

Keeping it all in the family

RICHARD CLUNE



Mark Bouris readily admits a certain disdain for life in the public eye. So it's interesting that the Yellow Brick Road CEO has now roped in his son Dane to appear on the next season of his successful Nine program, *Celebrity Apprentice*.

Speaking of the move, that aligns the local version with its US predecessor, where **Donald Trump** works in conjunction with daughter Ivanka. Bouris Sr said it was done to "evolve" the show. "It was Gyng's (Nine Entertainment Co CEO **David Gyngell**) idea. He's got a great TV brain and could see the sense in it," Bouris Sr told *Insider*.

Dismissing the gig as another leg-up from his old man, Dane — a YBR branch principal and hotelier in his own right — took some convincing to audition for the role, for which he was rigorously screen tested.

"Now Gyngell's saying that if (this season) doesn't work then it's my fault," Dane said. "I turned 30 end of last year and I'm open to opportunities. I guess I'm hoping the show will give me an opportunity to create my own profile and be Dane Bouris, not just Mark's son."

As the newfound "adviser" alongside ACP publishing doyenne **Deborah Thomas**, Dane also wants to dent a certain media perception that he's a "bad boy" — a moniker thrown at him after a documented scuffle with police several years back.

"It was a storm in a tea cup," he says of his 2009 arrest and subsequent court appearances for behaving in an offensive manner and



Celebrity Apprentice's Mark and Dane Bouris last week

resisting police. The charges were later dropped against him. "Something happened to my girlfriend at the time and she was treated inappropriately by an officer and I stood up for her. He was being (out of line). I perhaps need to control that better, but I stick up for myself and what I believe in."

Dane's TV debut could well occur sooner than expected given persistent speculation that Nine is eyeing off the series — still in production and which features **David Hasselhoff**, **Charlotte Dawson** and **Patti Newton** among others — as a rapid replacement for the ailing *Excess Baggage*.

More bark than bite

WE'LL see *Please Marry My Boy* contestants **Koa Whelan**, 25, and **Lyndie Bryan**, 26, venture into what Whelan calls "the dragon's den" on the second episode of Seven's reality dating show tomorrow night, but here's the picture proof they survived.

Shire mum, teacher and netball coach **Karen Kenny** became the target of many social media barbs following last week's launch in which she bared her teeth and almost picked a few fights on speed dates looking for the perfect girl for the apple of her eye — son **Matt Kenny**.

Comments ranged from "she's scary" to "she's her son's biggest handicap".

But Whelan and Bryan, two

of the three who passed Karen's test and go to live with the family for the next stage of the show say she's more bark than bite.

Filming of the show was completed late last year, and the pair did confess to one relationship developing in the Kenny house. PMMB airs tomorrow, 8.30pm, Seven.

Ailing project mistimed

IT'S the question reverberating about the industry — just how much longer can Ten sustain the appalling prime-time ratings of *The Project*, which last week limped about with a national average as low as 473,000?

It's sad to see given the program had hit its straps of late, doing sufficiently at 7pm.

Yet at 6pm, against rusted-on commercial news audiences and its extended hour of content, it's languishing and you'd imagine not long for the box. If only Ten could see the error of its ways and return it to where it belongs.

Gongs set new standards

LAST week's inaugural ACCTA Awards had the odd mis-hit — **Tim Minchin** needs to permanently relocate to Britain, while the parody song to announce *Sunshine And Oranges* was ill-conceived — but overall the night was a success.

For the most, the right people claimed the right gongs, while the seeming increase in small-screen accolades was well received.

As such, I hope producers of this year's Logies were watching. The ACCTAs proved a sole host is not required and that a tongue-in-cheek approach that doesn't pander to industry pretensions can actually work.

Sticking with the Logies and certain networks

have again started to panhandle for votes, although it's not surprising to see campaigns for personalities, given the success of last year's after **Karl Stefanovic** and **Christie Swan** won.

But it's interesting to learn that Seven will not be involved with any on-air Logie promotion for any of its stars or programs.

We also wonder whether those "helpful" TV Week promo booths that targeted shoppers — directing them towards Nine talent given the alliance of ACP Magazines and the network — will again appear in the coming weeks as they did last year?

Hip oddball lobs locally

HAVING taken over the world with their collective apathy and attraction to garish coloured bicycles devoid of gears, hipster TV was always destined to arrive.

Having garnered a strong (read: cult) following in the US, *Portlandia* has finally been allocated a local launch (February 23, ABC2).

The so-called "hipster sketch show" is a gloriously amusing collection of oddball characters in unique situations.

Created by former Saturday Night Live player **Fred Armisen** and **Carrie Brownstein** (formerly of alt-rockers *Sleater-Kinney* and now with *Wild Flag*), the Portland-based series offers a certain sense of comical charm, even if some gags are slightly overplayed.

Regardless, it's nice to see an American export au fait with irony and that is another good fit for ABC2. **Selma Blair** (*Legally Blonde*, *Hellboy*); **Heather Graham** (*The Hangover*); **Steve Buscemi** (*Pulp Fiction*, *Boardwalk Empire*); **Kyle MacLachlan** (*Twin Peaks*, *Sex And The City*), among others, make appearances. Make sure you check it out.



Marry My Boy's Koa Whelan and Lyndie Bryan on Friday

MUST WATCH

Sunday Night

Tonight, 6.30pm, Seven



TWO people make the return of this current affairs outing an event: **Mike Willesee** (pictured) and **Julia Gillard**.

The veteran hack dusted off his notepad for a tete-a-tete with the Prime Minister that is likely to be fiery.

Elsewhere, **Ross Coulthart** delivers a promotional piece on Seven's *Downton Abbey*, while **Paul McCartney** also has an "exclusive" chat.

GOSSIP

Aussie invasion



IT'S hard to avoid the Aussie accent in LA at the moment with seemingly half the local industry attacking *Stateside* pilot season with gusto. In some of the first news to filter back this way,

Crownies actor **Daniel Lissing** (pictured) has been cast in US ABC's *Last Resort* — a new drama from *The Shield*'s **Shawn Ryan**. While it's but the first hurdle in a long race to primetime fame and fortune, it's a solid nod for Lissing.

WHAT'S ON

Ab Fab revival



EXPECT the ABC to maintain its ownership of *Wednesdays*. From this week *Aunty* debuts the new-look *Absolutely Fabulous* (7.30pm),

which rolls into a new season of **Adam Hills** in *Gordon St* Tonight, followed by the premiere of gay sci-fi effort *Outland* (9.30pm), which was conceived by — and stars — Melbourne radio identity **Adam Richard**, among others.

LATE CHANGES

TODAY

TEN: 3pm *Young Talent Time*; 11.30pm *MOVIE: Pathfinder*.

TOMORROW

ABC: 10am *Seven Ages Of Britain*. SEVEN: 2pm *Please Marry My Boy*. NINE: 11.30pm *Harry's Law*; 12.30pm *Damages*.

TUESDAY

TEN: 3pm *The Biggest Loser*.

WEDNESDAY

SEVEN: 10.30pm *How I met your Mother*.

TEN: 3pm *The Biggest Loser Singles*.

THURSDAY

SEVEN: 1pm *Desperate Housewives*.

TEN: 3pm *The Biggest Loser Singles*.

FRIDAY

SEVEN: 12pm *MOVIE: Crimes Of Fashion: hostile makeover*.

TEN: 3pm *The Biggest Loser Singles*.