

"SEEING" THE NEW YEAR IN



Here we are, celebrating 2010 with the expectation that the year that lies ahead will be better than the year we just said goodbye too.

We'll hang on our politicians vision of the future, and generally we'll end up being just as confused as we were last January when the sky was about to fall in with dire consequences for the world as we knew it.

After 12 months of contemplation, I'm not sure who's right or who's wrong in this debate. Is the economy sinking in the mire? Have we turned the corner and there's light at the end of the tunnel? Or should we be socking money away in the expectation that things will get worse when we have to pay for the extravagances of government, supposedly saving us from the gates of hell and damnation.

Irrespective of what the economy is doing now or is likely to do in the year ahead, future decisions will undoubtedly make running a small business more costly and difficult. Typically, Governments will seek additional ways to draw milk from barren udders as a means of financing pet schemes and projects. Nothing new in that is there...

Every day the news highlights countless cases of our hard earned money squandered recklessly without any substantive benefit to the country, let alone the businesses that provided the windfall in the first place.

Make things harder to make things better? I'm not sure about that.

Perhaps I'm being a little pessimistic about the year ahead, but with rising interest rates, property values on the march, grocery prices inflating, employment falling, business costs and red tape strangling initiative, and consumer confidence abating, I could be excused for trying to find a friendly fortune teller with a crystal ball to show me the way ahead.

So here's a suggestion for a new Government initiative – develop a university course and degree in crystal ball gazing. That way the Government could pay millions of our hard earned cash to fully accredited psychic consultants who would know exactly which decisions would be in our best interest. What a relief that would be for us poor old toilers knowing our politicians really had their eye on the ball.

I'd sleep much better at night. Wouldn't you?

Ok, so I'm expressing a point of view about the massive Government spend-a-thon and how these decisions might affect us in the year ahead, but I don't expect my point of view would be very much different to that of the average Joe. What does concern me though is the sort of future our grandchildren will inherit from the decisions that are made in our name today.

Frankly, I feel that somewhere along the way we dropped the ball and don't know how to pick it up again. At the very least we've lost the art of placing the ball squarely between the goal posts it seems.

It's a personal view obviously, and as this is New Year Resolution time I thought I would make this my very first statement for 2010.

You'll be pleased to know that my second resolution is a little more optimistic, and that is - I'll do my very best to look after those who work for me, and guarantee that the service they and I give will be absolutely the best a customer could expect - anywhere in the pool service industry.

Fortunately, I don't need a crystal ball to give that assurance.

Happy New Year everyone....

Damon



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