Editorial : Making a difference

This is my last E-zine editorial. When you come to an end of a journey you always wonder how the journey got started.

Two catalysts got me engaged on the Ezine escapade. The first was friend said to me “Pat I have got a leadership opportunity for you!” The other reason was this subconscious desire to make a difference.

In my personal and professional life a voice has always whispered ‘make a difference.’ I have always connected this whisper to larger questions of having a purpose and making meaning.

Making a difference is easy to say but there is significant complexity to the phrase. It comes with responsibility. I am very pleased that my last e-zine as editor uncovers some of the nuances of making a difference.

Ivan’s president piece explores how technology and social media have made a significant difference in careers work, and is it as the cost of career practitioner expertise? Sam further explores the opportunities for social media to make a difference for clients and career practitioners alike.

Making a difference does not just happen. Profound change and difference often come from collective thinking and effort. An example, of this is Careers New Zealand article on the suite of career education benchmarks for tertiary, secondary and year 7 and 8.

Making a difference carries with it the responsibility to be professionally informed. Bruce’s article on Nelson Employers Panel was really interesting where professionals took the time out to hear employers’ views. Being informed is also supported by a range of book reviews.

Knowing my Type has always made a difference for me. I have valued knowing my personality preferences on how I approach and perceive the world. So it’s great that we also have an article from Colin Hopkirk about how understanding personality types makes a difference to careers.

Last but not least I would like to thank Sue Mortlock for her articles and emails of support over the years. The quality of her thinking on Ethics has always put a skip in my step and warmth in my heart. Sue’s article in this edition does not disappoint. Thanks Sue.

In putting this edition together I have been reminded that making a difference is not easy. It comes with responsibility and a commitment to a wide range of considerations such as professionalism, professional development and awareness of your own personality and values systems.

I have enjoyed being the editor of this Ezine. It has given me meaning and purpose. Having the opportunity to work with Jean Ottley, Sam and those who have regularly contributed to the Ezine has been the greatest reward.

I am really excited that Jean and Sam are taking it forward and have some exciting emerging ideas on keeping it current and responsive to those who work in the career industry in these changing times.

Good on them. Where you can, please support them. The career cause is a great cause that we can all make an individual and collective difference.

Haere ra.

Pat Cody is a CDANZ member and outgoing Ezine Editor.