



ideation

July 07

I am extremely pleased to announce the creation of The Paige Group brand.

The Paige Group cohesively brings together - under the one umbrella - the three businesses: Advance Knowledge Networks (AKN), Fun.Food.Focus., and TimeMaker. The three different business arms provide distinct, yet complimentary, services and benefits to organisations and individuals:

- AKN provides high impact consulting in the specialist areas of Applied Knowledge Management, Strategic Business Management, and Facilitation and Chairing;
- Fun.Food.Focus. provides a unique and novel professional development and corporate training experience through 'hands-on' cooking, whilst;
- TimeMaker provides a 'one-stop' support service to take care of all your routine business needs, allowing you to focus on growing and developing your business.

Since the establishment of AKN in 2002, followed by TimeMaker three years later and Fun.Food.Focus. most recently last year, the three businesses have operated with the common mission of Connecting People, Ideas and Knowledge.

The establishment of The Paige Group formally unifies AKN, Fun.Food.Focus. and TimeMaker under this one collective purpose.

Moreover, it has been an encouraging and exciting period of growth for all three businesses, and the umbrella brand of The Paige Group will act to consolidate the three businesses in its continuing evolution.

Helen Paige
 Founder and Managing Director
 Advance Knowledge Networks (AKN)
 Fun.Food.Focus.
 TimeMaker



in this edition

p2 - Fun.Food.Focus in action!

p3 - Special discounts for corporate training

p3 - Making life easier with TimeMaker

p3 - Are your business needs listed here?

p4 - Knowledge Report

p4 - Important dates for your diary

p5 - Book reviews

p6 - Entrée packages



from the director

Hello and welcome to the 1st edition of Ideation (formerly Time Connections).

In the last edition I mentioned many things have changed and are changing. These organisational changes have occurred and as you can see in the lead article there is now a new name – The Paige Group.



I also mentioned there has been a great deal of planning involved with pulling this together. I wish to particularly thank for the development of the webpage Darren from Karmabunny and of course Thuy who has been writing a lot of the web content and assisting me with so many of the Paige Group activities – particularly Fun.Food.Focus.

On that note, I am sorry that Thuy will be leaving us for a fantastic opportunity and a new role in a well-known accounting firm, and I of course can't tell you what a pleasure it has been working with her – as she well knows! On a personal note, it is always difficult when a business loses the opportunity to work with a valued team member. But on the other hand, I am so thrilled for this opportunity for Thuy and I know that she will continue to do brilliant things in her new job! Good luck Thuy!

There has been a lot of activity across the businesses – AKN, the consulting arm; TimeMaker our business 'connection' service and Fun.Food.Focus, over the last three months, and some of these activities will be outlined in this edition.

Before I close, two important promotions of our businesses. I know that some of you saw the recent article about Fun.Food.Focus, and the other Paige Group businesses, entitled 'Food for Thought', and 'How to Stir the Corporate Pot', written by Tania Bawden in the Career One segment of 'The Advertiser', on Saturday 9th June. We have had a pleasing response to this article. (Just a reminder – they can be viewed in full on the 'News' segment of our webpage (www.funfoodfocus.com.au).

I am also very pleased to announce that Fun.Food.Focus has been invited to place several training, learning and cooking modules, as well as specialist cooking classes (and more to follow!) on the well known Sydney-based 'experience' sites of Red Balloon Days and Freeman X. Details are as follows: for Red Balloon Days www.redballoondays.com.au, and Freeman X www.freemanX.com.au

Until next time, Helen

Fun.Food.Focus in action!

One of our major clients – Macquarie Bank - came to us with a desire to hold a team-building 'fun' day to celebrate the great success of their team, but also to have a serious session prior to that on 'looking at efficiency for the next financial year'.

With this in mind, the Fun.Food.Focus team, organised a 'learning session' in the morning, (assisted by great home-baked goodies for morning tea); prior to the team undertaking an Australian Fusion-style themed 'hand on' cooking segment. Held at an historic home, just out of the city, it enabled the group to not have to travel far, but to be able to 'switch off' from their busy office life.

After all the chopping, sautéing, arranging, styling, and blending involved with developing their extensive menu, assisted by 'appropriate music' the group then enjoyed the food and drinks in the dining room of the historic house. Feedback included: 'The whole thing was terrific', 'Good fun, great atmosphere' and 'Team bonding and interaction was the best part of the day'.



Another multi-national client with the main contingent of their staff team in Melbourne, The Fosters Group, was coming to South Australia for a two-day planning session. As part of their team building activities, they wanted a 'hands on' cooking segment ... sushi making.

To begin, Helen facilitated a discussion to explore nine critical aspects of teams and this was followed by the 'hands on' cooking part of the afternoon. Led by an experienced Japanese chef, the team members learnt to make sushi rolls and miso soup – the correct Japanese way. They enjoyed the fruits of their labour over dinner, washed down by their own elegant wines. Feedback included: 'Your chef is fantastic – clear in his instructions, easy to understand and encouraging', "The 'fun' part was learning the art of sushi making", and "Thanks again for your efforts in making it a 'fun-filled' day".

