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**Abbotsleigh School for Girls, Rafferty's Resort, Regional NSW**

... a lot of fun. Thanks so much for bringing exactly what we needed.

Judith Wheeldon, Headmistress

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**ABC Radio, ABC Radio Sydney, Sydney**

Following the broadcast there were several emails from biology students and lecturers interested in using TermFinder -- who must be some of your regular listeners. We enjoyed being juxtaposed with the immortal words of Professor Rodney Detritus, whom I have met under one of his other guises

Pam Peters - Professor of Linguistics, Macquarie University

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**ABC Radio, ABC Radio Sydney, Sydney**

And we are immensely grateful that you were able to provide the gravitas and Harvard aplomb our frolic required. Rodney, shall we offer to run the nation?

Love and fishes,

Robyn Williams - Presenter

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**ABC Radio, ABC Radio Sydney, Sydney**

My thanks for your contribution - it worked beautifully!

Natasha Mitchell  
Producer/Presenter - "All in the Mind"

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**ABC Radio, ABC Radio Sydney, Sydney**

Your involvement was ... wonderfully received by the audience.

Annette Olle, Andrew Olle Memorial Trust

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**ABC Radio, ABC Radio Sydney, Sydney**

You've really done it this time Rodney. The phones went berserk! people complaining...asking whether it was a joke....

Ali Benton, Comedy Writer/Producer

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**ABN Amro, Royal Motor Yacht Club, Sydney**

Sure was funny

John S Martin - Head of Structured Finance

Thanks for a very entertaing gig

Simon Perrott - Co-Head of Investment Banking

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**ABN Amro, Royal Motor Yacht Club, Sydney**

Fantastic . "we took some human resources.....we called them people " still getting a laugh out of it.

Simon Perrott  
Managing Director - Head of Industrials

Thanks for the performance last evening Rodney. You had me in tears! Good material and priceless delivery

Luther Poier, Executive

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**Accor Hotels, Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney**

Thank you for an interesting insight into the French Franchising Federation, for the sore stomachs (from laughing too hard), for the 'beast' of a video and for the idea to franchise religion

Dino Mezzatesta - General Manager, Franchise Hotels, The Accor Group

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**ACE (Australian Club Entertainment) Awards, Canterbury-Hurlstone Park RSL Club, Sydney**

Your presence at our function and your participation in 'The Comedy Bit' at the Awards ceremony, set a mantle of credibility, respect, and pride on the night.

Robyn Wade, Director and Co-Producer

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**ACL, Parramatta Masonic & Community Club, Sydney**

It was wonderful.

Don Plimer  
General Manager - Government Programs

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**ADC (Australian Davos Connection) Forum, Hayman Island, Regional Queensland**

"Well done" again for an excellent performance. Thanks for being involved in the Retreat. It was great to have you there.

Lucia Ruck Keene - Program Manager

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**Adjudicate Today, Sheraton on the Park, Sydney**

People loved the hoax. We really had them going in the beginning.

Bob Gaussen - Managing Director

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**AFS International Exchange (American Field Scholarships), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydn**

... Thank you also for a marvellous hoax! ... I enjoyed it all immensely and will continue to chuckle privately for a long time to come.

Nick Lorentzen, National Director

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**AGIdeas 2002, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne**

Your presentation was very funny.

Kristin McCourtie, Manager, Design Foundation

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**AGL, Country Place Retreat, Regional VIC**

You were a hit!

Marc Barrington - Head of Energy Services, AGL Energy Limited

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**AGSM (as artist-in-residence), AGSM, Sydney**

Thanks for such a great performance. The topic was perfect. Everyone enjoyed it immensely. And yes, we will aim for leadership and control.

Fran and all the Secretaries

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**AGSM (as artist-in-residence), AGSM, Sydney**

Thanks for your presentation. It was well received and you are a delightful character.

Professor Robert Kohn, Director, PhD Program

That was fantastic! Tough on me, though, to keep a straight face.

Debra Maynard, Media Officer

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**AGSM (as artist-in-residence), Institute of Administration, Little Bay, Sydney**

... it went very well ... all appeared to respond very favourably.

Professor Greg Whittred, Acting Dean and Director

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**AGSM (as artist-in-residence), AGSM, Sydney**

You did a great job, Dr Wolf.

Professor Michael Vitale, Dean and Director

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**AILA: Australian Insurance Law Association, The Establishment, Sydney**

Thank you Rodney. You were terrific.

I will collate the feedback when all has come in. So far we have had:

"the entertainment was priceless" and

"the comedian pitched it just right".

John Edmond - Partner, Allens Arthur Robinson and Director, AILA Committee

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**Alumina Quality Workshop, Kirkton Park, Regional NSW**

I'm writing to thank you for presenting a first rate address to our international group of technocrats.

You "had them in" from the beginning. Your blunt, cutting, criticisms of the industries' ability to effectively implement TQM principles really caught their attention.

Initially they were impressed by your obvious knowledge of the subject, then puzzled, then irritated and some even insulted as your presentation became more and more overt until it finally became apparent at the end of your excellent performance that the whole address was a hoax, a sham!

The evening proved to be an excellent ice-breaker and helped set the scene for the rest of the Workshop.

R M Knight, Chairman

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**Amadeus Travel Software, Parkroyal Darling Harbour, Sydney**

... thank you for such a great day at our staff conference. As I am sure you could tell, everyone had a fantastic day and your brilliant "hoax" on our staff topped it off.

Michelle Wilson, Marketing Communications Manager

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**AmCham - American Chamber of Commerce in Australia, Renaissance Sydney Hotel, Sydney**

It is good to sometimes take a light-hearted approach to the corporate world and add a bit of fun into our business day ... we enjoyed your presentation.

Ray Doyle - General Manager, Victoria

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**AMEC, Restaurant - L'Aqua, Sydney**

I would like to thank you once again for Saturday night, I thoroughly enjoyed your set. The reaction by staff was extremely positive. I hope we can get you back again one day and I would be sure to suggest your services to all my friends.

Judd Adams, Commercial Manager

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**AMF Bowling, Rooty Hill RSL, Sydney**

A number of audience members commented positively on your performance. I thought you were great. Thanks for entertaining us

Jordan Rodgers - CEO

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**AMP, Swiss-Grand Hotel, Sydney**

Thank you for your brilliant portrayal of Dr Selwyn Spender, the dyed-in-the-wool bureaucrat from from the Insurance and superannuation commission, at our recent Small Business Advisors' conference.

Talking to the advisors afterwards, I was enthralled by the number who said they went through various stages of shock, horror, disbelief, amazement and relief. Not only did they go through the various stages, but they found themselves going in and out of each stage during your presentation. This was no doubt due to the effectiveness of your research and your ability to walk that fine line between fact and fiction.

On a personal level, thank you for the openness and friendliness afforded me at our briefing sessions.

Chris Sharpe, Manager, Superannuation and Business Insurance Training

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**AMSRO: Association of Market and Social Research Organisations, Restaurant - Flying Fish, Sydney**

Quick note to thank you for making the forum dinner such a highlight! Not surprisingly, we received rave reviews today. Everyone loved the Dr. (Plus quite a few thought you were the real ABS thing! Hilarious!)

Hope you enjoyed it (and my apologies for having to battle with the noise coming from the back room.)

Sarah Campbell - Executive Director

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**Anaplan, Sydney Opera House, Sydney**

[Questionnaire from Celebrity Speakers: "How was Rodney received by your audience?"]

Extremely well. Audience was totally engaged .. With many post event comments that the event will be talked about for years to come.

Stefano Masiello - Marketing A/NZ

A brief but important note of thanks for your efforts last night. Feedback from all was that they enjoyed the evening and found the "General" most entertaining.

Rajeev Mitroo - RVP & Managing Director, Australia & New Zealand

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**ANCA, Peppers Moonah Links, Regional Vic**

Thanks for such an enjoyable night. Our employees had no idea what we had planned for them at our Dinner. After attending various meetings throughout the day, it was a nice surprise for everyone. It was such a great night, one which rewarded the Team with a lot of laughing, something which brought the Team together.

Melinda Brain - Executive Assistant

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**Andersen Consulting, Millennium Hotel, Kings Cross, Sydney**

Your presentation went down very well, although some still think you were just a very rude psychologist. ... One of the US based senior partners commented to me yesterday that it was the best researched AC specific piece of comedy he had ever seen. It was all very amusing.

Keith Westley, Senior Consultant

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**AOT Inbound, Melbourne Town Hall, Melbourne**

Thank you for a very entertaining performance

Dina Papas - Executive Assistant to the Managing Director Inbound

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**Arthur Andersen, Offices of Arthur Andersen, Sydney**

Thanks. It went down well. Your spontaneous remarks were on the mark.

Malcolm Dunn, Partner

Thanks for entertaining our partners so well!!

Sarah Spino, Executive Secretary

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### **Asgard Wealth Solutions, Radisson Resort, Gold Coast**

From reading everyone's feedback they all thought that it was a great evening. Boss enjoyed it too! Thanks again.

Kym Sanders - Conference Organiser

Thank you for your participation at our sales conference - your involvement really did signal the blend of the serious and the fun that we were trying to create. Certainly, I was delighted with the mood of the conference at the end of Day 1. I thoroughly enjoyed your speech - I suspect it is even funnier being in on the hoax, watching everyone nod, albeit quizzically, at the things you were saying. A personal favourite was your reference to 'converging parallel lines'. It was a pleasure working with you and hope we may be able to do so again in the future.

Julian Fewtrell - National Operations Manager, Distribution

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### **Asia Speakers Association, Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel,**

I enjoyed your session TREMENDOUSLY. You were TERRIFIC on the stage, my new friend. You were the PERFECT opening act for April Fool's, had EVERYONE in stitches. BRAVO!!

Ron Kaufman, Singapore-based international professional speaker

Thank you so much for the awesome presentation and MC work. It was so much fun to catch up with you. As one of your characters might put it: The experience was tantamount to a plethora of sails festooning the glittering horizon of possibilities ergo the raising of a Titanic behemoth of felicitousness and a preponderance of glad tidings and camaraderie

Michael A. Podolinsky, also a Singapore-based international professional speaker

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### **Association for Disability Employment, Placement and Training (ADEPT), St George Leagues Club, Sydn**

Rodney Marks attended the Christmas Luncheon for ADEPT, posing as Beau Rocracy, the Principal Private Secretary to the Minister for Human Services and Health, Carmen Lawrence. He joined the Directors during lunch, listening most attentively while they expounded about the quality of their services, the complexity of Government policy and their concern for the Minister. He even took notes!

