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INTRODUCTION

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this document, the results should be used as an indication only. They are not financial advice and you should consult your own suitably qualified financial advisors.

It is part of the “Great Australian Dream” to own a home. We have a higher percentage of home ownership than many countries globally, but this percentage is dropping and the number of people in our population who will rent until they die is steadily increasing.

There are some very good reasons to own a home that make the struggle to do so worthwhile, but it may mean some sacrifices and at a time of life when it makes it much harder to make those sacrifices because you are probably young with friends who are all living a great life but using most of their income to do so.

It is important in this introduction to understand the relative financial path that home ownership leads to. Owning a home is an inflationary buffer as the value goes up over time while the purchase price you paid for the property is fixed at the time of purchase. As is the proportion of that purchase price that you borrowed to buy the house.

Consider the table below:

	Home owner	Renter
Purchase price of home	700,000	
Mortgage	600,000	
Mortgage rate	6.0%	
Monthly repayments (30 Year Loan)	3,597	
Monthly rent 650 per week (Year 1)		2817
POSITION AFTER 10 YEARS		
Rent paid over 10 years (increasing at 5% per year)		98,107
Value of home after 10 years	1,200,000	

Mortgage Principal remaining after 10 years	502,114	
Equity after 10 years	697,886	0
Total Paid over 10 years	431,640	98,107
Net position	266,246	-98,107

Principal and Interest Calculator

Another thing to consider here is that further down the path the equity created by home ownership can be used to raise finance to purchase an investment property. Home ownership can be the first step to an investment property portfolio and the financial security that bricks and mortar investments can provide.

If you want to be one of those who achieve a home of their own then read on.

1. HAVE A PLAN

HOW MUCH?

Saving to an unknown target is not as conducive or exciting as it is to know where you are aiming and how far along the journey you are.

Consider creating a visual representation of your progress that keeps you motivated. It could be a graph generated by a spreadsheet or a thermometer like they use for fundraising exercises that you put on the fridge and colour in when milestone amounts are in your savings account. Your amount may change as you work through the remainder of these points (for example, after you research the probable price range of the home you are looking to secure, but at least you are developing a framework to successfully achieve your goal here.

BY WHEN?

If there is no end in sight from a time perspective it is hard to stay motivated. Even if your target is months or a couple of years away at least you know you are on a journey with an exciting destination.

ACTIONS FOR YOU:

Create a plan and make it visual

Diarize a regular time to check on your plan and monitor your progress. It could be the first Friday morning of the month or every Monday afternoon.

See attached savings templates by 'She's on The Money'

2. USE A BROKER

- The primary role of a bank is to make money for its shareholders. It develops a set of lending products that best meets this need for the bank and they will suit specifically a select profile within the community.
- The job of a Finance Broker is to find the best financial solution for their client – no matter where the money comes from.
- The bank can only determine if you will qualify for one of their loans and if not will turn you down or guide you to save more or work towards elements that make you an ideal customer for them.
- The broker will look at a far wider range of offerings and possibly find a loan product that will get you into a home quicker.
- A broker can also give very valuable advice. They have seen people in your position before. They have seen the cleverest solutions and it is in their best interest to share those with you because that means you will be needing a loan quicker and they only get paid when they successfully coordinate the loan for you.
- Bank employees get paid for showing up each day and while their job is still to help people get loans it is only within the strict rules of that particular bank.
- Show your Broker your plan and get their advice and input to the plan.

ACTIONS FOR YOU:

- See the attached list of useful contacts and pick a broker or speak to friends/ family about who they have used
- Book an appointment to discuss your plans with a broker

3. KNOW YOUR MARKET

Select a few areas where you think you may like to live. It's a good idea to use a map for this and a set of criteria that you find important in your life. Consider carefully elements such as "being close to work" if you are in a job that may change over the next few years. You should consider your needs and lifestyle over the next 5 years as much as that is foreseeable.