Other Fun.Food.Focus learning case studies are available on our new website www.funfoodfocus.com.au.



making life easier with TimeMaker

Don't Forget ... one of the easiest ways to have even a better start to the 2007 business year is to undertake a special one hour 'one-on-one' TimeMaker' business and organisational appraisal.

During this 'walk around your organisation, Helen will provide you with business and time management advice for you and your organisation.

A variety of clients have found this to be a very beneficial way to receive ideas, tips and 'thought-provoker', as we see you 'in' and operating 'in' your business, and the advice can be immediate!!

So be quick Email us at helen@timemaker.com.au to make an appointment.

special corporate training discounts

TimeMaker can offer you a series of special Corporate Training packages:

- Building synergistic and cohesive teams
- Effecting positive change in corporate culture
- Creating strong, successful leaders
- Increasing effective and fluid communication
- Developing a problem-solving organisation
- Encouraging creative and original thinking
- Discovering the Myer-Briggs Personality Types within your team.

If you would benefit from low cost, high impact strategies which can be customised to suit your particular business needs, contact Helen now!

how dare you!

How can you squander even one more day not taking advantage of the greatest shifts of our generation? How dare you settle for less when the world has made it so easy for you to be remarkable?
Seth Godin

are your business needs listed here?

Our wide variety of suppliers offers a diverse range of services. Some categories of these services are featured below – and our list is steadily growing!

Business Development

Business & Management Advisers
Business/Professional Associations
Coaches and Mentors
Consultants
Education and Learning Resources
International contacts
Knowledge Management
Lawyers and Legal Advisers
Research and Development
Speakers
Training

Financial Services

Accountants and Bookkeepers
Financial Advisors

Daily Running

Administration
Domestic Services
Exporters, Importers and Distributors
HR Consultants, Labour Hire & Payroll
IT and Computer Support
Telecommunications
Transport
Tourism, Travel & accommodation

Others

Engineering and Mining
Government Departments
Health, Beauty & Lifestyle
Medical

Promoting Your Business

Advertising
Catering, Restaurants & Cafes
Editing and Proofreading Services
Equipment Hire
Event Management
Exterior and Interior Designers
Flowers and Art, Table Blooms
Food and Beverage
Graphic Designers
Jewellery
Marketing, Promotion & Media
Printers
Publishing



**knowledge report:
Advance Knowledge
Networks**



Helen was recently invited to run a Knowledge Café by Wendy Perry's Workforce Blueprint on the topic 'How to retain corporate knowledge in organisations'.

Remembering that the Knowledge Cafes are a means of encouraging people to share knowledge, and undertake 'active' listening, with no leaders, and no note-taking - for many of the participants this was a very different form of 'learning'. As Wendy said the Café provided:

'excellent networking, knowledge sharing and learning opportunities, and from a personal perspective ... she planned to use the process as part of the work that she did with Reframing the Future Projects around workbased learning methodologies'.



I will be also taking advantage of being in Sydney next month to attend an Anecdote Workshop on Narrative Techniques for Business. I am very much looking forward to this workshop and meeting up again with some of the Anecdote team. I look forward to being able to apply some of the techniques of 'putting stories to work' into my applied knowledge management practices in the future.

For further information, contact Helen on info@thepaigegroup.com.au.

important diary dates

Advance Knowledge Networks:

KM Australia 2007: one of the major events on the Knowledge Management calendar will be in Sydney. Helen will be running a Knowledge Café on the topic 'The Human Side of KM' at this event.
Date: July 23-25, 2007
Venue: Bayside Grant Hall, Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Harbour. Visit www.kmaustralia.com or email Helen for details.

Gurteen Knowledge Café (next meeting):

Date: Wednesday July 18, 2007
Time: 6pm-7.30pm
Venue: Woods Bagot, 14/11Waymouth St, Adelaide
Presentation: Peter Dehaan, 'What is KM: the second stage'
www.frysystems.com.au/kfs_test/clients/gurteen/whatiskm.zip

Fun.Food.Focus:

A number of potential functions are planned. Details in future 'Ideations'.

Other Events:

As Chair of Japan Australia Business Council (SA Inc) The JABC is collaborating with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce SA to coordinate as business mission to:
The 9th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention
Date: 15-16 Sept 2007, Kobe Convention Center
17 Sept 2007, Osaka International Convention Center

This Convention will enhance economic cooperation and understanding among global business communities. Being apolitical, it will focus on economic and cultural issues in Chinese entrepreneurship. Helen has more information.

American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM)

Amcham has a very full and interesting programme on offer. Either email them (sa@amcham.on.net) or go to their web site for further details.