After skillfully deflecting questions and drawing them even further into the hoax with encouraging questions of his own, for around two hours, he then addressed the Board. His presentation was absolutely fantastic, utilising jargon picked up through my briefing as well as from the Directors themselves. He proceeded to bucket the whole disability services industry, particularly the management structure with their excessively high wages. The detail he went into on the particular Government policy being discussed at present was very clever and was the cause of considerable bewilderment among the Directors and the Department NSW Manager. In fact, she was so furious at one point she was madly flicking through the government phone list, looking for "this maniac" so she could report him!!!

Once the hoax was exposed, the Directors and the Department Manager could see the humour in it and continued to laugh and discuss the performance for hours afterwards.

D K Byrne, Executive Officer, Disability Council of NSW

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### **Association of Australasian Diesel Specialists, Marriott Gold Coast, Regional Qld**

You did a great job, and it lightened the morning's formalities - my client was very happy with your performance. It was a great way to finish off the conference.

Daniel Evans - Event Manager, The Association Specialists

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### **Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, Swiss-Grand Hotel, Sydney**

While you may have 'laid to rest' Professor Cecil Temik, I am sure he will remain in the memories of many delegates for some time and bring a smile to their faces when recalled ... I personally was pleased to have at last 'taken the risk' on corporate comedians and employed you. Thank you for reassuring me and for bringing Cec to us from Boston.

Sharyn Low, Conference Organiser

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**Association of School Business Administrators (ASBA), National Convention Centre, Canberra, Canberr**

(The testimonial for the previous day covers both performances)

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**Association of School Business Administrators (ASBA), National Convention Centre, Canberra, Canberr**

Thank you Rodney.

Both of your performances were great and will be talked about well after the conclusion of the ASBA 2009 Conference.

I appreciate your cooperation in the lead up to ASBA 2009 and look forward to the possibility of working with you again in the future.

Jackie Lavalley - Conference Coordinator, ICMS Pty Ltd

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**AUC (Apple Universities Consortium) X World, Imax Star Room, Sydney**

Mate it was a pleasure working with you tonight. Awesome feedback from the client and the guests - I am really chuffed with the event and without embarrassing you, I was privileged to be working with you professionally. ... A great gig tonight, I was in awe and I was so pleased to see you own that room and leave them pleased to be so owned!

Steve Hoskins - comedy MC

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**Austen Tayshua and Rodney Marks Jewish Comedy Night, Hakoah Club, Sydney**

Thanks for a hilarious show last night, I am still chuckling, you were both great. I didn't even recognise you initially and was wondering who this guy was on the stage .... it took me about 15 minutes to realise!

Pamela Lewin - Executive Assistant, Hakoah Club

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**Austen Tayshus Comedy Club at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra**

Rodney's great. He uses language very well.

Austen Tayshus in the Canberra Times, 6 May 2009

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**Australasian Association of Distance Education Schools, Sydney Distance Education High School, Sydn**

Thank you once again for the incredible contribution you made to our conference last week. Your talent and professionalism were extraordinary. I'm sure many attendees are still talking about your performance.

In fact I believe some of them may have even returned to their schools to announce an impending review of distance education.

Daniel Rattigan  
Head Teacher Secondary Studies (Australian Curriculum & Engagement)  
Sydney Distance Education High School

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**Australasian Humour Studies Network, RMIT University, Melbourne**

Your keynote and debate were a big part of the success (of the conference).

A/Prof. Kerry Mullan, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University  
AHSN 2019 Organising Committee

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**Australasian Humour Studies Network, University of Newcastle, Regional NSW**

Next time you see Hugh Moore tell him that I now have to stifle a smile every time I use the word 'system'. "A thinking system built upon systems thinking" - Damn, you've just written my PhD!

Michael Meany, Conference Co-convenor and Senior Lecturer  
School of Design, Communication and Information Technology  
Faculty of Science and IT, University of Newcastle

Comedian extraordinaire.

Conference Co-convenor and Conjoint Professor of Drama  
University of Newcastle

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**Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce, Hilton Sydney, Sydney**

Your performance was brilliant, both comical and clever, and judging from the way you were received, I think everyone present agreed with me. You managed to capture both the essence and the wit of the Chamber and those involved with it, and your performance complemented the formality of the evening perfectly.

Despite the fact that the "real Rodney" was known to a few people in the room, even they did not recognise you until well into your "campaign speech"!

I definitely will recommend you to my colleagues and please feel free to use this letter as a reference.

John Weiss, Executive Director

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**Australia Post, Dooralong Valley Resort, Regional NSW**

Great performance ... everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

Darren Higgins, Segment Manager, Corporate Accounts

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**Australia Post, Shangri La, Sydney**

Just wanted to say thanks for Friday night, excellent feedback received from the guests on your presentation. A good night was had by all

Ros McCarthy - Manager, Services & Technology NSW/ACT

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**Australia Post, Hilton Sydney, Sydney**

The managerial perspective provided by Dr Malcolm Szohta was enlightening and entertaining, and the experience was enjoyed by all who were in attendance.

Michael Talbot, Deputy General Manager, Retail and Delivery

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**Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, Lindenderry, Regional Vic**

The staff response to your performance has been amazing, summed up by the comment: 'a wonderful, funny, exhilarating experience'

Dr Mike Richards - CEO

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**Australian Antique Dealers' Association, Wharf 8, Sydney**

Your "pitch" was ideal for the Antiques Industry - as I am sure you took on board given the vigorous response and participation by a number of our members.

Everyone I spoke to enjoyed your presentation

Jolyon Warwick James, President (NSW)

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**Australian Business Monthly, Sheraton on the Park, Sydney**

"Jim Kirk" future-shocks staff.

A mild-mannered, big-titled, public servant, with "change-of-season" coloured braces et al, shocked our interstate staff into believing that their states were at the brink of collapse.

Big relief set in when "Jim Kirk" turned into Rodney Marks!! However, one staffer has since crossed the border and is now working in Sydney (just in case?).

Garrett Naumann, National Advertising Manager

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**Australian Cartoonists' Association: Stanley Awards, Mercure Sydney, Sydney**

Mixing with those who attended Saturday night yesterday there was much talk about how good you were.

A great success. If I could have recorded the comments and played them back to you, you would get a swelled head. So it is lucky its just me telling you how much you were appreciated. Great job.

Lindsay Foyle - ACA Historian

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**Australian Compliance Institute, Hyatt - Grand Melbourne, Melbourne**

Lotsof (sic) positive feedback. Thanks again

Mike Lotzof (see above)  
CEO, Australian Compliance Institute

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**Australian Computer Society, ANA Hotel Sydney, Sydney**

The feedback from the whole day has been excellent and greatly assisted by the humour and wit that you injected, leaving everyone on a high at the end of the day. ... What fun - you really got my group thinking.

Lyn Young, National Conference Manager

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**Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA), Ashok Hotel, New Delhi**

Excellent. A slick lampooning of Australians in general and travel agents specifically. The presentation was professionally delivered and in a most entertaining manner.

Peter Kinnane, Corporate Events Marketing

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**Australian Friendly Societies Association, Hotel Nikko Darling Harbour, Sydney**

Just a quick note to say how much I enjoyed your very humorous talk last night - I drank my tears!

Eric Dodd, Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, Legal and General

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**Australian Gold Conference, Kalgoorlie Performing Arts Centre, Regional WA**

More than anything else that mattered was your calm and easy-going manner. It was soothing!

Corene Haffner, Conference Organiser

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**Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), AGSM, Sydney**

Thanks champ! Great night had by all

Susan Alleyn, Manager, Open Programs

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**Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), AGSM, Sydney**

It was brilliant. Very, very funny

Claire Terry - Client Account Manager, Custom Programs

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**Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), AGSM, Sydney**

It was wonderful to have the honour of yourself as yourself and in full flower of your eloquence and wit last night. It made a memorable night into a true work of art -- thank you, again and again. You were so exact in your targets and creations you will have people talking for years!

Dr Jessica Milner Davis

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**Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), Star City Casino, Sydney**

... everyone enjoyed your speech/slandering immensely!

Ann Reekae, Australian Stock Exchange

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**Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), AGSM, Sydney**

... the evening was a smash hit. The informal feedback I received was quite positive. People, including me, were thinking about, talking about and laughing at our experiences right up until the last day and beyond, for me.

Dr James Carlopio, Senior Lecturer

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**Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), AGSM, Sydney**

... an absolutely fantastic performance. All student feedback ... has been excellent.

Ed Vinzenz, Vice President, MBA Club

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**Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), AGSM, Sydney**

We have received very positive feedback from the participants regarding your presentation. It was interesting that so many of them were victims of the hoax - no doubt due to the calibre of your performance!

Thank you again for providing an entertaining finale to our program. We will look forward to working with you again.

Professor David Midgley, Head, Marketing Group

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**Australian Institute of Company Directors, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, Brisbane**

Tuesday was an outstanding exhibition of your craft. You misled and deceived 160 of Queensland's finest in a superlative display of your expertise and your great skill as an actor. At times the audience was unaware as to whether or not they should laugh or be insulted. Indeed many did both at the same time! Thank you for your wonderful performance.

Darryl McDonough, Immediate Past President

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**Australian Institute of Company Directors, Restaurant - Armidale, Regional NSW**

Thank you for your witty words as our after dinner speaker, Professor Rudy Koulis! I think you had most people convinced at the beginning at least!

Katherine Johnson, National Course Co-Ordinator, Company Directors' Course

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**Australian Institute of Management, Hyatt Regency Adelaide, Adelaide**

Without doubt your guest speaker spot at the AIM dinner was the best that we have ever experienced. The feedback that I have personally received has been tremendous, our advertising agency said that you could get a job with them any time.

Suzanne and I still chuckle over many of the things that you said and how people were reacting to them. It was a most well researched presentation and really made the night.

Thank you therefore for your contribution to the AIM dinner and I hope to be able to listen to you some other time in the future, either as yourself or some other fictitious celebrity.

Richard Hancock, President AIM-SA

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**Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management (AITPM), Westin Sydney, Sydney**

Thank you for your contribution to our conference. You were the icing on the cake.

