

# Seeley 'addicted to the high life'

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DEPENDING on who you were, Martin George Seeley had a different tall story to tell.

A friend of the Packers, with \$80 million in offshore investments, or the son of the chief executive of Myer Grace Brothers.

Either way, he had money to burn. But the luxury cars were not his, and the money did not exist. Instead, he stole cheques, cash and cars from business associates, motivated by greed, a Melbourne court was told.

Convicted in 2005 of 47 fraud-related charges, Seeley, now 43, was sentenced to five years' jail. Out on parole two years later, he found it hard to get a job, and fell back into his old ways. He was charged with one count of theft, and three counts of obtaining property by deception.

The County Court was told that Seeley stole \$230,000 in cars and cash from two car dealerships, but all had been recovered or repaid. Prosecutor Carolene Gwynn said: "It would appear that this offending ... is an addiction to high living and is based on greed, not need."

Ron Tait, for Seeley, said his client had been raised in the Exclusive Brethren, which contributed to his offending. Seeley will be sentenced on Friday.

**SARAH-JANE COLLINS**