

INTRODUCTION

When I was a kid people would ask me, "Jamie, what do you want to be when you grow up?" Now, some people may want to be doctors, nurses or lawyers (well maybe not lawyers). But perhaps astronauts, policemen, actors, actresses and so on — it is different for different people.

I did not know exactly what I wanted to be, so when people would ask me that question at a young age, I would answer, "When I grow up I want to be rich." I do not know if it was from watching the American TV show "Dallas" too much, but that looked pretty good to me because J.R. Ewing did not seem to work too much, drove around in expensive cars and lived on nice ranches, if you recall. Or it could have been from playing too much Monopoly with my brothers, or perhaps it was just in the back of my mind that I linked being rich to being above average and going for it in life.

I grew up in a small country town on a 2,000 acre farm which my family still have to this day, in a small town called Glen Innes, which is in Northern New South Wales, Australia. If you go there in winter you will never forget it, it is rather cold, however quite warm in summer and usually nice and green. Growing up with a farm background, the two things that were conditioned into me from an early age were that life was hard work and a struggle. In order to do well in life and make money, you had to work really hard. That is what my father had done and what my grandfather did when he was alive. And the second part of the equation for the "ultimate success formula" was that you needed to go to school, study hard to get really good grades and with those really good grades, hopefully one day you would get a really good secure job. Then, on the proviso that you worked hard for 40, 50 or 60 years of your life you would get to retire to the "good life". Now I often wonder in the 21st century how that formula is going for people. Has anyone ever bothered to check that out?