Fred Gennaoui - Conference Co-convenor and Foundation President 50 years earlier (1966)

We got very positive feedback - well done!

Kevin John - Conference Co-convenor, and Immediate Past President NSW/ACT

They loved you - the whole event was a success and Fred even sent me a message saying it was the best conference dinner in all his (50) years - so for Fred I think that is something.

Thank you again for doing a great job. Great to work with you.

Michelle Prideaux, Prideaux Entertainment - Event Producer

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**Australian Institute of Training and Development, Carlton Crest Sydney, Sydney**

Your wonderfully satirical portrayal of the ever-looming Government official was greatly appreciated by us all.

Elinor Crossing, President, NSW Division

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**Australian Legal Practice Management Association, Sheraton Four Points, Sydney**

On behalf of us all, you are a legend!

Tony Bleasdale - General Manager of Knowledge Management, Maurice Blackburn - Lawyers

Nice work David [Maister]! A number of unsuspecting victims thought you were the real deal and questioned why you were so funny?

Warrick McLean - General Manager, Coleman Greig, and National President, Australian Legal Practice Management Association

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**Australian Liquor Marketers (ALM), Magenta Shores, Central Coast**

Thanks very much for making our event a memorable one. The feedback was generally excellent. My GM loved it and that always helps.

Brad Swarts - NSW Merchandise Manager

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**Australian Liquor Marketers (ALM), Riverside Oaks Golf Resort, Sydney**

The feedback from your segment has been fantastic. I'm kicking myself now, I should have taped it!

Brad Swarts, National Category Manager - Spirits/"Ready-to-Drink"s

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**Australian Marriage Celebrants, Holiday Inn Coogee Beach, Sydney**

The feedback we have received regarding Monsieur Roland de Heye's presentation has been outstanding!

Ann Dally JP - President

I agree, it was great - thank you so much - let's stay in touch.

Chirs Hale - Vice President

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**Australian Newsprint Mills, Winery at Rutherglen, Regional Vic**

... we did not anticipate the level to which the material would be so well researched that it would take the audience so long to realise they were victims of a hoax.

Your approach of having strong audience participation was also very well received.

Joe Tascone, Technical Service Manager

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**Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association, Crown Promenade Hotel, Melbourne, CBD**

(Thank you) for your thought provoking, mind bending and somewhat challenging keynote. The feedback from our delegates is that whilst it took many a long time to understand your content, it was very well received nonetheless once they caught up! Of course, I was also grateful that your address did not focus too much on any one topic or person, particularly not myself. It was just the right celebration of "famous" people as you previously advised.

Thank you again. I would be very pleased to provide a testimonial or reference support if ever required.

Leigh Clarke - Executive Officer

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### **Australian Poetry Centre, The Rex Centre, Sydney**

You were wonderful - Paul Kooperman, director of the Australian Poetry Centre

It was totally hilarious - Emily Ballou, poet

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### **Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference, The Esplanade Hotel, Perth**

Rodney performed sensationally and was extremely well received by the audience. He was the perfect speaker for the night. Based on feedback we received, his performance was one of the conference highlights.

I also appreciated his efforts in meeting with me and my colleagues on several occasions prior to the conference to ensure that his performance met our specific needs.

Finally, he went an extra yard or two by attending part of the conference, in character; as well as sitting at one of our VIP tables for dinner, also of course in character, prior to his performance. This added authenticity to his character, in turn adding to the humour of his performance. I have since received correspondence from one of these VIP's that this was a 'memorable' occasion for him.

Roger Watson - Director Corruption Prevention, Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia

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### **Australian Retail Credit Association (ARCA), QT Gold Coast, Regional QLD**

That was excellent, thank you Rodney!!

Well done! Some people said they worked it out with the Casanova joke! ["Casanova was the first big data."]

It was indeed great fun and there were lots of laughs from the delegates the following day regarding your presentation!! Apparently the Veda guy who asked you during the first question "is this presentation going anywhere?" really hadn't worked out that you were a hoax speaker!

Rebecca Murray - Head of Member Services and Consumer Affairs

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### **Australian Sales Institute, Grand Chancellor Hobart, Hobart**

The feedback ... was excellent.

Graeme Orr, Chief Executive

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### **Australian Society of Association Executives (AuSAE), Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney**

With name Beau Rocraci, we tried hard to let our audience know that they were being duped. However, you carried off the role of the insipid, heartless Public Servant to perfection. So well, in fact, that people still continued to ask serious questions of you well after you had revealed the hoax.

Peter Garrad, Executive Secretary

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### **Australian Steel Institute, Sebel Pier One, Sydney**

Thank you for your wonderful hoax at our ASI luncheon yesterday. I think you had quite a few guests fooled for some time before the penny dropped. This provided an excellent entertainment with lots of laughs and to conclude our years busy program - I had a number of people come up to me later in the day and comment on how much they enjoyed the hoax and could not believe the wording you knitted together. I timed the car carrier ship perfectly didn't!! This added that extra unplanned touch to the comical hoax - I will have to pass a note to Keith 'K' on the funnel as a thank you for his question!

Scott Munter  
State Manager - NSW & ACT

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### **Australian Taxation Studies Program, Holiday Inn Coogee Beach, Sydney**

As you could imagine in preparing for such a function, I had to take into account that we would have a collection of over fifty relatively boring individuals who come from the ranks of the accounting and legal professions. In such circumstances, finding a speaker who could stimulate some excitement amongst the ranks was a tall order indeed. Thankfully, I found that Rory Tacque succeeded in provoking considerable initially and raucous laughter subsequently.

Your performance was so totally believable that a number of the dinner guests remained unconvinced that you were a fraud, preferring to believe that you really were a Clinton adviser. ... I think that I probably enjoyed it even more than you did.

Professor Bob Deutsch, Director

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### **Australian Taxi Industry Association, Stamford Grand Glenelg, Adelaide**

There were many in the audience ready to purchase a Ford Flagfall and I think that confirms your professional and entertaining approach to your performance. You certainly had them fooled and "rolling in the aisles".

I have spoken to our sponsors, Ford Motor Company, and they too were extremely pleased with your speech.

Wally Sievers, Convenor

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### **Australian Tourism Convention, Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre, Melbourne**

... a first class address. The feedback I have received on your topic has been extremely positive.

Phil Young, Managing Director, Tourism Council Australia

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### **Australian Tunnelling Conference, Hilton Sydney, Sydney**

... thank you - and your alter ego Colonel Chip Burroughs - for making our conference dinner a night to remember.

... we engineers are a cynical lot at the best of times, however you had a lot of us fooled with your performance. Who knows, if I had not been privy to your true identity, maybe I would have been one of the believers too!!

Again, thank you for a great experience, enhanced by your attention to detail whilst researching our industry. As you know we tend to use some rather suggestive terminology in the field of tunnelling!

Please rest assured that we will be promoting your services to our colleagues and clients in the future.

Lloyd Zenari, General Manager, Pacific Tunnelling

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### **Australian Veterinary Association, Royal Pines, Regional Qld**

It was fun, really fun. I would do it all again next weekend if I could. The printer and shredder being "co-located" still has me laughing.

Jeffrey Wilkinson - Executive Officer

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### **Australian Women's Weekly; Women's Day, Hotel Como, Melbourne**

... a fantastic afternoon's "entertainment".

The looks of shock and disbelief on the team's faces when the hoax was revealed were priceless!

We were delighted at the thought and preparation that had gone into your presentation, allowing a thoroughly realistic scenario to be established.

Leanne Dunn, Administration Manager, ACP

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**Avondale Golf Club, Avondale Golf Club, Sydney**

The feedback we had was 98% excellent! Your session was extremely entertaining and most that I spoke to over the weekend said it took them to at least half way before they worked out that you were not what it seemed!

Paul Paterson - Chief Executive Officer

Hi Rohan, I mean Rodney, great to meet you on Friday night. Well done on your performance, it was thoroughly enjoyable! I'd be keen to catch up for a coffee one day to chat through what we are trying to do in Melbourne next year.

Mark Bayliss - Managing Director, MatchPoint (Aust.)

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**Back Berner, ABC TV Melbourne, Melbourne**

Thank you for your fabulous contribution to the pilot ... I will keep you in mind for any series work.

Julia Peters, Producer, Crackerjack Productions

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**Bankers Trust, Carlton Crest Sydney, Sydney**

Your performance was great - we were very happy.

Bridget Wallington, Vice President

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**Bankstown Sports Club, Camden Valley Golf Resort, Regional NSW**

Thank you for appearing and entertaining our colleagues and guests. The feedback has been wonderful.

I watched the audience, bearing in mind your words re when people get it! You were right, the looks on peoples faces were varied throughout and all of a sudden it 'clicked with them'. The stories have been running hot how someone next to someone 'still thought the guy was for real', etc, etc

Any way, thanks again and I hope we catch up again soon

Glenn Cushion, Marketing Manager

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**Barclay Mowlem Constructions, Peppers Kingscliff, Regional NSW**

From my point of view, and many others, this conference will be well remembered as the one when we all heard "the man from Carillion(!)"

Best regards

Jennifer Quilty - Assistant to David Hudson, Managing Director

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**Barwon Water, Deakin University Management Centre, Regional Vic**

Enjoyed it thoroughly. Great to see our Board do something different, and great feedback on your performance from those I've seen since.

Seamus Butcher - Manager Corporate Strategy and Regulation

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**Baycorp Advantage, Manly Pacific Sydney, Sydney**

I continue to receive really great feedback on your session, however, two of our reps from New Zealand (south Island) have complained that the Professor didn't spend enough time on Basel compliance!! Must be something in the water around the Christchurch catchment area.

Thanks again for a terrific performance & for the significant amount of research on our industry & people.

Let's catch up for a coffee in the next few weeks.

Russell Evans -- General Manager, Sales & Distribution

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**Bayview Boulevard Hotel, Bayview Boulevard, Sydney**

Thanking you for your great performance yesterday!

Abbie Bayad - Executive Secretary

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**Beak & Johnston, Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, Sydney**

Thank you so much for helping to make our special night fabulous! I think everyone enjoyed your "speech", and I think some are still clueless as to who you really are!!

I've also been meaning to thank you for instigating my business cards. I shall think of you every time I use them.

