

## Connecting with Your Passion

I remember my first introduction to passion. As a little girl watching Walt Disney, with big eyes tuning into black and white TV. Disneyland on Sunday night, sitting carefully eating my segment of a Cadbury's chocolate bar, glued with wonder as Walt Disney personally told me his stories about the passion he felt for the characters he created. His stories and his passion spilled over and struck a chord in me and every person glued to the television watching in amazement as Walt Disney came to life.

*All our dreams can come true – if we  
have the courage to pursue them.*

*Walt Disney  
Creator, Disneyland*

Was there a leader or teacher or friend in your past that really touched you with a story? He or she might have been someone who taught the same lesson a hundred times but their excitement for their subject remained fresh and alive as if discovering it for the first time. They inspired you with their enthusiasm and excitement. You too have that circle of influence in your life.

*How many of us rise from our beds each morning and  
embrace the day, embrace the people we love and  
embrace our work with passion?*

*Cover Story, Management Today*

- Do you fundamentally believe in yourself even if the evidence is not always apparent?
- Do you trust both yourself and other people?
- Are you supportive of yourself when you make mistakes?
- Do you mostly have positive self talk?
- Do you match your behaviour to your goals?
- Do you build your confidence daily by treating yourself as your first customer?
- Do you communicate with others with clarity and passion?
- Do you monitor your performance and give yourself positive feedback?

- Do you celebrate your success monthly?
- Do you let your light, your inner enthusiasm, your inner motivation shine through to others?

*And, as we let our light shine,  
we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.  
Marianne Williamson*

When you remember to talk and influence others with your inspiration and enthusiasm, you create an environment where it is easy to learn, to grasp difficult concepts and ideas and to share knowledge. You can excite others to travel the distance with you. You can bring life to your ideas because you are still seeking to learn yourself. This is the benchmark of a great communicator.

*You teach best what you most need to learn.  
Richard Bach*

Find the courage to go out into the world with fresh, untainted eyes so you can inspire others with that same freshness and wonder. Sharing your stories with others will help you to make sense of the world and enable you to share your life in a very real way. When you weave the tapestry of your past, present and future into sentences you can make sense of your life.

*Vicki Bennett author and corporate trainer written for the Courier Mail February 2004.*