Your first house will likely not be your "forever" home but it does need to get you into the market. If you are handy consider areas that have homes that are being renovated and others that are ready for renovation because you may be able to significantly build your equity in a house by adding value through renovation

Key things to consider on your area selection list will include:

Proximity to amenities such as shopping, medical

Transport and parking

Possibly school zones

Distance to friends and family

Price points

When you have narrowed down the areas you can start your research

Set up alerts on the major real estate portals so they advise you of properties of the type you are looking for come on the market:

[REALESTATE.COM: CLICK HERE](#)

[DOMAIN: CLICK HERE](#)

[HOMELY: CLICK HERE](#)

Track the prices of the properties coming onto the market and if you want to get more technical you can watch the "sold" segment of the sites to see what the property sold for. This template from Google Sheets is great to start with:

[GOOGLE SHEETS: MARKET RESEARCH TEMPLATE](#)

Don't be afraid to call agents and ask "what did [property] sell for?"

Write down the results or keep a spreadsheet. Buying a house properly is a serious business so to casually skim through the results visually will give you an insight, a true understanding of a market is gained by detailed analytics and study so you know when you have come across a good buy.

Our sales team would be happy to assist you in preparing reports with local statistics. Don't be scared to give us a call to discuss areas of affordability or to discuss the temperament of the market

ACTIONS FOR YOU:

Create a list of property requirements and the location you'd like to live

Track sales from real estate portals such as realestate.com in that area

Keep written records of this data

4. LINK WITH ONE OF OUR SALES AGENTS

Reach out to a sales agent in our team. You can call and introduce yourself and tell them the journey you are on. The best way is to go to an open home they are holding and introduce yourself in person. You can also arrange to meet briefly in their office.

First National also have a number of tools at their disposal that the average public does not have access to. We subscribe to research and data sets that contain past home prices, ownership data, area statistics and much more.

Our sales team has vast experience. Most people buy and sell about 7 homes in their lifetime, agents are involved in sales all the time so they see the pitfalls and how to avoid them. They also see what the smart people are doing and are happy to share those stories.

Agents also appreciate working with people who know what they are doing and have a clear plan so they are not just wasting the Agents very valuable time.

ACTIONS FOR YOU:

Call First National Real Estate Mudgee and speak to a sales agent. There is a list with everyone's contact details in this booklet.

Stay in touch with us and how your plan is progressing. Ask questions about the market and any recent deals of interest that you may be able to learn from.

5. USE A BUDGET

- The amount that comes into most people's pocket from wages or salary is relatively fixed. The proportion of the income that goes out again can vary dramatically. It is very susceptible to spending on a whim if it is not managed carefully to a preset plan.
- A budget is this preset plan. It will help you maximise the amount that you retain in your quest to own a home. Of course, there are going to be unexpected expenses such as car repairs that you did not know were going to happen, but generally a budget will help to reduce the discretionary spending. If it's not in the budget: simply don't do it, and keep the money for the house fund. Once you have achieved your prime goal of a house these rules may change but in the mean time if the goal is important to you then the budget rules
- Here is a useful resource for your budget:
[MONEY SMART—HOW TO DO A BUDGET: CLICK HERE](#)

6. PRIORITISE YOUR SPENDING

Saving for a home is a temporary state of life. After a time, you will have saved enough to get your house. So the real message in this segment is that there is likely to be some short term pain in the interest of a long term gain.

Many people around you may be spending their money on eating out, holidays overseas, depreciating assets like new cars or jet skis while you are diverting all your non-essential funds into a savings account, but long term your path is a very beneficial one.

This is a game of time. House prices rise over time and you save money as a deposit over time. As prices rise, the sooner you save your deposit and get your first house the better off you will be.

So make the tough calls, don't give in to the desire for short term gratification when ever you can avoid it. If it is not in your budget then consider whether you **REALLY** need it.