Good luck with all you do in the future and, if you're ever in downtown Greenacre, please don't hesitate to pop in and say hi

Robin Maloney, PA to the MD

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**Biady & Associates, Restaurant - Moonshadow Grille, Sydney**

Thank your for a wonderful performance.

Isabel Vaz  
Aon Wealth Management Limited

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**Bidvest, Château Élan, Hunter Valley**

You were a hit Rod, everybody enjoyed your gig. Well, there were a few who still didn't get it. That loudmouth from Canberra told Bernard: You were OK for a yank. Some people should just not drink.

Peter Crowe - General Manager, Marketing

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**Blake Dawson, Offices of Blake Dawson, Sydney**

Thank you again for such a wonderful performance!

Suzanna Allan - Executive Assistant

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**Bluescope Steel, University of Wollongong, Regional NSW**

Thank you kindly for the wonderful dinner speech on Tuesday night. The team talked about it at every opportunity on Wednesday and it seems like Vladimir now has honorary status as part of the Leadership Team of Bluescope Steel.

Peter Vaughton  
Organisational Behaviour Consultant

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**Bluescope Steel, Restaurant - Jacques Reymond, Melbourne**

Bob (Every) said he was delighted by it all. He loved the "speech"!

Anne Campbell, Executive Assistant

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**Bluestone Global, Parkroyal Melbourne Airport, Melbourne**

Big success - thank you Richard (Rich Vane).

Stephen Sasse - CEO

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**B'nai B'rith, B'nai B'rith Centre, Sydney**

Many thanks for the wonderful entertainment you gave us yesterday. It was most appreciated and very much enjoyed by all. I believe you are off again to night to another gig. You deserve an AOM for the time you give to the Jewish community.

Maree Tofler - Organiser

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**B'nai B'rith, Central Railway Station, Sydney**

We all enjoyed it immensely - many were fooled.

Paul Goodman, Youth Organiser

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**BNI, Shangri La, Sydney**

You were fantastic -- Richard Bowman, organiser

Thank you so much for telling us about BMI: (inspirational). One member told me he was going to "clock you" when you were speaking about corking!! He did not realise until told later that it was all a hoax. -- Mary Moloney

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**Bonds, Offices of Bonds, Sydney**

We all really enjoyed your comedy. Looking forward to dealing with you in the future.

David Thompson  
National Sales and Merchandise Manager

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**Booz Allen Hamilton, Sheraton Mirage - Gold Coast, Gold Coast**

Thanks again for such a great performance, we're all looking forward to the debrief

Victoria Sherwood - Principal

Thanks again for a great performance - we've had great feedback from the night with many people convinced of Mike Rowe's credentials all the way through till question time!

Kristine Anderson - Marketing Manager

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### **Boston Consulting Group - Management Consultants, Top of the Rock, New York**

Thanks for your efforts for the dinner. It was simply stunning. The guy next to me had tears rolling down his face as he thought we had a guest speaker who was inadvertently funny without realising it. He did not realise the whole thing was a gag until Andrew spoke at the end ... can you believe that? From our perspective it was a total success which I know just doesn't happen. I know that it takes careful and methodical preparation so thank you for that.

Phil Carrington - Executive Assistant

You did a superb job. Simply superb. People are talking about it and will be for months to come. Some even want your details so who knows where you might travel next (after Wagga I mean). You really made our night. You certainly made my night - I thought it was hilarious - and I know for many/most, it is a work event they won't forget.

Natasha Winton - Global Manager, Organisation Practice

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### **Brilliant Images, Rydges North Sydney, Sydney**

What a wonderful way to start our motivational conference. All but a couple were completely fulfilled and the aftermath reaction was 'wild' to say the least ... Well done - a superb performance.

Rob Matthews, Managing Director

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### **Building Designers Association, Newcastle Workers Club, Regional NSW**

Thank you very much for the terrific job you did with the Hypothetical ... It really helped brighten up what is a rather dry subject.

Ruth Appleby, Newcastle Visitor and Convention Bureau

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### **Business Technology Association, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney**

What a character! What a hoax!

You listened to the brief - you researched your topic and the result was a 'top class' presentation! In a thoroughly entertaining manner, you addressed the relevant, serious and sometimes boring issues pertaining to our Industry. ...

People who sat with you during dinner said they were completely 'sucked in'. And one fellow said "and I'm not the gullible type - but Rodney sure fooled me!"

Deborah Campbell, Executive Director

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### **C|T Group (Crosby|Textor), Lillianfels, Regional NSW**

Rodney/Noam. Thank you so much. You were a hit. Everyone is still talking about your wonderful performance.

David Bell - CEO

Rodney, I think the invoice is a fake but we'll pay it anyway. Great work.

PS: I've read your book too ('Funny Business: Management Unmasked'). It depressed me. I'll never be as funny as you. Thanks for everything.

Yaron Finkelstein - Chief Executive Officer

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### **Cabra-Vale Ex-Active Servicemen's Club, Cabra-Vale Ex-Active Servicemen's Club, Sydney**

... thank you for the terrific job you did at the Club President's 20th Anniversary Lunch. The feedback from the Members present about your performance was awesome.

Bill O'Brien, General Manager

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**Caltex, Sheraton and Westin, Denarau, Nadi**

The survey results in regards to the sessions you were involved in have come back and everyone enjoyed your MC role and your key note speech.

You did an excellent job and both Bob and Graeme and myself were very happy with the overall result which you significantly contributed to.

Jeff Dawson - Regional Development Manager

You were a great hit.

Ian MacLaren - Regional Development Manager

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**Caltex, Restaurant - Deep Blue, Sydney**

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed your presentation. My boss/client Simon (the CFO) was especially taken with it.

Heather Schoenheimer - Management Consultant

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**Calvin de Grey, Bowlers Club, Sydney**

You left them laughing: Just wanted to reiterate how great you were for my book launch and I can't thank you enough

Calvin de Grey - Comedian

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**Campus Living Villages, Inter.Continental Double Bay, Sydney**

Well played again yesterday! The team were still talking about it last night at dinner.

Michael Heffernan - Chief Executive Officer, Australia & New Zealand

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**Cancer Council Australia, Austrian Club Sydney, Sydney**

"Bernd Eggenberger" was a major success on Tuesday 11th at our Gala Cancer fundraiser. So many guests have been in touch to rave about you (though some admonished us for introducing a paid political announcement). The funds raised were excellent too..we're still counting. Thank you so much,

Fergus, Trevor, Jim (& Smiley, of course)!  
The voluntary event organisers

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### **Cardno, Inter.Continental Sydney, Sydney**

I found you very easy to work with, proactive, and understanding of the sensitivity and nature of our business. You can see from the vast number of compliments that this has been a very worthwhile event for us to run.

We had a large number of the room fooled, and some, even at the end, asking whether the merger was true but that we had had a comedian in to break the news, and they were our staff!

---

I have pulled together some of the comments from the night:

Stuart Jamieson-Pate - NSW/ACT Division Marketing / HR / QA Manager

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Please pass on my thanks to Roger and the others at Cardno for a very enjoyable dinner.

Yes I was fooled.

Vince, thanks for inviting me to last night's dinner. I had a great time and was very impressed by your new Russian CEO. My abdominal muscles are still sore from all the laughing.

---

Good to see you all last night. What a surprise that Cardno has entered the Russian market. Think of all those brides you can now import!

---

Thanks Roger. I had a great night, and was totally conned by the Generals

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Thank you. It was a great night and especially enjoyed Vladimir. In fact I mentioned at the time that I thought Cardno's should engage him just to do the speeches not knowing that I was about to be had. Hilarious!

---

I admit I was taken in for the first twenty minutes of Vladimir's speech. I had recently attended a lunch with a consortium operating in Kazakhstan. It was therefore eminently more believable that you would have merged with a Russian operation. London, New York, Paris, Tokyo, Wollongong. There is implicit trust in General Cosgrove. We'd have to abandon the two party system if he ran for office.

---

My suspicions were aroused when, as you would appreciate, it is very hard to tell so many jokes in such a short period of time and maintain interest. That level of rapport and comedic value would be unlikely source in a former Russian General. But still the suspension of disbelief was maintained as he had General Cosgrove's endorsement. I bought it.

---

You beat me to it!!- thanks for a most entertaining evening-a great idea and most convincingly presented!

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Thank you very much for what was one of the most entertaining evenings that I have had in many years.

I am happy to say that I was completely suckered!

I have no idea how you managed to come up with a 'partner's' name (Slavdanko) which generates no hits on Google!

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Just finished a meeting with Brian Reeves and told him I am very proud of the fact that I was NOT HAD in relation to the other general. Having known Cardno for many years and watched the acquisition of numerous quality organisations I knew that the name 'tomeetyou' no matter how spelt could only mean one thing. Shonk! But superbly executed and a great deal of fun. I especially liked the new meaning of my MBA - married but available. Thanks again.

---

The evening was very entertaining & I certainly enjoyed 'Vladimir' & 'Cardno Slavdanko' during a pleasant meal & good company

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I had been slightly worried that you had lost the plot going into Russia, as friend of mine who works for James Packer spent about 2 years in Moscow trying to get a Casino going with the support of the Mayor of Moscow who unfortunately made a play for Putin's job and went down badly, so Packers aspirations fell as well.

From the stories I heard It was not a climate that was conducive to honest business practices.

So as your bogus General talked more and his full grasp of english and Australian humour became more evident, I began to wonder what was going on, but Peter Cosgrove's endorsement made it hard to not be convinced this was a genuine situation. It

shows how we are influenced by having a perception of a person's integrity lending validity to a situation. Maybe I should be a bit more circumspect about Peter in the future.

---

I have to say that while the Russian General was the best laugh I have had in years, and by far the most entertaining aspect of any corporate dinner I have attended, I am left with a slight disappointment – no Cardno Slavdanko?

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Even with a few minor hints, like Peter's "Vladimir has a strange sense of humour" and his "surname", General (ret'd) Tometchu certainly had the room in the palm of his hands, hooks lines and sinkers (the lines being diverging and converging parallel lines). The combination of excellent tucker (trying to describe it to my wife, Sally, did not do it justice, I know), good company (in two senses of the word), wonderful speeches (Peter and Andrew), performances (Tometchu) and of course, a great MC, made the night one that will not be forgotten by those lucky enough to attend.

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I'm still laughing about the Russian General. He had everyone right in, including me. I only had a bit of a question mark when he said he worked with Peter Cosgrove in East Timor. (I was not aware of any Russians being involved.) Anyway well done. Those nights are solid gold for retaining and growing client base.

