

Simple Questions to Set you Straight

Heather Linaker, chief executive at aventura3, wrote a nifty little article in The Weekend Australian...in fact she took the words right out of my mouth...so much so that I thought I'd take them back and pass them on!

In essence, it's about your creating and working towards a strategic plan for YOU and not just the organization you may be working for.

So, what's the deal? It's simple....take yourself off to a nice café or someplace quiet with your iPad (or pen and paper if you're a dinosaur like me) and answer these 7 magical questions:

1. **What aspects of your life are important?** You may want to include family, friends, finances, career, health etc. Think about the current roles you have in your life if you're looking for a leg up.
2. **Where are you now?** Take a snapshot of your current situation e.g. drinking 3 double espressos a day, walking around the block when you remember you haven't done it for yonks and you're feeling guilty, managing a new customer service team, volunteering at the school canteen etc...you get the drift.
3. **What are your key goals?** Use 3 timeframes: the next year; the next 3-5 years; and 10+ years. Of course, make them SMART...Specific, Measurable, Attainable (with Attractive thrown in for good measure), Realistic and Timely.
4. **Who can help you?** Think formal or informal, paid or unpaid. For example, see if your manager can support your application for a professional development training course to advance your career.
5. **What are your most likely obstacles?** Perhaps it's your manager! If so, come up with a plan B. You may want to work on building a better relationship with him/her in the meantime....remember, it only takes one person with a bit of flexibility to be the greatest catalyst of change in any situation.
6. **Who will hold you to account?** This one is so important! Make sure you include it because unless you have the will power of Arnold Schwarzenegger to achieve your goals, you might be going nowhere fast. You might choose a buddy, a mentor or a coach to help you with this one.
7. **How to celebrate success?** It's so good when you reach milestones to give yourself a pat on the back and celebrate the achievement, whatever that means to you. For some of you, it may be enough to give yourself a self-satisfied wink in the mirror, whereas for others, a 1-hour Swedish body massage with essential oils may just well do the trick!

So, there you have it....7 magical questions waiting for 7 magical answers.
Take action and get cracking! The choice is yours....it's always a choice.