

# Take 5



**A five minute read that could change the way you do business**

## Let's All Go To University!

Learning's around every corner.

What do you think of when you hear the word 'university'? Depending on your age, it probably conjures up images of anything from Vietnam War protests and the odd indiscretion in the back of a Kombi to a never ending HECS bill and cheap pubs and parties. Among all the fun that goes on, universities are also places that act as a physical and virtual focal point for the discovery, creation and transfer of knowledge. To me, the traditional university model appears to be based on sandstone, seriousness and swotting.



Of course, these days of seemingly unlimited access to information through the internet and other electronic means has resulted in all kinds of learning opportunities. Distance education and online learning is now widely accepted as a legitimate means of formal tertiary education.

At an early age, some of us go off to university and study for our first degree as a stepping stone to a career of our choice, or to fill in the gap

between school and when we're ready to engage with the real world.

Still others of us attend university at a later age to fulfill a thirst for knowledge or to prove our academic ability. Universities have an important role in our society to provide an institution of tertiary education and learning. It is important though, that we understand and acknowledge that there are many other sources of valuable information that shouldn't be overlooked.

The 'University of Life' is described in my New Oxford Dictionary of English as 'the experience of life regarded as a means of instruction.' In other words our everyday existence gives us a myriad of chances to learn and discover. How would you rate yourself on taking advantage of these free education opportunities? Sadly, I think many of us fail to see the gift of learning and knowledge that is there for the taking. We only need to spend a few moments reflecting and attaching some meaning to what is happening around us.

**It doesn't really matter from where we get information and knowledge, what is important is that we put it to good use.**



*Colin Paroz*

BUSINESS BUILDING FOR SUCCESS

TO WORK WITH COLIN ,

PLEASE EMAIL :  
SUPPORT@COLINPAROZ.COM

WWW.COLINPAROZ.COM

One person can see a fellow worker getting angry and lashing out at anyone in the way. Another person might take the same opportunity to understand an individual's response to a certain set of circumstances and put that new found knowledge away for later use. It's the same circumstances, but a different response.

Young children are surely the masters of education in the 'University of Life.' How quickly do they seize opportunities to understand all that surround them? Those of us who have the privilege of raising children will understand the persistent repetition of that question "but why?" which seems to be asked about a million times between the age of three and ten. We could all do well to learn from the thirst for knowledge that children possess and their unwavering quest 'to know.'

As I have discovered in my study of life and success, knowledge is only half of the equation. Unless it is put to action in a planned and organised way it is pretty useless. Getting knowledge for the sake of having knowledge, rather than putting it to good use is a luxury that can be afforded only by the independently wealthy or those who are content to exist with a minimum of material comforts.

It doesn't really matter from where we get information and knowledge, what is important is that we put it to good use. We can see and understand what works and what doesn't and if we're smart we'll respond to this and do the things that work for us and avoid those that don't. We don't have to be in a formal academic setting to obtain knowledge; all we have to do is be in the right mindset. A mindset

that is curious and questions what is going on around us will lead to the acquisition of knowledge. Once we've obtained the knowledge we can use it and benefit from it. It's all pretty simple really.

So, let's not limit our thinking and learning to formal and structured educational processes. We are presented with as many learning opportunities as we care to take advantage of. What we do with these is up to us and I am sure we are the poorer, figuratively and literally for passing up on these chances to get smarter.

So, let's take every advantage of our learning laboratory that is life, even if it does occasionally involve cheap booze and a rather blurry sunrise.



TO WORK WITH COLIN , PLEASE EMAIL :

SUPPORT@COLINPAROZ.COM

WWW.COLINPAROZ.COM