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I'm sure that most, if not all, were fooled by the General (ret'd) and judging by the continuous laughter throughout his presentation, everyone was thrilled.

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### **Cards Etc, Customs House, Sydney, Sydney**

We had a great day overall and [your] afternoon session finished it off perfectly. I hope to see you again some time.

Craig Dower, President & Joint CEO

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### **Carinya School, Hilton Sydney Airport, Sydney**

... thank you for your outstanding performance at our recent Gala Fundraising evening. Without your expertise, the night would not have come together as well as it did.

Ray Pooley, Principal

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### **Carter-Wallace - pharmaceutical distributors, Radisson Plaza, Cairns, Regional Qld**

The feedback from each of our people ranged from horror to surprise to amusement, but from all "most enjoyable and entertaining".

Peter Parkinson, National Sales Manager

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### **Cashcard, The Rugby Club, Sydney**

Many thanks for your excellent performance ... The feedback I received was very positive - especially from the Execs themselves - surprise, surprise!!

Rick van de Velde  
Head of Human Resources

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### **Cathay Pacific Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways Limited, Sydney**

... thanks for a great show.

Jeff Naylor, Manager Sales, NSW & ACT

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**Cathay Pacific Airways, Carlton Crest Sydney, Sydney**

Monsieur Edeot [Rodney] not only effectively delivered our sales message of daily flights to Paris, but also involved our guests in a very successful farce, including games such as pass the beret, and baguette fights.

Derek Morris, Marketing Communications Manager, Australia

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**Catholic Care, Parliament House, New South Wales, Sydney**

The afternoon was a great success and I have some great feedback on your piece.

Bernard Boerma - CEO

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**Catholic Healthcare, Offices of Catholic Healthcare - Macquarie Park, Sydney**

Thanks again for the session earlier in the week. We enjoyed it.

Carmel Court - General Manager, Marketing & Communications

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**Certus3, Restaurant - Centennial Park, Sydney**

Special thanks goes to Rodney Marks for his inspired comedy set.

Melinda Young - Senior Consultant

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**Certus3, Restaurant - Aqua Dining, Sydney**

Thanks Rodney it was a wonderful evening and your performance was a great success. Very positive feedback from everyone.

Michael Devlin - Managing Partner

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**CFMEU (Construction, Forestry, Mining, Energy Union), Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, Regional NSW**

The way you managed to take on the role of Phil reinforces just how clever you are even though that is a bit scary.

I would have no problem recommending you for any comedian role and will definitely keep you in mind.

Lorraine Usher - District Secretary, NSW Energy District, CFMEU

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**CGU Insurance, Inter.Continental Melbourne, Melbourne**

Thank you, Rodney, for a great performance.

Lauren Emms - EA to Malcolm Freeman, General Manager FI&A, CGU Insurance

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**Chabad Double Bay, Chabad Double Bay, Sydney**

Rodney, everyone thought you were great!

Rabbi Yanky Berger

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**Chabad House of the North Shore, Chabad House of the North Shore, Sydney**

I received only good feedback and people all looked very happy on the night.

Rabbi Zalman Kastel

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**Charles Parsons - Textile Converters and Distributors, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Terrigal, Regional NSW**

... thank you for your fantastic performance ... no doubt being in on a hoax at the beginning certainly made it a laugh from the start for me.

P Brooks, Director

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**Charter Hall, Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, Regional NSW**

It was great working with you at the Retail Conference last week.

Jade Cheetham - Events Manager

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**Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, Doltone House - Pyrmont, Sydney**

Thank you again for playing such a wonderful role at our Network event.

Justine Ritchie - PA to Jeana Abbott, Head of People & Culture  
Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

I just loved your session. - Rob Ward AM, Head of Learnership & Advocacy

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**Chatswood Chamber of Commerce, Chatswood Club, Sydney**

What a wonderful luncheon on which to end the year!

It is really nice to be able to sit back and relax, especially at this time of the year, and to be thoroughly entertained by such a professional.

Speaking to members and guests afterwards it was apparent that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It is always a very positive sign when our people linger after the meeting to enjoy the atmosphere.

Barbara McCarthy, President

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**Chesterton Real Estate, Harbour 220 degrees, Sydney**

Rodney (nee Ulysses) , Yes, we loved having you there and appreciated your effort . Lets keep in touch - I enjoyed our conversations ..although with your email below - I think you have too much time on your hands !!!!

Andrew Hunter, CEO

A lot of people wanted to speak to you after your presentation, as they thought you were hilarious - so I hope they found you!

Rebecca Lightfoot, Marketing Manager

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**Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Executive Forum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney**

Your verbal abuse was terrific last night at the CFO Dinner. Keep it up.

Jay Horton, Director

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**Citibank, Inter.Continental Sydney, Sydney**

Excellent. Well researched, well presented - totally engaged the audience.

Marion Saddington, Consumer Sales & Service

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**City of Sydney Basketball Association, Albert Palais Grand Ballroom, Sydney**

It was a great night and we really appreciate you helping to make it so memorable. I could tell a lot of customised work went into it. I'll be sure to pass it on to the board, including the life-size trophy (the Club President)!!

Ben Osborne - General Manager

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**Clark Rubber, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Perth**

The presentations went well. The team enjoyed them.

Eddie MacDonald - Chief Executive Office

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**Clark Rubber, Pan Pacific, Perth, Perth**

Really enjoyed our time together. Great fun. Received many positive comments from our franchisees about Phillip de Poole.

Thank you for helping us create a really positive conference.

Des Carroll - General Manager Sales

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**Cleanaway, Sheraton Four Points, Sydney**

It was fantastic! I can't believe that I put myself in a position to follow you in the programme. You were an impossible act to follow.

Everyone is still talking about Dr Noel. The rest of the conference went very well. A great deal of our success was balancing fun with the conference objectives. Your session certainly kick started the entire group by getting everyone in the mood to laugh and participate.

However, I must admit they were frozen with fear during your Q & A session. Take that as a compliment to your quick wit.

If I come across you again while you are in character, your secret will be safe with me. In fact, if you need me to lie, I will be happy to do so. My integrity has already been called into question following the introduction I gave you. People now think that lying comes too easily for me ... Just as well I am in Sales

James McBrayer  
National Sales Manager

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**ClearView Retirement Solutions, Offices in George Street - FINSIA, Sydney**

Thanks heaps ... very funny.

I'm still not sure that I've figured out the theory of the converging and diverging parrallel lines???

David McBryde - Manager Interstate & Associate Advisers

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**ClubsNSW, Dockside, Cockle Bay, Sydney**

It was great to work with you. I know the audience enjoyed it too.

Samantha Engel - Event Coordinator, Member Services & Marketing

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**Coal & Allied, Sheraton Four Points, Sydney**

Must say I enjoyed your performance. The funniest part was that most of our British guests still thought that you were "real" with a strange sense of humour, and they had to be told that you are a Comedian. Then they all wanted a chance to talk to you so that they could relay their enjoyment to you personally ... a number of them also wanted to know if they could obtain a copy of the script.

Louise Burton, Personal Assistant to the General Manager

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**Colonial State Bank, Peppers Anchorage, Port Stephens, Regional NSW**

The hoax was very well received, thank you.

Derek Ngoh, Head, Information Technology, Colonial First State Investment Management

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**Commonwealth Bank, Rafferty's Resort, Regional NSW**

The show was great - enjoyed by all.

Margie Hughes, Executive Assistant

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**Commonwealth Dept of Family & Community Services (Child Support Agency), Restaurant - The Lobby,**

I was thrilled with the feedback from the night. I think that for an organisation in technological shellshock, you were a fantastic antidote!!! Many thanks and I hope that we can connive another opportunity to work together.

Jo Hart, Director, Strategic People Development

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**Community Colleges Australia, Dockside, Cockle Bay, Sydney**

My organisation, Community Colleges Australia, hired Rodney to portray "Phil Umbridge", a Texas oilman-come-film producer who now "loves" community colleges to be our "keynote" comic speaker at our annual Gala Dinner in Sydney last year.

He had us all - literally - in stitches.

View a segment on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBDGffXT1\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBDGffXT1_M).

Don Perlmut - CEO

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**Community Relations Commission, Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney**

Thank you for a great performance yesterday. It was a pleasure working with you.

Rosa Stathis - Project Officer, Community Relations Commission

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**Compaq, Hotel - The Shark Bar, Sydney**

Thanks once again for a brilliant performance on Thursday night. It was a successful evening and much fun was had by all. I am still hearing stories of people within the office saying that our new CEO [Rodney] is a really funny character - it's a bit of a worry!

Wanita Filby, Personal Assistant to the General Manager, Business & Consumer

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**Computer Sciences Corporation, Stamford North Ryde, Sydney**

Your performance was wonderful and very entertaining.

We appreciate all of the knowledge and experience Dr Chuck Itaut [Rodney] shared with CSC, especially on "How 'Know' Ware Can Add Value to the Bottom Line's Profit Margin".

Arno Franz, Director, Consulting and Technology Development

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**Computer Sciences Corporation, Restaurant - The Waterfront, Sydney**

Thank you for your performance - we all enjoyed it immensely and it was a great ice breaker for me with a new team

Matthew Day, Vice President - Account Management

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**Computer Software Packages / Prophecy, Lankawi Resort, Malaysia, Lankawi**

I thought I would write to you following our return from the Club 500 conference and thank you for your magnificent contribution to the proceedings.

As you will remember, I was somewhat worried that the high technology content of your hoax would be extremely difficult to pull-off in front of our worldwide distributors, who are noted for their sharpness and business acumen. The very fact that your hoax was telling them that all of the current computer software technology trends were in fact wrong, thereby completely undermining everything they and we are doing, added another layer of risk to that concerning the sheer command of the software technology terms which you had to achieve.

As of course you would know from the response, when your hoax was revealed at our conference dinner, my fears were completely unfounded and there is no doubt you surpassed our objectives completely.

Your keynote address on computer software technologies and the after dinner speech were undoubtedly the high spots at our conference and we will find it extremely difficult next year to engender the same amount of enthusiasm and debate which we did because of your spot.

I would like to go on record in thanking you for your efforts which went far beyond the objectives laid down, and surpassed my wildest expectations. You are a dangerous man! I hope your future hoaxes go as successfully as ours did.

