



BOOK OF THE MONTH

GIVE IT A GO: WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?

SONIA WILLIAMS
WWW.GIVEITAGOWHATHAVEY-
OUGOTTOLOSE.COM.AU \$24.95
(INCLUDING POSTAGE)

If you want to make some extra cash and would prefer to work from home, direct selling might be for you. Author of *Show Mummy The Money* and *Raising a Business* spent a year researching the direct-selling industry for this latest book.

"Direct selling is a wonderful recession-proof industry and everyone can share in the spoils and successes," she says. "While people are making over \$100,000 a year in this growing industry sector, even a few hundred dollars a month delivers a big boost to the family budget."

The book, which features real-life success stories, covers everything from explaining what direct selling is to how you can become a successful distributor. It details the challenges you may face and offers tips on how to grow your business. MARIA BEKIARIS

Ten readers can win a copy
Tell us in 25 words or less your best tip for making extra cash. Send entries to Book of the Month, Money, GPO Box 3542 Sydney NSW 2001 or email money@acpmagazines.com.au. Please include your name and postal address. Entries close October 3, 2009.

THE BUZZ

Online broker woos new customers

'We're raising the bar with innovative services'

When major online broker E*Trade recently offered a free online tax report for its customers, 21,000 investors took advantage of it in the first week it was available. E*Trade's Tax Tools standard service is the latest in a string of innovations used by the sector to woo new customers and keep existing clients sweet.

"Overcoming the tax time nightmare that many investors encounter at year end has been a priority," says Stuart Sayers, MD of E*Trade Australia. "The Tax Tools service is part of our commitment to continually raise the bar with new, innovative services that make online trading easier. An additional subscription tax reporting service offering extra features for proactive traders will be available later this year."

Tax Tools provides a consolidated report summarising the investor's tax positions for their E*Trade trading activities at the click of a button. It is designed to replace the many hours spent by investors collating their contract notes, dividend statements and other equity-related documentation received

throughout the year. The subscription tax reporting services due to come online before the end of 2009 will update investment activity daily and enable traders to undertake "what if" scenarios and proactively manage the tax implications of their trading.

Australia's biggest online trader CommSec, no slouch in the innovative stakes, is also developing a tax reporting product which it says will be "robust, accurate and easy for customers to use".

"The CommSec team are constantly striving to raise the bar to meet the high levels of service and product innovation customers' expect," says managing director Matt Comyn.

Another recent advance from CommSec is an enhanced trading platform which delivers faster, more reliable dynamic data streams with international market information aimed at giving active traders the edge. CommSec has also invested in world-class benchmarks to raise minimum standards on password protection so customers can trade with additional peace of mind. PAM WALKLEY



"Money doesn't buy you happiness, but it buys you a big enough yacht to sail right up to it."

Johnny Depp, American Actor, 1963 -

IN YOUR INTEREST

Teaming up to buy a home

How to overcome potential traps

As first home buyers scramble to secure a property before the boost ends in December, a new trend between mortgage and mateship has emerged. Research by MyRate shows relatives and friends wanting to buy a home together increased 300% over the past six months. Mortgage co-ownership has always been an easier way to pass tight lending criteria, but is it the best method to get your foot-in-the-door in the current climate? The risks are obvious, and financial commitments are more than capable of testing any relationship. It is crucial to agree on all terms and certify them



with legal documentation beforehand.

Pooling funds presents great opportunities. But if things go sour, paperwork which clarifies what should happen if one person exits the deal could end up saving both your friendship and investment in the long term.

ANDREW WILLINK, Founder and Chairman, RateCity.com.au