One of the tricks that will help you in this regard is a simple question '*Did I wake up this morning with the spending of this money / buying of this thing?*' on my things to do list for this day?"

Having said that there is also the wise adages of "All things in moderation". We are not advocating that you lose all your friends and become a hermit living without any lifestyle at all. You must balance your lifestyle with the financial consequences and balance the way you behave with the outcomes you desire most and consider most beneficial for your particular life.

ACTIONS FOR YOU:

Open a savings account for your house deposit and limit access to it

Create a realistic budget

Diarize a time to review your budget monthly to see how on track your are

7. GET ANOTHER INCOME STREAM

As mentioned, this phase of your life is temporary.

While your income may seem fixed it probably has more flexibility than you think. The thing that is fixed is time.

If you are working for wages / salary you are trading time for money. If you have unpaid time then you can sell that to someone else in the form of a second job.

There are plenty of part time jobs everywhere. You may need to update your resume and drop it in to a few local companies who may have temporary work.

HR people rarely set time to follow up incessantly. So make sure it is part of your system to follow them up to see if there are opportunities that may suit your availability and needs.

These may be low paying jobs compared with your day job but every dollar they make is destined for the house.

Alternatively, do something more entrepreneurial. Start a money making website or a crafty business.

The key to this part of the exercise is RESEARCH. It takes little thought to start a dog-walking business or a lawn mowing business but there are niche opportunities that are never publicized that give much better returns for similar effort or time invested.

Also worth noting is "Don't forget your day job" If you have a full time job it is probably your prime income stream and you owe it to your employer to turn up alert and fit for work each day.

ACTIONS FOR YOU:

Visit and pass your resume out to local business' employing people at a time that doesn't clash with your full time work. Such as:

Wait tables at a local café

Wash dishes for a local restaurant

Mow lawns in your area

8. BE CREATIVE WITH YOUR FINANCE PLAN

- There are many ways to get a deposit together. We usually think of the main one of saving hard for some time until you have enough money, but there are other things that come into play that could make your journey different, or easier or faster.
- A young man who was saving for a home we were working with many years ago hit a bump in his savings plan when he gave in to peer pressure and took a holiday with his mates that was very expensive. It was a skiing trip, and the actual trip was not the problem. Of course he should enjoy the company of his friends. It was the thousands of dollars of equipment and clothing, snowboard, boots etc. that he acquired for the trip of just a few days. It wasn't the first time he had dipped into his savings account. He figured out a very effective solution: He got his Mum to change the pin number on his saving account and so he had to ask her if he ever wanted money from that account. He soon had the deposit and bought a unit of his own.
- You may have items at home you could sell. Maybe you don't use the boat as often as you planned or you could downgrade a vehicle so you had more liquid cash.

ACTIONS FOR YOU:

- Make a list of alternate places you may be able to secure funds.

9. KNOW ALL THE GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES

- Home ownership is encouraged in Australia and there are many different grants and incentive packages for first-home buyers. This is a highly political motivator so governments are always trying to make it easier and more attractive for people to buy their homes while not giving up too much government revenue.
- The issue here is to also keep researching how these government schemes work. They will form part of your plan and have an impact on the amount you need as a deposit and also how you apply for finance.
- Here is a useful resource for your research:
[FIRST HOME BUYER GRANTS, INCENTIVES AND DISCOUNTS: CLICK HERE](#)

10. OTHER FACTORS THAT WILL HELP

- While not Technically a borrowing tactic, knowing how to repay money quickly will give you more confidence to borrow to your limit. It will also help you get more equity quicker so you have the option to buy your next bigger property or purchase an investment property. There are two widely accepted methods of debt reduction that are worthy of mention here. They are known as the snowball method or the avalanche method and you can check them out here:

[PAYING DOWN DEBT: CLICK HERE](#)

USEFUL CONTACTS AND LINKS

BROKERS:

- [CENTRAL TABLELANDS MORTGAGES - 0457 435 558](#)
- [STANLEY FINANCE - 02 6372 2211](#)
- [BURMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES - 02 6372 6651](#)
- [MORTGAGE CHOICE - 0404 831 465](#)

SOLICITORS/ CONVEYANCERS:

- [HANNAFORD COX CONNELLAN & MCFARLAND - 02 6372 1666](#)
- [SALLY CALLANDER LAW - 02 6395 9780](#)
- [LIME CONVEYANCING - 026372 9011](#)
- [INTEGRAL CONVEYANCING - 0421 977 265](#)
- [DOTT AND CROSS IT - 02 6798 9714](#)
- [FLYNN'S SOLICITORS - 02 6372 6500](#)
- [DLH SOLICITORS - 02 6372 1099](#)
- [RICHARD WISE SOLICITORS - 02 6372 3388](#)

USEFUL LINKS:

- [MORTGAGE CHOICE - NSW FIRST HOME BUYER GRANT: CLICK HERE](#)
- [GENWORTH - ARTICLES FOR THE HOME BUYING JOURNEY: CLICK HERE](#)
- [FIRST HOME OWNER GRANT: CLICK HERE](#)
- [FINDER - TOP TIPS FOR FIRST BUYERS IN AUSTRALIA: CLICK HERE](#)
- [MONEY SMART - STEPS TO TURN YOUR FIRST HOME DREAM INTO REALITY: CLICK HERE](#)

[SHE'S ON THE MONEY SAVING HACKS](#)

MEET OUR SALES TEAM



TIM O'BRIEN

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Licensed Real Estate Agent | Licensed Stock & Station Agent

Licensed Business Agent | Licensed Strata Managing Agent | Auctioneer

Tim O'Brien's love of the Real Estate Profession began at an early age through attending auction sales with his parents and it has been in his blood ever since.

Working in the Real Estate Profession has never felt like work to Tim, he feels that everyday is a pleasure and that the real bonus is living in the beautiful Mudgee community. Tim believes that he is truly blessed to be apart of such a friendly, vibrant community in such a beautiful location in the Cudgegong Valley.

Tim O'Brien is grateful that his three children, Connie, James and Laura have grown up in the Mudgee area which has so much to offer.

Outside of his work, Tim's interests include model trains (or in fact any trains – just ask his wife, Annette), Antiques and Collectables, woodworking and sports.

A perfect day out for Tim would be at the Sydney Cricket Ground with his children and enjoying the atmosphere, drinking, eating too much, telling and listening to all sorts of stories.



ANDREW BLACKMAN

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**Principal | Licensed Real Estate Agent
Licensed Stock & Station Agent | Licensed Business Agent**

Andrew is a Mudgee local with strong community spirit. He has been selling real estate in the district since 1994 and has tremendous experience in the residential, commercial & rural market- from \$5000 village lifestyle blocks to prestige homes, multi million dollar broadacre farms & vineyards.

Active involvement in local organisations see Andrew mixing with a variety of people from all walks of life and he is keen to see the district and its people prosper.

Andrew has a genuine "can do" attitude and through continual training & development is well equipped to assist buyers and sellers alike to realise their dreams.

Andrew is not your average 9-5 person and will persist for as long as it takes to achieve the best possible result.

Having received a number of state and national awards for sales performance over the years from the First National network, along with being awarded 2017 "Mudgee Agent of the Year" from independent rating service www.ratemyagent.com.au, you know you are in safe hands when entrusting the sale of your property to Andrew.