Brian Calvert, Chief Executive Officer

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**Computervision, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney**

Thank you for a most enjoyable hoax last Monday. Dr Artur Pfischel [Rodney], explainer of the avante garde, was a great success from his most informative tours of the Andy Warhol exhibition, to his speech on how the artists could help those at Computervision. We watched as the audience changed from "Oh no, not another presentation", to astonishment at being told their lack of artistic appreciation, to roars of laughter as each of the unsuspecting members of the audience were examined.

Many of our people said that your appearance was the best part of the day, one even said that he could have listened to you all night! You pitched your address perfectly to the audience and the day concluded on a very high note.

Ann Levings, Marketing Communications

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**Conrad Treasury Brisbane, Hyatt Regency Coolum, Sunshine Coast**

Thanks again for your time at the Executive Retreat. The team had a fabulous time at dinner - and I believe they are still chatting about your performance which is great.

Sarah Mattsson, Assistant Manager - Brand, Image and Internal Communications

I know the Ray White team will be in for an entertaining lunch and will enjoy your hoax as much as we did. I look forward to talking with you again in the future.

Craig Stevens, General Manager Sales and Customer Relations

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### **Constellation Wines, Restaurant - Rockpool Bar & Grill, Sydney**

The night was a great success

Damian Mullins  
National Business Manager - State Operations

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### **ConTech: Confectionery Technology, The Pullman, Albert Park, Melbourne**

[Follow-up Survey: Overall, how would you rate the level of performance of the speaker?]

Very Good

He was authentic and well research. He was generous with his time, including attending the afternoon tea and onward at the conference. He truly had some of the audience fooled to the end.

Jennifer Thompson - Technical & Regulatory Manager, The Australian Industry Group

Visiting Belgian professor of neuro-psychiatry, Dr Emmanuel van Hoof MD, took some of the audience hook, line and sinker. However, others were a little sceptical from the outset. For the scientists in the room, he performed to perfection, baffling colleagues. But did you ever think to check online and look this guy up, check out his credentials and scientific papers? Whilst he fooled many into having a good time, Sydney comedian, Rodney Marks, kept the audience entertained to the end.

Confectionery Industry News, June 2014, page 1.

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### **Cooper Investors, Restaurant - Trunk (The Rintel Room), Melbourne**

Rod the day was a great success thank you. Have a terrific Xmas and a new year. And keep them laughing.

Peter Cooper - Managing Director

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### **Cooperative Housing Societies' Association, Newcastle Town Hall, Regional NSW**

What a sensational hoax!

... your understanding of our business and presentation, supported by comprehensive slides, was truly great.

Gavan Sheerin, General Manager

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### **CoreNet Global, Sheraton on the Park, Sydney**

You were brilliant! Lots of great feedback, and lots of requests for your contact details.

I very much enjoyed working with you too. Happy to keep in touch.

Peter Chenoweth - Region Director, Australia and New Zealand Region  
CoreNet Global | Corporate Real Estate Network

It was great to see you. I didn't know you were going to be there so it was a great surprise. I loved your performance.....you may have heard my laughter. Maybe it's an age thing, but I once again found I really connect with your humour, timing, delivery, etc, which made it even more enjoyable for me

Warwick Hobart - corporate real estate executive

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### **County NatWest Bank, Royal Exchange of Sydney, Sydney**

Since that fateful evening when you delivered your masterly exposition of the psycho- and socio-dynamic forces driving the cultural and climatic changes being experienced in the world finance sector and the necessary inventions and adaptations firms must make in order to re-create or preserve their core business, I have not been able to perform my usual office in Australia.

Indeed, so moved were the County NatWest staff and spice (especially my boss), by your insight, erudition, capacity for hyperbole and sheer chutzpah that I am being dispatched to the UK to implement your solutions. That's my story, anyway - at least, it's what I've told my wife.

M D Barker, Executive Director

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### **Cowley Hearn, Athol Hall, in Ashton Park, Sydney**

Well-received, very amusing - think my chances of pulling off another hoax in the future are zero. Although - some of them still think you're the new accountant!

Michael Beilby, Managing Director

It was a huge success, you really made the night - and contributed to my success!

Karen Wilson, Human Resources Manager

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### **CRC Business Solutions, Q1, Regional QLD**

I'm taking the unusual (for me) action of congratulating you on a superb effort last Thursday evening. I haven't laughed so much this century. I would have emailed earlier but muscle spasms from excessive laughing have only eased this morning.

Nelson Wockner - Managing Partner, Wockner Lawyers

(The band) "Busta Hyman and the Penetrators" thought the General was absolutely fantastic!

Danielle Webb - Mainstay Business Management

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### **Cremorne Synagogue, Lindfield Bowling Club, Sydney**

Rodney, your synchronous syncretion of smooth sibilant sentences was stunningly successful and surprisingly sensible, so sank you for such stewardship.

May I Respectfully Recommend Rodney for higher Marks next time a Refresher course in Czech, mate; also a Bridging course in east-north transport; and, of course, a course in cosher coffee contingencies.

Dr John Gallo - committee chairman

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### **CRI, Shangri La, Sydney**

Thank you for your terrific input as Sir Leigh - it was very much enjoyed by everyone

Peter Wills, AC, Chairman

Your interchange ... was delightful. I often wonder how you put up with SO many evenings at posh hotels with suits. And the risk of NOT LAUGHING!

Robyn Williams, AM, Science Journalist and Broadcaster - ABC Science Show

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### **Croxley Collins Olympic, Swiss-Grand Hotel, Sydney**

The inaugural conference of the new business, Croxley Collins Olympic, which you were involved in, appears to have allayed the fears of our employees to the point where there is a sense of belonging and a purpose in the direction we are heading.

Your presentation was so enthusiastically received by all those present that it is not only referred to by our own people during the normal course of daily conversation but it is also referred to by other companies within our group that heard of your presentation and its success.

You taught us, however, to laugh at ourselves in the face of adversity.

It was a great presentation and you carried off the character "Hermann de Jurmann" to perfection.

Should the occasion arise again to use your skills I would certainly not hesitate to make contact with you.

Graham Johnson, General Manager

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### **Currency Press, Actors' Centre, Sydney**

It was a great performance you gave at our 25th anniversary party. It is something our authors, particularly, will never forget; and I'm sure it had the effect we were seeking, to remind our colleagues in the industry that Currency is a small business, not a cultural institution.

The effects are reverberating. The 7.30 Report broadcast succeeded in hoaxing another lot of people; and even today our accountant, Brendan O'Connell was anxiously asking to be reassured that we won't take steps towards selling the company without consulting him.

You leave a lot of worried people behind you.

So thank you again for your care and skill.

Katharine Brisbane, Publisher and Chair

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### **Currency Press, Inter.Continental Sydney, Sydney**

Thank you so much for your terrific contribution in conducting a cheerful auction.

Margaret Leask, Director

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### **Danny Beran, Hotel - Hughenden, Sydney**

All the guests enjoyed the occasion richly!

Dr. Danny Beran

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### **Datacom, Restaurant - Prime, Sydney**

Most people I spoke to were fooled in the first 5-20 minutes. This includes a number of staff. I think Wally mentioned one of our GMs was close to resigning that night as he had spent the day interviewing candidates on a deadline.

Had a lot of positive feedback thank you.

Kimmy Lawrence - NSW Administration Manager

Rodney was engaged to make an 'appearance' at our annual client Xmas function. His piece in our evening took a nice evening & made it memorable with lots of fun & chatter continuing well through the evening & for some days afterwards. An absolutely fabulous performance which had everyone in hysterics and set the tempo for the balance of the evening. I would thoroughly recommend Rodney for any & all corporate events that would benefit from a 'change-up' and lots of good fun & laughter!

Kevin Leighton - General Manager, Managed Services NSW

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**Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Peppers Anchorage, Port Stephens, Regional NSW**

Thanks for a great presentation - I very much enjoyed it, as did everyone.

Karen Whittred, Partner, Trowbridge

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**Department of Defence, Harry's Bar, Honiara**

We have just returned from the Solomon Islands. Thank you to Tori Darke, Tom Diesel & The Girl, Mick Neven, Gary Eck & Rodney Marks for two awesome performances over last weekend

Mark Langley - Artist Liaison Officer, Department of Defence

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hill Station, Canberra**

Thanks for the humour which was well received ... I thought you were brilliant and I think everyone was very impressed.

Eugene Olim, Foreign Affairs Officer

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**Department of the Arts and Administrative Services, HC Coombs Centre, Reserve Bank, Sydney**

Brilliant.

Peter Harvey, Regional Coordinator, NSW

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**Dexion - storage systems, ANA Hotel Sydney, Sydney**

I wish to formally extend to you my warmest congratulations and gratitude for a most professional and successful performance at our recent Dealer Conference. The feedback was fantastic and my objective of getting people out of their chairs and encouraging a contribution to the proceedings was certainly achieved.

I have to admit to having sweaty palms throughout most of your session, but I guess that only serves to confirm how convincing you were.

M A Isbell, General Manager, Storage & Materials Handling

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**DIC Australia and New Zealand, House in Castle Hill, Sydney**

Thanks for an entertaining evening, it takes a fair bit to get my lot rolling around the floor, but you certainly had them going.

Ian Johns - Managing Director, DIC Australia and New Zealand

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**Dimensional, Sydney Opera House, Sydney**

Many thanks for your brilliant performance last Thursday during our Global Conference at the Sydney Opera House .Our guests were very amused and found your performance excellent.

Nigel Stewart, Director

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### **Diners Club, MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground), Melbourne**

I just wanted to thank you again for your performance at the Diners Club Dinner on Thursday night. Diners are raving about it and it was great for me to finally see you in action. Well done.

Danielle Bleazby, Event Producer - Peter Jones Special Events

On behalf of the Diners Club team I would like to thank you for your contribution to our 50th Anniversary event on Thursday night. For most guests, your speech stands out as the highlight of the event. For those still not in on the hoax, they feel privileged that you made the effort to come 'Down Under' for our celebration! Your preparation, as well as your ability to stay in character throughout the evening and glean details from guests to include in your presentation, was much admired and appreciated.

