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Rupert seizes control in Oz after UK woes

THERE'S shock in Sydney that News Corp boss Rupert Murdoch's long-serving and ultra-loyal chief of his Australian newspaper business, John Hartigan, is leaving at the youthful age of 63. What's more, Murdoch has made himself chairman of the division as part of the shake-up which is surprising, to say the least, when most 80 year-olds are meant to be easing their workload. Still, Rupert may be mindful of what happened last time he gave up the chairman's job of another part of his newspaper empire. He stepped down as chairman of News International in Britain in 2007 in favour of his son James. And we all know how that has worked out.

■ LBC radio host Nick Ferrari, at the Evening Standard's 1000 party, on how to succeed in business:

"Always try and stay ahead of the pack, work in a city as vibrant as London and try and be honest and make sure that no one's hacking into your phone messages, that's probably what I would say is key for the top." James Murdoch, testifying before MPs in the Commons today, would doubtless agree.

■ THE eurozone may be in meltdown and students are revolting but Dragon's Den entrepreneur James Caan is still optimistic. "It doesn't feel as bad as the early Nineties," he told City Spy at the Evening Standard's 1000 party. "I was big in recruitment with my Alexander Mann group back then. The market just tanked and we nearly went bust. Now I'm so much more diversified, we're in a far better place." City Spy is still keeping fingers crossed about the future.