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DANIEL PETRE AO

TECHNOLOGY PIONEER AND PHILANTHROPIST

Q: *What is your ideal Australia?*

A: Tolerant, cares for those less fortunate, idolises people who make the world a truly better place, fulfils its moral and ethical responsibilities as a country (one example donations as a % of GDP or overseas aid as a % of GDP), leads the world in issues of social justice, care for the environment, care for its indigenous community and racial tolerance.

Q: *How would describe Australia at present?*

A: Intolerant, immature, lacking empathy for individuals and countries that need help. Too ready to discard honesty for political leverage or accept money for things that matter, lacking vision and unable to articulate one. However having said this, we seem to be slowly turning around. A new dawn awaits as our youth move to positions of authority and take our country in a more positive and fulfilling direction.

Q: *Which Australian do you most admire?*

A: NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir AC. She has dedicated her life to the well being of children, spending much of the time with those most disadvantaged in our society. Her dedication to children transcends political, social and racial divides. She is intelligent, caring, determined and loving.

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

A: (Trying to) Instil a set of values in my children that focus on tolerance, honesty, social justice, care for others and adding value to the community that you belong to.

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

A: Not being closer to my sister. She died in a car accident at age 35 and I had yet to really know her or connect with her. I missed my chance.

Q: *Where do you find your inspiration?*

A: Spending time with people who undertake careers where their success is measured in the good work they do and not just the money they make – their unselfish focus on the needs of others.

Q: *Who are your heroes?*

A: I don't have any heroes. I admire particular attributes of particular people but do not see any as an overall hero. Nelson Mandela's lack of revenge for how he was treated, Bill Clinton's oratory skills, Professor Marie Bashir's calm but determined focus on the need of children, Paul Keating's debating skills, Barry Humphries' sense of humour, Bill Gates' intellect and his focus on philanthropy, Roger Federer's tennis ability.

Q: *How would you describe yourself?*

A: Trying very hard to be a good person that helps (perhaps) in a small way to make the world a better place.

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

A: I need to be more patient.

Q: *What is your worst fear?*

A: Documenting my fears somehow gives life to them so I won't.

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

A: Honesty, humility, ego-less intelligence, care of others, sense of humour.

Q: *Who are your favourite writers?*

A: M. Scott Peck, Sogyal Rinpoche, Jeffrey Archer (his work prior to his imprisonment), Peter FitzSimons.

Q: *When are you happiest?*

A: Spending time with my family or mountain bike riding.

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

A: A doctor or a fighter pilot.

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

A: Be true to yourself and do not let others define your life or the path it should take. Trust your judgement.

Q: *What is your life motto?*

A: "If you plan on being anything less than you are capable of being, you will probably be unhappy all the days of your life." – Abraham Maslow