

# Management Update

Report: Leo D'Angelo Fisher

## Beanies line up for day in the sun

The chairman of Sothertons accounting group, Robert Lissauer, says Australia is on the cusp of a “golden age for accountants”. Lissauer told the annual International Group of Accounting Firms conference in Vancouver, Canada, that demand for accountants in Australia is intensifying. “There are currently 300,000 accountants in Australia and clearly we are going to need more,” he told delegates. One reason was the economic boom in China and India; another was growing demand for accountants in business leadership roles. Lissauer predicts that a return to management fundamentals amid the present market volatility will lead to more accountants becoming company chief executives. “Too many businesses end up going belly-up because their executives have assumed that selling ability or technical skills in a particular field are a guarantee of success,” he told the conference. “If a company’s financial position is precarious, it won’t matter how well the company performs, its outlook will be poor.” IGAF is based in the United States and represents local and regional accounting firms in 50 countries. Lissauer is chairman of IGAF Asia-Pacific.