

# The longest distance between two points ... Is a Shortcut!



**It is so tempting isn't it? It looks quicker and easier doesn't it? Won't others be impressed when you get there before everyone else, get it done cheaper or quicker? Well I am sure that is what the truck driver thought ... actually I have no idea what the truck driver was thinking!! So is it really a short cut?**

I had an appointment in the city during the week. I left home with what I thought would be plenty of time to get there 10 minutes before my meeting was scheduled. What I didn't consider was Melbourne's crazy 'get me out of the city, I have to get home' peak hour traffic.

So, I was sitting in my car with the second hand stamped towards the appointment time and me moving steadily, but at a snails pace. As I came to an intersection, what I should have done was stay on the road I was on. It wasn't moving fast, but it was moving. But, no, I had to try and be smart didn't I? I decided I would turn at the intersection, make a couple of tricky little manoeuvres and get there much quicker ... so, I thought! I turned the corner and I came to a complete stop at the end of a serious traffic jam. Then for the next 15 minutes I did not move one centimetre!

When finally I started moving, I could see that it wasn't going to get any better, I spent the next 10 minutes getting back onto the road I was on in the first place!! Had I stayed there, I would have arrived at my destination on time – but now I was 20 minutes late! So much for the shortcut!

## **Stay on the path you are on**

There is a reason why the road is there. There is a reason why the path is marked. There is a reason why systems and methods have been developed. People have tried to shorten the path or process to success before and made the same mistakes we are making today. Many have created a path for us to follow – so my advice to me and you is to stay on the path you are on because there are cobras if you look for a short cut!



Yes, we would all like it to be easier to be lean and healthy, wouldn't we? Let's face it eating fruit and vegetable is not as much fun and enjoyable as chocolate... and sure, sitting on the couch watching TV is far easier than going for a walk or run. If there was a tablet we could take or an easy way to get the result we wanted then we would all be fit, lean and healthy. The fact is, that it doesn't just take effort, it takes consistent effort, often when we don't feel like it. There is a path to better health and wellbeing – get on and stay on the right path.

The same can be said about anything else you are striving for, whether is to advance in your career, make more money, develop stronger relationships, write a book or whatever it is for you. Learn from success, understand the process, develop the right habits and simply stay on the path – no matter how long it takes.

### When the shortcut backfires ...



You will be tempted to take a shortcut along the way. You will think that there has to be an easier way and you will be presented with something 'shiny'. Will you fall for the 'shiny object syndrome' or will you stay on the path? The truck driver in picture above saw a 'shiny' way to get to his destination quicker – do you think it worked? When I was younger and dumber I came into some cash – an inheritance from my grandmother – and rather than invest it wisely for a long term benefit, what do you think I did? A got stunned, like a deer in the headlights, by a friend who offered me the chance to be a part owner of a race horse. Sounded fun, exciting and profitable to me – but then I knew nothing about race horses. I didn't realise that anything that eats when you sleep is going keep costing more and more money!!

And it did!! Sure he won a couple of races, which was exciting, but was he my quick fix and shortcut way to millions? Far from it, he put me way behind the eight ball and when I sold my share for a fraction of the price I paid for it and after thousands and thousands of dollars of ongoing costs, I realised what I already knew – there is no shortcut to success.

I am sure you have an example of when your shortcut back fired – we all do. I have many more, but I don't want you to think I am a total loser so I will keep them to myself!

### Just keep doing what you know to do

Deep down you know this ... right? You know that to get what you want takes a consistent and persistent effort of creating the right habits and staying on the path and in the race? As soon as you get distracted by a shiny shortcut, I can almost guarantee, it will take you longer to get to your destination, because you will have to go back and clean up the mess! Keep is simple, learn the process, stay on the path, ignore the shortcuts and you **will get** to your destination and the live the life you have always wanted.

Have an amazing week.

October 23, 2011

**Andrew Jobling**  
ANDREWJOBING.COM.AU