Council for International Trade and Commerce SA (CITCSA)

The CITCSA C-Prompt outlines a large range of interesting seminars and functions for their Business Councils which sit under their umbrella. Email Angie Lewis (angiel@citcsa.org.au)

14th July: **Rock Around the Clock, Invitation from The Precocious Penguins of Variety Bash Car 222**
Contact: anngil@internode.on.net

As a member of Business Chicks:
26th July: **Business Chicks meeting** with Special Guest Naomi Simson (Assisting Kids Help Line)
Contact: info@businesschicks.com.au



book review ...

I had some very positive feedback about the Book Review segment in the last Newsletter, so this will be a regular column. I actually can't remember who suggested that 'Small is the New Big- and 183 other riffs, rants, and remarkable business ideas' (by Seth Godin, Penguin) - was good value. The book is really a pulling together of the numerous blogs that Godin has produced over eight years - so they range from the short to the long and others in between. Of the 90 blogs included, I randomly chose six to look at and this is my overview of the first three.

1. Pigeon, Superstitious

'What happens when your boss starts to think like a pigeon?' says Godin at page 163-164. He suggests pigeons can be made to be superstitious by being put in a cage and performing continuously for food to arrive. (Reminders of BF Skinner and behaviour modification). This makes pigeons superstitious because they will assume a cause/effect relationship that doesn't exist. So the analogy he suggests is with leaders who won't change their minds about an issue even if the evidence exists, or there is rational thought against them.

Godin says 'we don't expect a pigeon to wise up and change its behaviour. But what about your boss? Have you ever had a boss who said, 'I've looked at all the best thinking on (our business), and I'm going to change my mind; my old position was wrong, and this is what we should do instead'?

Questions:

1. Is your boss (or even you), more like a pigeon?
2. Has superstition become part of the operating system for your business/organisation?
3. Is there enforcing and rigid adherence to a set of principles/policies rather than examining the facts?

Godin suggests that 'it is easier to effect change if you don't have to overturn a superstition first'. Think about it!

2. Measurement Increases Speed

Godin asks 'Why do companies make mistakes and then do nothing to remedy his them?' The five reasons he gives for this are:

- The people who make the policies don't actually work in the field.
- The people in the field aren't given the ability to influence management without appearing to be troublemakers.

- Customers aren't encouraged to speak up, and their suggestions are ignored.
- It's easier to make a policy than to undo it.
- Business is complicated and unless you come up with a clever way to measure a decision's impact, it's difficult to tell if it's a good idea or not.

What do you think?

So many of the above five points resonated with me with some of the businesses I work with, and as a customer who moves around the various areas of Adelaide and elsewhere. The above points also refer to political decisions not only business decisions. But from a business perspective if goods/services for instance are just offered, and the 'quality' of the process is never measured - how well (or badly) do you know you are going? This is one of the reasons in Fun.Food.Focus in particular, because it is so immediate, that we ALWAYS ask for feedback, and ACT on it where we are able to. As Godin suggests 'As our world moves faster, we need to evolve faster. If we don't, the competition will'.

3. Functionality

'Interactions are a million times more powerful than interruptions'. How did Amazon get so big and so profitable and so important? Answer - according to Godin - by interacting with people. The question for you 'How are you interacting with people?

So what was the one key thing I learnt from each excerpt above:

- Get rid of the superstitions and examine the facts of a situation
- In many organisations fear does rule.
- Interaction is the key!

In the next Ideation I'll look at the remaining three topics - China - All that tea; Disrespect and Relax.



entrée packages

Our Entrée Fun.Food.Focus packages are perfect if you're looking for something at late notice or if your team is just short on time.

Ideal for the meeting or professional development day scheduled at the last minute, or when you only have the lunch hour to spare, these basic packages are a great alternative.

We still retain the Fun.Food.Focus. quality, using only the best and freshest ingredients, expert cooking tuition by a professional and experienced chef or gourmet cook, as well as inspired and creative menus and cooking themes.

The Entrée packages were designed with greater simplicity and effortless organisation in mind to fit in with your time and budget needs.

So, if you've only got time to "sample", choose an Entrée Fun.Food.Focus. package.

Our Entrée package currently includes – Japanese Sushi Making – but new options are being added all the time! Speak to Helen on 8271 1173 or 0403 374 183 or e-mail ask@funfoodfocus.com.au for further details and suggestions.



need help around the office? then look no further

My name is Emma and I am a soon-to-be Swedish Law graduate. I can't practice law in Australia, but would still love to be part of a corporate environment.

I am willing to do any office work to get my Australian work experience started. For a resume or other enquiries, contact Helen on 8271 1173 or info@thepaigegroup.com.au.

send us your feedback

We'd like to hear from you! Perhaps to share some of your own thoughts and views on anything written in Ideation; what you think of our new webpage, name and logo; share your own experiences with teambuilding, knowledge management or some other learning component; your own time management tips, what's on your mind as a business owner; or what you'd like to see in the next Ideation.

