

PETER HUNT

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Peter Hunt is Executive Chairman of leading Australian corporate advisory firm, Caliburn Partnership. He has been advising local and multi-national companies and governments here and overseas for more than 25 years. He was previously Joint Head of Corporate Finance at ABN AMRO and BZW. Peter serves on the boards of drug rehabilitation centre Odyssey House, the AMP Foundation and the St Vincent's Clinic Foundation.

Q: *What is your ideal Australia?*

A: A country which places just as much emphasis on the importance of community growth as it does on business and economic growth.

Q: *How would you describe Australia at present?*

A: Too focused on economic growth at the expense of everything else.

Q: *Which Australian do you most admire?*

A: I am not sure that I have a single Australian who I can point to – but I do admire people who are passionate about improving our community, who strive for excellence and who are not driven by personal financial goals and self aggrandisement.

Q: *What do you consider your greatest achievement?*

A: Realising that we are all in this together – and that business success brings with it an enormous obligation to support others in the community who haven't been so lucky.

Q: *What is your greatest regret or life learning to date?*

A: That it took me so long to realise just how lucky I have been in life.

Q: *Where do you find your inspiration?*

A: Inspiration is everywhere – you just have to look around at what a truly amazing world we live in.

Q: *Who are your heroes?*

A: People who show enormous personal courage and who give of themselves without looking for financial reward.

Q: *How would you describe yourself?*

A: That's hard and I think that I am still learning about myself.

Q: *If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?*

A: To have learnt the power of introspection much earlier in my life.

Q: *What is your worst fear?*

A: That we totally screw up this amazing world in which we all live.

Q: *What qualities do you most admire in people?*

A: Passion, a drive for excellence, honesty and a generosity of spirit.

Q: *Who are your favourite writers?*

A: Probably Thomas Hardy and Joseph Conrad – authors who really understood the human condition.

Q: *When are you happiest?*

A: When I am in a wilderness area and I can see nature at its rawest and most beautiful.

Q: *What did you want to be when you grew up?*

A: First a criminal lawyer, then a commercial lawyer, then an investment banker and now ...

Q: *What one thing would you tell your children about how to live in the world?*

A: What an extraordinary chance it is to be alive in this amazing world of ours – it puts everything else in context

Q: *What is your life motto?*

A: Everybody deserves respect – whatever their background or position – until they choose to lose that respect.