

Queensland business: Our fastest-growing fortunes

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Corporate Travel Management CEO Jamie Pherous

THE wealth of Brisbane travel entrepreneur Jamie Pherous soared by more than \$2 million a week over the past year.

The businessman leads a list of the state's fastest-growing fortunes during 2016, adding \$118 million to his wealth.

Most comes from the continuing rise in the value of shares in Corporate Travel Management – the business he founded 22 years ago with two staff and has turned into one of Queensland's 15 biggest public companies with global operations and more than 2200 employees.

It lifted the value of Mr Pherous' 21.5 per cent stake by over \$112 million to \$377.5 million and dividends filled his pockets with another \$5 million-plus.

It takes his total estimated wealth to \$391 million – nearly 10 times the \$40 million when he appeared in *The Sunday Mail's* first Queensland Rich List in 2007.

"We've only scratched the surface," Mr Pherous said, confident the firm will continue the same level of growth.

The success of the Wagner family's private Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport and adjoining industrial park at Toowoomba has pushed their fortune up by \$100 million to beyond \$1 billion.

Brisbane brothers Luke and Karl Trouchet took Apollo – the motor home business started by their parents with one campervan – to a public float in November. It delivered \$30 million and their remaining 65 per cent stake in the company has grown by about 30 per cent since, swelling their wealth by \$63 million.

Chief executive Luke Trouchet, 41, said listing the firm enabled them to expand the rental business to the US and launch their own network of campervan and caravan sales dealerships in Australia. "It's been an exciting year," he said.

Maxine Horne, chief executive of mobile phones retailer Vita Group, enjoyed the quickest growth in wealth of any Queensland woman – her fortune swelling by \$58 million.

Her shares surged 47 per cent, while she also sold \$49.5 million worth at near peak price – splurging a combined \$20 million on a riverside home in New Farm and oceanfront getaway at Sunshine Beach.

Technology guru Bevan Slattery's Megaport and Superloop boosted his wealth by \$1 million a week for the past 12 months.

Tony Alford, former managing director of Gold Coast-based Retail Food Group – which includes Donut King, Brumby's, Gloria Jeans, Pizza Capers and Di Bella Coffee – added \$50 million to his fortune.

The southeast Queensland construction boom benefited Lewis Saragossi and his family – owners of the G.James group of glass and aluminium companies – gained \$29 million while Hutchinson Builders are up \$24 million

Mooloolaba couple Brendon and Cristy Levenson made about \$18 million from the sale of their Jetts Fitness chain to a private equity firm, while Domino's Pizza mogul Don Meij is up a similar amount on the year.