

## Are you a Neurotic Workaholic?

As yet another financial year comes to a close, and our respective bean counters run their Excel spreadsheets over the carcass of our financial lives to see if we have been "successful" or not --- in terms that only accountants and the tax department seem to deem important --- it is time to ask some serious questions about the way we are actually going to live what remains of our lives!

Last night I read an advertisement about a tour to Europe to the famous war memorial at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 2008. 2008 marks the 90th anniversary of one of the most famous battles of World War One --- a battle that changed the course of the war and, by coincidence, occurred on the anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli, three years before.

Thirty years ago, Villers-Bretonneux would have meant nothing to me, but in 1978 I visited Stanthorpe for the first time and was captivated by the strange names of the hamlets and townships in the area --- Pozieres, Bullecourt, Passchendaele, Amiens, Bapaume. What were these strange European-sounding names, and why were Aussie towns named after obscure villages in France and Flanders?

My curiosity about these place names led me to an interest in the terrible history of the "war to end all wars" and the bloody battles that are remembered today by those very place names.

Thirty years after that initial visit to Stanthorpe, I am finally doing something

positive to indulge my curiosity about The Great War. I am booking a trip with my wife to attend that dawn service at Villers-Bretonneux in April 2008, and while I am there I will visit all those strange sounding places whose names were transported to the Queensland Granite Belt all those years ago.

Booking a trip like this was a difficult decision for me, because I tend to think like a lot of Resident Unit Managers think --- what will happen to my business if I am not there to look after it?

This is the mindset that causes so much grief, unhappiness and (sometimes) marital discord! This is the mindset that we must struggle to discard!

We hear so much today about work/life balance! On the past evidence of my life, I am amazed I have the audacity to lecture you on the subject. But I have learnt my lessons, and so can you. The fact that I have committed to Villers-Bretonneux in 2008 should give hope and succour to all my fellow believers in their own un-replaceability (is that really a word?).

In my experience, many Resident Unit Managers maintain the work/life balance of an inmate of a Stalinist gulag, and it seems to be by choice, not circumstance! Yes, they do play golf once a week and they do get the odd weekend away; but what about a minimum two week break? What about a three or four week real holiday?

Because most Caretaking Agreements say you can have four weeks annual leave, but

you must supply your replacement manager, many managers are too tight, too silly & self-deluded, to take decent holidays.

As you read these words in mid-June 2007, a **RAAS** member of my long acquaintance will be on the West Coast of the USA enjoying the first REAL holiday he and his wife have taken in the four years he has been running his complex! I congratulate him on his courage in finally breaking the mould, but surely four years is too long for anyone to wait for a decent break.

Our off-spring, on the other hand, have a different mind-set! My son has managed TWO trips to the West Coast & Mexico in the last TWO years; and he is still at university while working part-time at the local bottle shop!

We Baby Boomers have got to wise up! Generation X and Y are a self reliant lot and can look after themselves! They have had to be --- they had us as parents! Take a holiday! Spend the kids' inheritance! You can't reverse-mortgage a Management Rights into negative equity, so if you tragically disappear while white-water rafting down the Amazon, there will still be something left in your estate to placate the kids after the bank gets its bit.

Happy travelling!

*If you would like to comment on anything you have read in **The RAAS Report** please write to us at PO Box 1325 Sunnybank Hills Q 4109 or send an email to [mike@raas.com.au](mailto:mike@raas.com.au).*



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