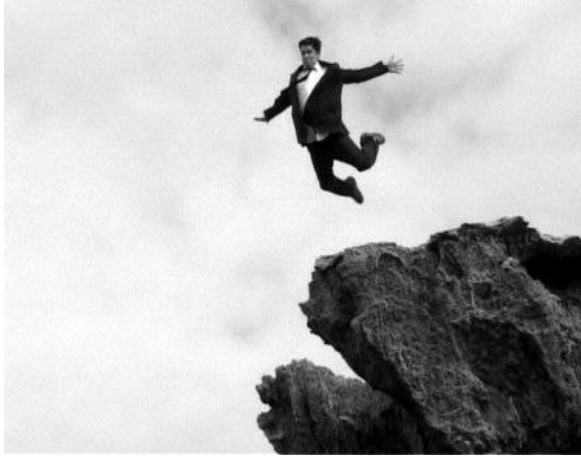


# The Opportunities are there... If we are open to them!



I don't know about you but there have been many times when I have wandered through life wondering why things seem to pass me by. I wanted to know why some people are successful and always seem to get what they want and why I always just seem to miss out. This is the disease I have recently come to know as P.L.O.M. - 'Poor Little ole me!' What I have learnt is that we all (in most cases) have

**the same opportunities to succeed as those we envy, the difference is that successful people understand that opportunities are flying at them everyday and have learnt how to recognise and are open to them. When we can understand this then we can leap into an exciting life of possibility ...**

I am not sure if I have mentioned that I have decided to support the Olivia Newton John Cancer and Wellness Centre. So I am on a fundraising mission to help and contribute to finding the remaining money they need to finish this centre, get it operational and making a difference. Amongst other things I am donating a percentage of all of my book sales to this cause. Over the last 6-12 months I have been trying to work out how to get a copy of my book *'Dance Until It Rains'* into Olivia Newton Johns hands.

So, on Thursday the week before last I got an sms from a friend saying that Olivia will be at the MCG on the Friday night (the next day) and there is an opportunity for a select few people to meet her before an AFL match that night. This could be my opportunity I thought and so I got onto it. I made some calls and found out that Olivia was performing at the MCG before the game and as a fundraising event there were 100 tickets at \$500 each to get some VIP treatment, eat food, get good seats for the game and the possibility of meeting Olivia. I didn't care about the other stuff, I paid \$500 for the centre and to meet Olivia and give her my book!



## **Don't waste any opportunity!**

I already had plans on the Friday night to go and watch and support a friend who was auditioning for the show 'X-Factor' and it was at the same time that I had to be at the MCG. The decision was a 'no-brainer' I had to go and get in front of

Olivia and this was an opportunity I had to take – so on the Friday night I dropped Laura off to watch our friend audition and then went to the MCG.

It was a pleasant enough evening, but I had only one thought on my mind. We were told that Olivia was on a tight schedule and that whilst she would come and say ‘hi’ to the group of 100 before she performed, it may not be possible for her to meet us personally. ‘Ha’, that’s what they think!! When the time came to meet Olivia it was exciting and the adrenalin was pumping - after she had spoken to the group and started to walk off to get ready to perform I pushed my way through the crowd and went up and introduced myself. I explained as quickly as I could who I was and what I was doing and handed her my books. She was very friendly and seemed grateful for the gift. I then asked if I could get a photo taken, she said ‘yes’ and so I asked a man who was standing nearby if he would take a photo with my phone for me. He agreed for which I was grateful. I thanked Olivia and walked off feeling amazing that I had achieved what I had come to do and had even got a photo taken!

### Things don’t always go as planned – but there’s always another opportunity!



I excitedly went to look at the photo on my phone only to discover with absolute horror that the man hadn’t taken a photo at all!! It wasn’t there and Olivia had gone and it was too late to take another – aaaagh!!! What now? Panic set in, but there had to be a solution. As I was pondering my newest of dilemmas a girl that I had met that night was scrolling through the photos that she had taken and just at the second I looked at her camera guess who I saw? Correct, it was the photo of Olivia and me! Another opportunity! I begged and she agreed to send me the photo and during the week just gone a very important photo appeared in my email inbox and boy was I happy!!

### Opportunities are always there for all of us ...

The question is how do we recognise them and are we open to them? This story highlighted to me three very important aspects to make the most of every opportunity. **The first** is to have our radars on at all times – we never know when or where an opportunity may appear. **The second** is always say ‘yes’ to invitations and/or suggestions to look at ideas, go somewhere, read or listen to something or meet successful people. Who knows where this may lead? We have nothing to lose and it could be the most profound decision we can make. **The third** is to always look at challenges, problems, mistakes, failures and any other undesirable situations as opportunities to learn, grow and find a solution that could, again, propel our life along a path of abundance. There is always good in every seemingly bad situation – we just need to be open to find it.

Enjoy your opportunity filled week!

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