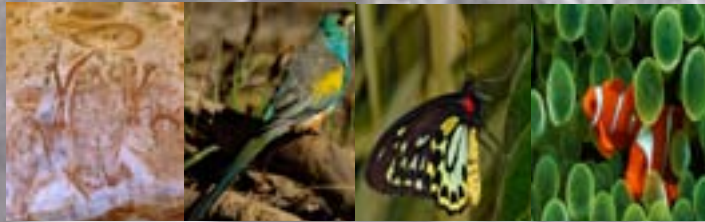


‘Find what you like early in life and go for it... If you find out what you love and develop a PASSION for it, people get behind you.’



The recent SYA Leaders’ Weekend (Oct18-9, Brisbane) was privileged to have as specially invited guest, Dr. Mark Loane*, ex-captain of the Australian Wallabies rugby team and a pioneer of the Cape York Regional Eye Health Programme, who shared his passions, principles and practice of values in the workplace and in life.



On his passions ... I like Palaeolithic rock art, I like birds, butterflies and fish...

Rock art, Kimberleys (left); the endangered Golden-shouldered parrot, Cape York (second from left); Cairns bird-wing butterfly (second from right); Clown fish, Great Barrier Reef (right).

On Australia ... Perhaps if you want to do things (service), you might want to start in your own country.

‘This country is a fair and just country, and it’s one that my father and grandfather thought was worth fighting for. You need to give something back – because if you keep on taking, there will be nothing left for your children.’ (The Weekend Australian Magazine, 4.08.07)

My other passion is landscape. I am happiest when out in wild places. The Cape York Peninsula landscape has been at the back of my mind since I got here... Ninety-five percent of the savannah is still intact... **You are born out of landscape and you go back to the landscape...** To me this is



Lone Mangrove, Cape York Peninsula

On physical activity ... I like to emphasise some sort of physical life.... A man’s body is given to him to be trained... Sport, physical strength, endurance, honour, I have been subject to all of this to some extent.

‘...the old chivalrous and Christian belief, that a man’s body is given him to be trained and brought into subjection, and then used for the protection of the weak, the advancement of all righteous causes...’

~ Thomas Hughes (Tom Brown at Oxford)

The Greeks believed we should avoid exercising the mind without exercising the body...

Sports does not build character, it reveals character.

On Ophthalmology ... Vision is an extraordinarily beautiful thing... It never fails to amaze me that light can fall, produce a great spectrum that we see - even though it’s not real, just a sensation...



‘That’s one of the great joys of ophthalmology ... There’s a minimal intervention in disturbing human tissue, but there’s a maximal reward in the function that’s achieved.’ (The Weekend Australian Magazine, 4.08.07)

On the approach to projects ... We fly and bus patients into Weipa. They stay with us in the same hotel and we interact with them and send them back.

‘The more heroic you become, the less chance you have of being replaced ... In the old days it was about a desire to do some heroic work, but proof of your effectiveness today is to be no longer needed.’ (The Weekend Australian Magazine, 4.08.07)

On life ... You have to deal with life being uncertain; you need to be malleable and able to change.

When teaching people how to operate it’s best not to start from the beginning but to go to the end of the operation... In life, it’s good to **think about what you’d like to have said about you when you die...**

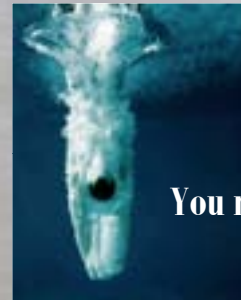
‘What have I lived for?’
Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy - ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness - that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it, finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what - at last - I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me back to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a hated burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate the evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer. This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.’

~ Bertrand Russell (Prologue to Autobiography), one of Dr. Loane’s favourite pieces.



You never think much about breathing, until it’s all you ever think about.

*Dr. Loane is not affiliated with the Sathya Sai Organisation of Australia & PNG. The comments contained in this publication are edited from Dr. Loane’s talk. Other content is from free-access www sources. The content does not express nor implies the views of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Australia & PNG. Thank you, nationalgeographic.com, pixdaus.com, ofemusandairywrens.com, goingbushitagalong.com.au. Please address contributions/ comments/ enquiries to loveatwork@gmail.com.