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# STUFF

# SWC CONSULTING

SKILL, WILL & CONSCIENCE

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There's no nobler word in our language than "sacrifice." The notion of sacrifice by definition places the good of another above one's own situation. Not in my lifetime have I seen so many challenges to a unified future for our country as I do now. The very components that bound us during our country's formative years seem lost in a fog of agendas. The banner I saluted every morning as a child represented, at the time, an umbrella under which all Australians, old and new, could stand together, protected from the international elements that we need to compete against in modern political, economic and sometimes military arenas. How we compete relies on how unified our vision of the outcome is. Whether we win relies on cooperation, mutuality and sometimes sacrifice. That's why in companies, we have mission statements. The link between the vision and the outcome is the daily behaviours we exhibit, encourage and tolerate that move us forward together. The most existential threat we have faced since we were a nation came during WW2. The Japanese were on our doorstep and if they weren't defeated, would not have discriminated between any of us. Their track record in The Philippines and Manchuria heralded a merciless agenda and a brutal methodology. Nowadays we can't agree on anything. Australia Day is demonised and we are taught to apologise for history or ignore it altogether. I refuse to delve any more into the social or political implications here, so allow me to focus on a component that should unify us— SACRIFICE because if not for the sacrifice that our servicepeople made, the rest is moot. If we don't exist – we can't argue - period. So, this April 25<sup>th</sup>, spare a thought for the sacrifices that have been made by our service personnel so that you and I can live a life in what is still the lucky country. Your gratitude for and appreciation of their sacrifice, is our insurance policy against luck running out.

THEY SAY THE PRICE OF FREEDOM IS VIGILANCE. THE OPPOSITE IS COMPLACENCY AND COMPLACENT PEOPLE TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED. WHEN YOU TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED, IT EVENTUALLY ABANDONS YOU. THIS ANZAC DAY, I'D LIKE TO REAQUAINT YOU WITH OTHER GREAT WORDS THAT NEED TO BE APPRECIATED, LEST THEY ABANDON US ALL.

## CHOICE

Why is "choice" such a great word? It's because only free people have it. Choice is the ultimate expression of preference and decisions made by choice are totally owned by the chooser. So, the message here is clear; choose your outcomes by not being a victim of your circumstances. Make your choices based on experience and standards. That way, you won't be judgmental – only observational. Don't be fooled into thinking discrimination is bad. The opposite of it is to be indiscriminate and I can't think of a time when that's a good idea. Choose wisely!

## FAIRNESS

Fairness is the essence of justice. It's a two-way street just as equality should be. Fairness means that everyone has the same opportunity but doesn't guarantee everyone the same outcome. That wouldn't be fair because some people work harder and are more honest than others. Fairness suggests that the more effort you put in, the greater the reward should be. This is where choice plays a part. As the great Zig Ziglar said, "you choose today what you become tomorrow." That's fair

## ACCOUNTABILITY

So – where does the buck stop? Who do I turn to when something goes wrong and what are the consequences for breaking a rule or disobeying a law? Any way you look at it, accountability provides security and rest assuredness. Without consequences for example, what is the purpose of having rules. I firmly believe that we are only as strong as what we are willing to tolerate. Being accountable is taking ownership. It's a choice and it's fair.

## INTEGRITY

Integrity is to honesty what character is to personality. Personality may vary depending on circumstances. Honesty likewise but integrity is not vulnerable to the pressure of external circumstances. It is by definition; consistent. It comes directly from the conscience and endures beyond pressure, coercion, desperation or provocation. Can you imagine the power an individual has when he or she blends these four fabulous concepts together? In the military they have a saying, "how you do anything is how you do everything." Considering the consequences when a soldier fails, the discipline of their training is rigid and uncompromising. The best people in the military end up being the best people.... if they survive. So, if anything is to unite us as a nation, let it be ANZAC DAY. Here's to the magnificent people who made it possible for us to act like spoiled brats. I just hope and pray they aren't looking down on us in disappointment. The best way to honour them is to live well but with gratitude, be strict but merciful, be tough but genteel and show respect before expecting it.

THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD. AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN. AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM. LEST WE FORGET



Remembering  
Harold Sidney Prowse. WO 1 and  
Provost Marshall. My grandfather

