

12 December 2006

Dear Peter,

Firstly, congratulations Peter on your leadership in bringing together such a fine diverse group of people committed to ABCD principles and practice. A fantastic experience.

Secondly, thank you for the opportunity to be involved. I got more than I expected from the Coaching team at 3 Quarter time. The coaches and players certainly proved to be a winning combination.

By Friday evening I was ready for a break , having done the MAV stint, the Train the Trainer, followed by a quick bit of faith on the Friday with Mary.

My purpose in writing to you is to share with you an idea that the Bank of I.D.E.A.S and the ABCD Institute may consider.

Throughout history along with a good yarn comes the value of symbolism. In fact in my office I have a painting that I commissioned. The painting is of the famous Picnic Bay Jetty on Magnetic Island, along with a collection of towels, bags and a empty wheelchair in the foreground. In the background there is a group of people kayaking. The message is clear to me, capturing the experience of community inclusion and full participation. The painting provides the opportunity to reflect, educate and remind ourselves of our purpose and mission.

Likewise, the glass (half full / half empty) has been embedded as an essential and worthy symbol in the sharing of ABCD principles .

My only concern is that when I have deliberately and consciously placed the glass (half full / half empty) with very flat Coco Cola on my desk as my constant reminder I have experienced the following:-

1. My computer keyboard has consumed its fair share of Coco Cola over time with disastrous results.
2. I have taken the occasional hurried gulp in a moment of forgetfulness resulting in what can only be described as something rather ugly.

3. Others have also taken a gulp by mistake, resulting in even worse outcomes.
4. The glass is constantly removed for washing by thoughtful staff committed to keeping a clean office.
5. People have encouraged me to drink more water having seen my flat Coco Cola constantly on my desk or immersed in my computer keyboard.
6. People advise me constantly of the damaging effects of CoCo Cola.
7. People arrive with Bundy (rum) expecting a party.
8. Numerous reports, letters, books and memo's have absorbed the liquid contents of the half empty / half full glass. (I suppose I should be grateful that in this case it wasn't full !).
9. It is hard to take the glass with me when teaching or facilitating a workshop.
10. A glass is a glass and as such doesn't attract special attention.

I love those things that really mean something to us. That are important, that few people have, that become a focus for discussion and illustration.

Hence, I propose the design and development of the "*foam half empty / half full glass*", that would stand proudly on my computer, desk, coffee table or reception area – just waiting for a discussion or joined moment of reflection.

Like the example Broncos Football (enclosed) it would be unique, of quality production and convey a message (both visually and written) that is known to us, but waiting to be shared with others.

So why should we bother.

Here are 10 good reason's :-

1. It immediately addresses the identified risks already outlined when one calls upon the liquid glass.
2. It is unique.
3. It conveys a message visual, as well as written (empty / full or assets / deficiencies or both etc ).
4. It is more than likely not to be thrown away or disposed of.
5. It can be used as a means of discussion with others. Even given away.
6. It provides a visual prompt on a daily basis.

7. It would be available for distribution at ABCD events as a practical promotional tool.
8. It could be used as a reward.
9. It serves as a play thing.
10. It can be used as an alternative "stress ball" during those moments that we all encounter in community development.

I have no particular design in mind. I suppose the simpler the better. But there are better people with the gifts and talents capable of designing such a product.

I have absolutely no idea of unit cost, as this would depend on numbers produced.

I have no idea as to how such an idea may be funded, but I'm sure the funds are out there. Advertising !!!

All I have to contribute is an idea. That I suppose is my gift to you.

Peter, have a great Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

I trust that Austria went well, if not a bit chilly.

With the kindest of regards,

**Ric Thompson.**