

IMAGINE.....

Working with an organisation where your ability to influence the future of the organisation is limited only by your own imagination.

Working with a small team of smart, innovative people doing things differently, looking for new ways to delight their customers. Having fun, working hard, working “smart”, using all the advantages new technologies can provide to live and work differently, breaking the rules, creating new norms, setting the pace for the new millennium.

Imagine being on the payroll of an organisation but working the way you would if you were working for yourself - very customer-focused to ensure you have a future, but making your own decisions about how, when, and where you’ll work, based on need, not accepted practice, sometimes from home, from a hotel in Singapore, from a customer’s place, on Sunday, between 9pm and midnight.

Imagine working in a large organisation where every one behaves as if they own the business - and they do.

Where ideas flow and people are rewarded for sharing them.

Where there is the opportunity to build something much bigger than you can dream of doing on your own. Where job descriptions don’t get in the way of innovation and getting things done - where people give you their time and their ideas without expecting anything more in return than the opportunity to learn new things, and widen their own contact network.

Where people know how to roll their sleeves up and get the job done, and know how to have fun when it’s finished.

Where the “job description”, if it exists at all, is only the first, not the last, word on your role.

Where you don’t actually have to be on the payroll to feel part of the group.

Where you are trusted.

Where you have access to all the information you need at any time (where you make the decision about what you should know).

Where you are not expected automatically to turn up to work at a set time each day.

Where you are expected to deliver, are held accountable (as much by your team mates as your leaders) and are rewarded and recognised for doing so.

Where you are not expected to wear a suit, unless you're receiving a customer.

Where you are given the opportunity to balance the drudgery that goes with every job with projects you feel passionate about.

Where your colleagues understand that you have a life apart from work, where it's okay to keep your appointment at the gym (most days), where it's okay to go early to collect a child when your partner's had to go interstate or is ill. Where you feel free to go when the work's done because you're always there when the chips are down.

Where a myriad of different starting and finishing times reflect not only the patterns of customer needs, but also the needs employees have to meet commitments in their personal lives.

Where it is expected that you will always be alert to opportunities to do things differently, to add value to everything you do, to exceed expectations customers have of you, to make life better for you and your colleagues.

Where you are expected to identify the obstacles and solve the problems, and others are willing to help.

Where you are encouraged to find the resources you need to help you do so, regardless of where they sit or what their e-mail address is.

Imagine never having to rely on job advertisements and employment agencies to find the next role. Imagine having a powerful network stretching through alliances across continents to help you find your way

Imagine a workplace where the only rule is that you are expected to take any decision in the context of what is right for the customers you have chosen to serve, and with consideration for and the agreement of those who work with you

Where you and the other members of your team have agreed with the organisation's leaders exactly what is expected of you. Receive real-time feedback on how you're going, and together make most of the other decisions which effect you - how , when and where you'll do what you need to do.

Where you and your colleagues make many of the decisions about who will come on to the team and who will go, and how the rewards should be shared.

Where there are few rules and fewer policy manuals and those that do exist are made largely by you and your colleagues, and abandoned or changed as new needs arise.

Where it is possible to challenge all the old norms about employment and negotiate new ones - collectively (the Enterprise Development Agreement) or individually - mass customisation of employment conditions.

Where change is the norm, and you welcome it.

Imagine working with a company that allowed you to learn as fast as you wanted - sometimes with others, gathered together in a room for "training", sometimes over screens, accessed at your leisure (between customer phone calls, late at night at home, after work), but mostly on the job, being coached by those who "know" and see passing the baton as part of their job.

Imagine working in the University of the Future, rather than traipsing out at night to the University of Sydney.

Imagine never feeling you might be unemployable because your skills are obsolete.

Imagine working in an organisation where you are never “too young” or “too old” to be given an opportunity to make a difference, where being “different” is likely to be seen as a strength.

Where you feel comfortable taking the initiative.

Where there are few barriers to spontaneity.

Where you wake each day knowing that you are working for an organisation, or federation of organisations, which is proud of its Australian heritage, which can compete with the “best in class” in the world, which each day spreads its influence like the ripples in a pond across our region of the world and which you feel proud to be associated with.

Imagine finishing each day feeling energised, with plenty of emotional energy left for the people you love.

IMAGINE....

Coming when you need to, (each day (or night), once a week, at weekends, occasionally), to a building which sits proudly in the community of North Sydney, which welcomes you in, which has a presence which reassuringly acknowledges historical strength but lights the way to the future.

Whose spaces alternately energise you and nurture you when you need time for concentrated work and reflection.

Which captures the spirit of a new generation, highly IT literate, networked to the world, but at the same time is not alienating to those who want to continue making their valued contribution without pursuing professional dreams any longer.

In which you feel safe, but not locked up, no matter what time of the day or night you are there.

Which breaks the rules for office development.

Which bears more resemblance:

- *to an airport in its functionality and efficiency and “movement”, sense of urgency and air of expectation,*
- *to a shopping centre, (welcoming to the customer, “selling” people and their skills, linked to the community),*
- *to medium density housing (grouping “domestic” neighbourhoods around shared leisure facilities),*
- *to a university (the “front lawn” for relaxing or convening large gatherings, the library for uninterrupted, concentrated work, the refectory for sustenance and exchange of ideas, access to intellectual mentors, theatres and byways and stairs, lecture theatres and tutorial rooms),*
- *to a hotel (“renting” space and equipment as required, for short stays, room service, rooms which convert from conferences, to cocktail parties, to training seminars, to wedding receptions, different dining rooms and different bars depending on your frame of mind),*
- *to a marketplace in central Asia,*
- *to a trading floor.*

Which acknowledges that sometimes people need to “pull out of that noisy environment and “chill out” (in a myriad of different ways).

That understands that everyone has a moment when they need to “retreat” under personal stress.

That we all have a need to make personal phone calls, and have confidential discussions.

Imagine a workplace which is highly efficient (high tech) and equally supportive of human needs (high touch).

Which acknowledges that even adults need to play.

Which is flexible enough to be reconfigured when the need arises (often).

Which supports the need for concentrated work and the need to gather with others (meetings, celebrations, counselling and coaching, training, announcements, team meetings, a quick break from the phones, a beer after work),

Which supports a stable population of customer service consultants (with dedicated space) as well as a French Foreign Legion of project workers for whom the need to form and disband quickly is the norm.

Imagine a building which is capable of “learning” - of changing shape as often as the organisation does, which can quickly “mirror” new behaviours and help to shape their evolution, which gives individuals confidence to try new things, a building which is capable of being adapted by its occupants.

Which signals our place in Asia

And which could only be in Sydney!

The organisation is Lend Lease Retail Financial Services.

The building is MLC, North Sydney, “home-base” to over a thousand men, women and children - an urban community for the 21st Century

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MLC

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