ROBBIE PALMER

LICENCED REAL ESTATE AGENT

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Licensed Real Estate Agent | Licensed Stock and Station Agent | Auctioneer

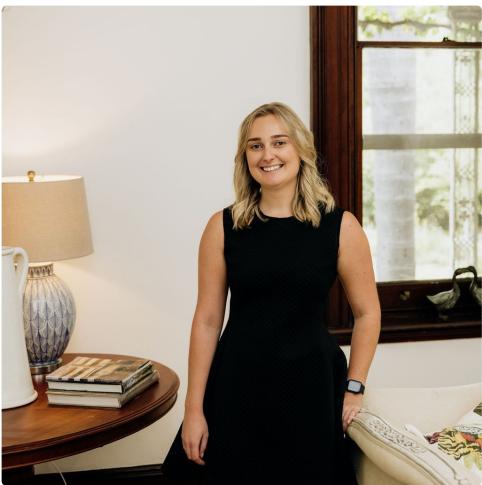
I grew up in Mudgee and have seen it go from a sleepy country town to the thriving, cosmopolitan community that it is now.

I play a bit of touch football, golf (not well) and enjoy the many cafes, coffee shops and restaurants the area has to offer.

I love this town and its people. I am passionate about promoting it to anyone who wants to live here.

I have gained a reputation for being an honest, hardworking, ethical professional who will always strive for the best result.

I have been recognised nationally for my achievements and make a point of doing things the right way. I will work hard to make sure every little detail is taken care of.



MARNIE ROBBINS

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marnie.robbins@fnmudgee.com.au

Licensed Real Estate Agent | Licensed Stock & Station Agent

Marnie has a genuine passion for real estate and works tirelessly on behalf of her clients.

Motivated and friendly, Marnie is a highly driven and energetic agent with a wealth of local market knowledge. Marnie obtains immense satisfaction from helping both vendors and buyers achieve outstanding results and providing them with constant and open communication. She has an eye for detail, seamlessly managing sales campaigns and guiding her clients every step of the way.

Marnie enjoys the strong work ethic and welcoming culture of First National Real Estate Mudgee and is looking forward to enhancing her knowledge and skills.



PETER DRUITT

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Licensed Real Estate Agent | Licensed Stock & Station Agent | Licensed Business Agent | Auctioneer

Peter commenced his career in rural agency in 1979 with the then Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort and spent 14 years with the company in Armidale, Guyra, Goulburn and as branch manager in Bourke and then Mudgee.

After then running his own successful agency in Mudgee for 27 years, he has now merged his business with the team at First National Real Estate, Mudgee with an aim of focusing all his attention to servicing and selling rural property in the wider Mudgee area.

His standing in the industry has been recognised by being awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association and being named the 2015 Real Estate Institute of NSW Rural Marketer of the Year.

In 2022 Peter was the number one lifestyle agent in NSW for the First National Group.



BOB PROESTOS

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Licensed Real Estate Agent | Licensed Stock and Station Agent | Auctioneer

Smart, professional and result driven, Bob Proestos brings fresh enthusiasm to First National Real Estate, Mudgee's already dynamic sales team.

An exceptional sales professional and dedicated real estate agent, Bob continues to raise the bar for quality service in both residential and rural sales.

After commencing his real estate career back in 1985 working for Heritage Real Estate, Bob's passion for the country, the people and the lifestyle was abundantly clear. His gravitation towards the real estate industry is due to him valuing a rare opportunity to connect with such a diverse range of people, establish long-lasting relationships and work together with his clients to not only achieve superior results but to ensure it is a smooth transition for both parties. His focus and keen interest in continually improving has earned him a flawless reputation among colleagues. He applies hard-earned skills, training and development courses with local market knowledge to achieve outcomes that supersede client expectations.

During his 27 years in the real estate industry, Bob has enjoyed the opportunity of selling real estate up and down the East Coast of Australia and has also expanded his horizons as far as Queensland and Western New South Wales. From hobby farms and sheep and cattle stations to residential marvels, Bob Proestos has assisted in selling a wide range of property.

Bob's clear ability to make every client feel they are his sole focus is a direct result of his unwavering commitment to providing the highest possible level of service. Contact Bob Proestos to employ First National Real Estate, Mudgee's marketing resources, attention to detail and the local knowledge needed to guarantee your home or investment property is sold with the highest level of professionalism and service.