

JUST FAMOUS ENOUGH NOT TO BE NOTICED

As told by
Michael Donovan

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Be yourself, everyone else is already taken.

Oscar Wilde

Author's note:

*Strange as it may seem,
my life is based on a true story.*

These are my recollections. The stories, vignettes and tales are my opinion of what happened. There is no single correct telling of an event or circumstance. It is said we reconstruct memories each time we recall a particular event or circumstance. Those reconstructions are wildly fallible depending on how we wish to see ourselves in any given situation.

My wife, Carol, has re-edited many vignettes using her infallible memory. Accepting her version maintains World Peace which I am sure the rest of the planet's population will appreciate.

If you want to challenge my storytelling then that's for you to decide but long ago I started work-day diaries for tax purposes. I have several decades of daily jottings just shy of twenty-two thousand pages with which to aid recall. Even so, I acknowledge in the interests of a good read, I have embellished gently and taken some licence. Some truth may sting.

Naturally if I have made any really bad errors then best endeavours will be made to fix them based on better, more accurate information being sourced or supplied.

If you were there and we differ then I apologise for your poor recall. Let's just agree somewhere in between is where we all

should be but that could be boring. What the Hell, it is my story. Write your own!

I recognise and admit to many failings causing some of the outcomes told here. What might have been had I curbed my ego, been less direct or less forceful, been more circumspect or willing to compromise, not so damned right so often and been more patient? But would less of these character flaws have resulted in more or less failure and achievement, less diversity of interests and fewer options or outcomes which really made a difference? Who knows! Don't ever tell me something '*can't be done*'. There are always ways.

Over time, I moderated, changed and became, based on my experiences in making mistakes, a pretty good mentor to others on similar ladders. See what you think. Thanks for taking the time and having the interest to read on ...

M.

About the author

Michael Donovan started his career in retail banking then spent 20 years in international arts administration and entertainment culminating in his being Executive Producer of the New South Wales Bicentenary Arts and Entertainment Program.

A few years in government public affairs and business consulting followed then nearly 20 years in international tourism and environmental planning.

He had the honour of creating Queensland Australia's first biosphere reserve in Noosa under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere program.

After some 45 years of international business experience with about half of this as a CEO, Michael worked with other senior executives as a professional business-mentor. He has written and lectured a number of corporate governance courses holding Fellow status (Order of Merit) with the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is author of three mentor training handbooks.

Now in semi-retirement Michael's goal is simple - add-value to the thinking of others and be there during difficult times.

His autobiography details an amazing diversity of interests, corporate adventures, intriguing and curious involvements.

Michael Donovan lives on Australia's Sunshine Coast with his wife Carol.

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To the many others with whom it has been a privilege to work and to make the differences we did so others could follow and create their own legacies.

M