Michaela Bingham, Marketing - Diners Club

It was a great night - people are still raving about your speech - some still believe it is true (which is a worry)! Thank you for making the night such a success

James Atkins, General Manager, Consumer & Marketing - Diners Club Australia

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### **Domain Principal Group, Royal Pines, Regional Qld**

Overall grading: excellent. An ultimate professional. Such detailed background work undertaken. Everyone was fooled and thought the act was very clever. Rodney was a pleasure to work with.

Sheridan Woodcroft - Executive Assistant to Managing Director

Fantastic feedback.

Emma Azzopardi - ICMI Speakers & Entertainers

Well done!

Rosanna La Martina, Managing Consultant - ICMI Speakers & Entertainers

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### **Donington, Restaurant - Italian Village, Sydney**

Everyone is still laughing about your keynote.

Jane Paech - Business Operations Manager

What an intervention! After your speech on Thursday night, the next day was spent by most of the participants convincing each other they really did smell a rat! Yet all agreed that you had them completely fooled, even some of our most experienced and worldly wise were completely taken in. What a triumph! Personally, I shan't forget General Ariel Lieder in a hurry.

There is no doubt that the 10.30 pm billing on the Thursday evening was the correct slot as your speech and thoughts capped off a most enjoyable evening, and gave our celebrations a wonderful climax.

Monica and I were, as always, delighted to spend time with you, even if it meant that we had to play our part in the subterfuge! Monica certainly enjoyed it as it appealed to her wicked sense of humour and love for drama.

Very many thanks from us all. It was a pleasure to work with you, as always, and you can be assured that you left with our group a lasting impression and a wonderful memory.

Geoff Officer - Managing Director

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### **Dresdner International Financial Markets, Harbour cruise, or moored boat, Sydney**

Rodney Marks provided some excellent light relief when arriving by water taxi, and professing to be the new Managing Director of Westpac, he divulged some outrageous plans for the Bank.

Rodney was a delight to have along.

G J van Wyngen, Managing Director

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**Dynamic Financial Analysis in Insurance and Finance - Conference, Harbour cruise, or moored boat, Syd**

Great hoax!

Professor Michael Sherris, Actuarial Studies, University of NSW

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**Dynamis Club, Stamford North Ryde, Sydney**

... it will be a hard act to follow ... simply superb.

Christine Silink, President

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**East Coast Business Women's Network, Renaissance Sydney Hotel, Sydney**

You were fabulous - feedback has been sensational and I thank you for giving such a thoroughly prepared presentation. The "Business Today" Program who were filming our meeting gave you rave reviews as did the hundred plus members and guests in attendance.

Robyn Henderson, NSW Managing Co-ordinator

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**Echidnas - Australian Order of Comedians, Cardinal Freeman Lodge, Sydney**

Rodney went close to social and legal limits on his great impromptu ad libs.

Doug McLaughlin - Treasurer

Rodney kept the pace of the show moving with his usual clever anecdotes.

Alan Dale - Secretary

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**EKH Design, The Establishment, Sydney**

Everyone thought you were brilliant. So much so that a few people still laboured under the illusion that you are indeed a client of ours. (Mind you, those people weren't the brightest crayons in the box!)

A couple of companies have asked for your details, so you should be getting further work.

Thanks for your terrific performance.

Alison Hulett, Partner

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**EMC2, Crowne Plaza Terrigal, Regional NSW**

Thanks for a fantastic performance Rodney, everyone enjoyed it immensely!!

- - -

It was a pleasure, both working with you and talking with you. You are a consummate professional who I'll gladly recommend to anyone. The emails from the APJ execs are flying around this morning and are full of complements for you and also for Clive and I for pulling of the big secret. Matt says he will never trust us again (ever).

Darren Reynolds - Head of Cloud Solutions, Telco and Service Providers

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### **Energex, Sofitel Brisbane, Brisbane**

Rodney Marks was extremely entertaining, and I only wish I had been a fly at the table he was seated at when he was brought out his weight-watcher's meal. I have received great feedback from a number of guests on how funny he was and I have been asked for transcripts of his speech as they want to share it with the engineers who were not at the night.

- - -

Still getting great feedback and so many requests for a transcript of the speech - they have so many engineers the staff want to share your speech with - starting with the opening line you will be talking for half an hour and if they can listen for 30 minutes etc - they loved it all. I have already sent your details on to our SPARQ Communications Manager who said their CEO (who spoke to you on the night) was interested in finding out more. If you do have a summary of the funny statements you made they'd love to read it to their engineers. I have already forwarded on your 'backronyms.'

Caroline Lovett - Customer Services Project Coordinator

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### **Energy Australia, Sheraton on the Park, Sydney**

... your comedy performance and MC role did indeed significantly contribute to probably the best function ever conducted by this organisation.

Don't know how you get away with it but you did.

Our Chairman wanted to know "where the hell you were employed in the organisation", is he "really an engineer" and "who the blazes is this bloke".

Well done.

Bob Mack, Manager, Administration - Secretarial

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### **Ergo Asia, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney**

We had a fabulous night, we weren't sure what to expect but our apprehensions went straight out the window once you got up and people started laughing. It truly was an experience to remember.

Amanda Winton - Product Manager

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### **Ernst and Young, Hyatt Regency Cooloom, Sunshine Coast**

Your presentation was a hoot and a delight identified by many of our erstwhile partners

Geoff Applebee  
Regional Area Leader - Markets, Sydney

I have heard rave reviews about Ernst and Young. Congratulations!

Pamela Wheat  
Producer, Special Events, ICMS

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### **Ernst and Young, Holiday Inn Coogee Beach, Sydney**

Following up to the EY TAS conference I wanted to say well done. Your gig and videos were great entertainment and very well received

Ashley Semmens, # 0414 422 602

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**Excellerate Australia, Hyatt - Grand Melbourne, Melbourne**

You are a very good man, so thank you. Official letter to come, but a pleasure as always to work with you.

Peter Jones, MD, Peter Jones Special Events

It was a pleasure to meet you also and a real treat to have Prof. Dr. Eggenberger be a part of our celebration. I thought your performance was amazing!

I also received a lot of wonderful feedback from our guests about the evening and in particular the entertainment. The audience loved your performance, well done!

I will definitely recommend your act to others and hope you to work with you again in the future.

Patricia Chronis - Events, Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator, Excellerate Australia

Thanks again for a great performance!

Jacqueline King - Communications Manager, Excellerate Australia

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**Facility Management Association, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney**

Your presentation was well received and the comments received from delegates were very favourable. I appreciated particularly the efforts you made to make your presentation both relevant and challenging to the delegates.

Hilaire Graham, Conference Convenor

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**Fairfax Holdings, Offices of Google, Sydney**

Everyone absolutely loved last night's speech. Most (but not all) admitted to the penny not dropping until about 15/20 minutes into proceedings. I thought that if anyone twigged as to your status yesterday, it would have been Tim Mannes, who was on your table ... but you even had him fooled (apart from a couple of instances where he sincerely doubted that you knew what you were talking about!!)

An Oscar-winning performance, and I hope we cross paths again some day

Lenore McCotter - EA to Chief Executive & Managing Director

You were hilarious. I thought it was great, and (CEO Greg) Hywood said you actually went easy on us...although Allan Browne might debate that :)

I'll look forward to catching you again

Jack Matthews - CEO, Metropolitan Media

Your "McKinsey" performance was terrific. We were still talking about it the next day

Margaret Easterbrook - Editor, The Saturday Age

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**Family Drug Support, Winbourne, Sydney**

Thanks again for a great session.

Tony Trimmingham, OAM - CEO

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**Family Drug Support, Winbourne, Sydney**

Thanks for a fantastic workshop

Tony Trimmingham - Director, Family Drug Support

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**Federal Airports Corporation - National Finance, Swiss-Grand Hotel, Sydney**

... your material was the topic of discussion for the remainder of proceedings ... the Corporation's General Manager - Finance & Planning was very pleased with the evening and sends his congratulations on an excellent hoax.

I look forward to renewing our acquaintance in similar jovial circumstances.

Stephen Cordaiy, Manager - Corporate Financial Services

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**Financial Institutions Remuneration Group, Hyatt on Collins, Melbourne**

Not only did you magnificently succeed in hoaxing most of the audience, but you did so in a fashion that was positively received when the hoax was declared.

You succeeded because after your presentation, without exception those that I spoke to felt that you had struck an amazing balance between tackling the topic in a semi-believable fashion and light-hearted assertion! There clearly was a lot of research and thinking in your presentation. Above all, I confess that I am still smiling in recollection of your "mischievous" humour.

I can certainly recommend you to other groups who also have a "good sport" mentality, who are ready to be taken in and entertained in this fashion.

Gordon Conolly, Chairman

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**Finnair/Hong Kong Tourism Board, Offices of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, Sydney**

Have received lots of positive feedback on the King [Rodney] and his speech. Thank you.

Helen Blake, Regional Manager

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**Ford Motor Company, Fairmont, The, Regional NSW**

Feedback has been excellent - you certainly carried off your part very well based on comments back to me.

Graham Barrie, Manager - Dealers

You will also be pleased to know there was no corporate jargon used throughout the Conference - which I am sure the Dealers appreciated.

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**Foxy Advertising, House in Chatswood West, Sydney**

You were a pleasure to work with (and a barrel of laughs).

Peter Fox, Managing Director

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**Fracht, Strathfield Golf Club, Sydney**

A wonderful time was had by all - it was great to see everyone taken in by your character. We've received quite a number of Thank You emails and they have all commented on your performance. So thanks again for your part in making our event a success.

Kim Pluess

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**Free TV Australia, Manly Pacific Sydney, Sydney**

Excellent. Rodney is an intuitive and very humorous presenter and comedian

Roger Bunch, Director of Engineering

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**Freedom Furniture, Vision Valley, Sydney**

Very very funny, good timing (after lunch and a hard morning).

Conference Feedback Form

Your contribution really helped make the conference a huge success. Thank you for all your creativity, input and talent, it was a pleasure working with you.

Dianne Jones, Group Human Resources Manager

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**Fuji Xerox, Australian Technology Park, Sydney**

I am very happy with your performance, and yes, have had some questions after the event. Most people think you are American!!

Maria Nordstrom - State Operations Manager, NSW

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**Gartner, Sheraton on the Park, Sydney**

You might smile to know that in the evaluation report you scored the highest ratings both for content (not sure what that says about our stuff) and presentation style

Amanda Hatten - conference director

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**Gentec, Offices of Gentec, Sydney**

. . . it was a great night . . . You did a good job relaxing the group.

