as one of Australia’s most successful entrepreneurs.

His new business venture, the financial advisory company Yellow Brick Road, is on track to become just as successful. And now,

back where he started, life has once more come full circle.

“I want to set up offices [for my new business] in places like this”, says Mark, who aims to provide financial advice to ordinary Australians through his new venture. “It doesn’t matter how much money you have. In fact, the less money you have, the more financial advice you need,” he says. “I really want people to feel as though we’re not looking down our noses at them.

“Everybody deserves good quality financial advice. Nothing would make me happier than setting up a Yellow Brick Road branch here in Lakemba, so I could help local people achieve two of their greatest dreams - owning their own home and having a comfortable retirement”. Mark tells how, growing up, he “just went day to day”. “Things would come my way but I never set out to think big”, he says. “There’s only one way to success

and that’s hard work. But you’ve also got to recognise what’s happening around you and make sure you swim with the tide, not against it”.

Article from Woman's Day magazine

Mark's money management tips

- Set yourself a goal, and make a plan to get there.
- Put together a statement of what you're worth and review it annually so you can see if your money is in the right place.
- Have a budget and stick to it. With the money that's left after fixed expenses, start a savings plan or reduce your debt.
- Don't invest in anything you don't understand, and simplify things. Just consolidating your superannuation funds can pay off in the long run.
- Have a will and power of attorney arrangements, regardless of your stage in life.
- Teach your kids about money. Help them understand their living expenses and set a weekly allowance that they need to manage themselves.



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Mark as a schoolboy