

Teamwork is the key

The worlds of sport and business are seen as diametrically opposed, but former Wallaby hooker Tom Lawton told Robert Crawford there were a lot of similarities.

Teamwork is the key to success in many facets of life, including the sporting field and in business, according to Mr Lawton.

The general manager of the Gold Coast-based business Ventura, a fund manager which among other things supplies equity products was in Nowra recently running seminars advising people about what was going on in the market place both internationally and domestically, and make them feel a little more at ease with their investment opportunities. And the value of teamwork was high on his agenda.

"Being an ex-coach and player, one of the things that is interesting is the associated skills of playing elite sport and coaching elite sport very much align themselves with business," he said.

"Anyone who has played



any team sport at pretty much any level starts to develop an understanding of how they can associate those skills in a business sense.

"For example, training would be your qualifications, the culture of the team is the culture of the work place, the camaraderie would be your association

with work mates so there are lots of correlations that you can make and more importantly the management of those teams and those businesses is the same as the team captaincy and coaching of those business - so if you run your business as you would run a successful team, then you are well on the way to making sure the

team will run as best it can," Mr Lawton said.

"You get the right people, source the right people and you will end up with the right goals and right performance."

Mr Lawton said the world's financial markets were just starting to recover two years on from September 11.

"The markets were pretty

Former Wallaby hooker and now financial adviser Tom Lawton (second from right) with Rod Crouch director NKL Financial Planning, and directors of Business Dynamics Bruce McDonald and Frank Taylor.

crook before September 11," he said.

"September 11 actually alleviated some of the corporate problems because the spotlight was on the horrifying event rather than the dynamics as to what was going wrong with these major corporations."

But after all the unrest, international problems and drought "we are seeing a clean sheet where the fundamentals of the business are being looked at rather than the peripheral problems."

"So rather than looking at the problems with balance sheets we are starting to look at the fundamental value in shares."

"And there is still some value in Australian equities, there is some fair trading to be done there and certainly in America there is some value to gain from their market as well."

"It's looking positive," Mr Lawton said.