George Joukhadar, Founding Managing Director

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**George Weston Foods, Curzon Hall, Sydney**

Everyone loved the playing cards

Rebecca Clemson - Executive Assistant to Chief Executive, George Weston Foods - Baking Division

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**Gilmour Real Estate, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney**

Super performance!

Tim Tretchikoff, Director

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### **Golf Management Australia, Royal Sydney Golf Club, Sydney**

The plan worked a treat, and I will stay in touch for some possible gigs in the future.

Stuart Fraser - Chief Executive Officer, Golf NSW

A pleasure to watch you perform, they were all talking about you (in a good way) all day Tuesday. It would be fun to work together again, hopefully that will happen.

Andrew Daddo - actor, author and television personality

I loved your "speech" to the GMA at Royal Sydney last week. I have to say you had me for a bit, I was thinking finally a politician with some wit! Plenty of mileage was made at Stephen's expense throughout the week. I also loved the way you handled Jack Newton at the end of the questions. Very professional.

Tony Rodgers - General Manager, Kogarah Golf Club

You were absolutely hilarious. I really enjoyed the brief time that we had together. I will keep you in mind for our event next year in Melbourne. I would like to stay in touch.

Jim G. James - Senior Director, Club and Hospitality Operations, Augusta National Golf Club

**NO CHANCE HE'S SERIOUS**

If you were deceived by Evan Chance last night, you were in the majority.

Evan (aka comedian Rodney Marks) perpetrated one of the most successful hoaxes in the history of Royal Sydney, posing as the Shadow Federal Minister for Sport, Housing, Immigration and Tourism to a packed room of GMA members.

Some got it quicker than others when Evan spoke of reducing golf courses to nine holes and building bus depots, detention centres and shipping terminals on the compulsorily-acquired land.

Others were not so quick on the uptake.

Stephen Pitt, CEO of Golf Australia, spent half an hour sitting next to Evan lobbying funds for a high performance golf academy.

Heath Wilson from Kingswood spent time cajoling the 'shadow' minister too, before confiding in resident scribe, Michael Davis, : "You've got to get the government on side."

Davis and his photographic cohort, Michael Court, were not immune to the ruse either. Both keenly embraced Evan's pre-dinner overture to consider joining the government media team.

GMA Daily News - the conference newsletter

You were fantastic, so we will certainly keep you in mind for future events.

Jessica Riches - Professional Conference Organise, EMG Events

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### **Goodman Fielder, Hawkesbury Lodge & Rum Corps Convention Centre, Sydney**

You did a great job. Towards the end of your 'informative' session some of my more senior colleagues were feeling quite uncomfortable that others were openly laughing at your highly cerebral turn of phrase. It seems we have some work to do ...

I have attached some Office humour that may come in handy

Vaughan Biggs  
General Manager - Human Resources  
Banking & Commercial  
Auckland, New Zealand

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### **GPR Dehler, Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney**

Absolutely excellent evening! Thanks very much

Dr. George Paul - Senior Consultant

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**Graduate Management Association of Australia, Offices of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, Sydney**

As usual, it was a splendid performance. Harry Dicus [Rodney] is a lovable sort of character. A great sort of character who leaves us none-the-wiser but somehow gives us a good smug feeling.

Andrew Horsley, President NSW Chapter

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**Graduate Management Association of Australia, Tattersalls Club, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, Sydney**

You did a great job. You actually managed to get a laugh from some of our members which, given that they are MBAs, is quite a feat in itself. The feedback from everyone I have spoken to was very good.

Janetta Matchett, President

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**Graeme Bringans Property Trust, Auckland, Carlton Auckland, Auckland**

You made a great contribution to the evening and the feedback has been excellent.

Binty Bringans, Chair

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**Grain Growers, Country Comfort - Wagga Wagga, Regional NSW**

Thank you again for making the dinner a great night. You certainly put the wind up them!

Georgie Aley - National Business Development Manager

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**Graincorp, Holiday Inn Coogee Beach, Sydney**

By gees you were good! Went over really well with all our staff including Tom our MD. Buckwheat is still getting ribbed today. Thanks for your professional performance.

Again from Ying & Yang thank you. I'm sure we will be able to utilise your services again in the future on another part of the company.

Michael Mazzella, Executive Officer

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**Graphics Arts Services Association of Australia (GASAA), Fijian Resort,**

... absorbing, convincing and amusing.

Garry Knespal, Executive Secretary

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**Great Synagogue, Great Synagogue, Sydney**

You'll get the official thank yous but just one more. You were cool under pressure. Thanks

Stephen Green, Appeal Chairman

You did an extraordinary job under very difficult circumstances; you helped us retrieve what could have been a disaster and turned it into a warm and friendly success.

Herman Eisenberg, President

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**Great Synagogue, Great Synagogue, Sydney**

The consensus was that yours was one of the most entertaining luncheons that we have had. We loved the mixture of humour with serious and relevant context, and thought that you put a lot of thought into your interview.

Rabbi Mendel Kastel

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**Great Synagogue, Great Synagogue, Sydney**

Many thanks for joining in at such short notice as a compere and moderator for our Law Service Dinner. At least half of the guests have not yet filed suit and some of the judges have even confided that they agree with your assessment of many practitioners!

The feedback we have had on the evening has been very positive and your role in keeping it warm and on track was invaluable.

With all best wishes and looking forward to future collaboration,

Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence - Chief Minister, The Great Synagogue, Sydney

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**Great Synagogue, Great Synagogue, Sydney**

Once again your humour "came up trumps" and everyone at the dinner thoroughly enjoyed your humour and sense of fun.

Rosalind Fischl - President

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**Gresham Partners, Pier One Sydney Harbour, Sydney**

It was great. Everyone loved the session.

Charlie Graham - Managing Director

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**Hachette Filipacchi Magazines, Hachette Filipacchi, New York City Offices, New York City**

Your performance was delightfully deceiving, your psychological "solutions" were scintillating - and my employees were wonderfully entertained! You are real comedic pro, and I look forward to the next time when your humour will brighten our work day.

David Pecker, President, CEO and COO

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**Harvard Business School Alumni Association, Police and Justice Museum, Sydney**

My classmates have voted to award you the "Golden Cigar" as best speaker for our 1993 reunion.

Michael Cannon, Reunion Convenor

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**Harvard Club of Australia, Offices of Gresham Partners, Sydney**

Great to see you guys in fine form as always!

Chalres Graham  
Managing Director, Gresham Partners, and  
President, Harvard Club of Australia

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**Harvard Club of Australia, House in Surry Hills, Sydney**

Great job on taking off academic jargon. It's just as much of a phenomenon in theology and philosophy -- and educational research -- as business, albeit with significantly more syllables in theology and philosophy ... if you can believe that!

Dr Robert Simons - Principal Research Fellow, Australian Council for Educational Research

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**Harvard Club of Australia, Union Club, The, Sydney**

It was great to see you, and great to see you in action

Andrew Forrest, Fortescue Mining

Thanks - it was a great event!

Erin King, Event Organiser, Anderson Knight

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**Harvard Club of Australia, University of Sydney, Sydney**

Rodney's wit entertained us wonderfully.

David Pumphrey, Convenor

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**Harvard Club of Australia, Westin Sydney, Sydney**

Thanks again for last night. Well done!!

Kimberly Everett - Harvard Club Councillor

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**Harvard Club of Australia, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Terrigal, Regional NSW**

A lot of people mentioned your performance was great!

Philip Hartog - Member, Organising Committee

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**Harvard Club of Australia, Union Club, The, Sydney**

Veteran Australian comedian - Marks had the guests laughing as he shared stories about his work as a put-on artist booked for comic revenge.

'Club News' - page 5.

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**Harvard Club of Australia, House in Bellevue Hill 2 (Phil and Leslie Stern's), Sydney**

... a tour de force performance.

Phil Stern, President

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**Harvard Club of Australia, Crowne Plaza, Sydney**

Thanks, Rodney: a great result

Clive Gard - Administrator, Harvard Club of Australia Group

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**Harvard University - 12 performances as artist in residence, January 1995, Harvard University, Cambridg**

We want to thank you for your splendid appearance at a dinner of our Owner/President Management group last week. You could not have been more convincing - or controversial - as Mortimer Gage, our new Professor of Organizational Behavior. You did a superb job of fooling a group of experienced managers not easily misled, and we all enjoyed the experience greatly.

Norman berg, Professor of Business Administration - Faculty Chairman - Owner/President Management Program and 19 participants

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**Harvey Norman Floor Coverings, Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast**

... an outstanding job ... everyone enjoyed the segments you did. It really lightened up the mood. It was hard for me to hold back my laughter, knowing what was happening and just seeing their reactions to you ... it was fantastic.

Leon Waxman, General Manager, Moore Park

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**Hash House Harriers, Forestville Scout Hall, Sydney**

Mr Marks,

Have received a complaint from the Russian Federation of Hash Harriers regarding your claims to be a runner. Defies belief.

Appears you also spent far too much time ogling the topless waitresses.

Trust this kind of incident won't be brought to my attention again (by my brother in law Ian - "Pay Ling")

Said the night was a blast!

Mark Wallage - Concept Event Management

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**Hebrew University of Jerusalem - Friends Association, Ritz-Carlton Double Bay, Sydney**

All of the feedback which I have received has been very positive.

Don Perlgut, Executive Director

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**Heidrick & Struggles, Restaurant - The Boathouse, Sunshine Coast**

Thank you for your outstanding performance. It was greatly enjoyed by all and much talked about afterwards. You fooled most of them for some time - [one of my colleagues asked another] during your gig why I hadn't told him we had a security practice in the US!! A huge success - well done!

David Pumphrey - Partner

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**Heliflite, Harbour cruise, or moored boat, Sydney**

Thank you for the laughs and your company on Friday night

Scott Edmonds  
Director

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**Hewlett-Packard, Restaurant - Pt Leo Estate, Merricks, Rebional VIC**

They were still talking about you today, a big hit! Thanks.

Marina Fronek - General Manager Channels and Alliances

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**Hitachi, Hotel - Harbour View, Sydney**

Hitachi was very pleased with your performance

Ben Marosszeky, McGregors Public Relations

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**Holding Redlich, Offices of Holding Redlich, Sydney**

... a terrific job!

Harold Werksman, Partner

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**Holman Webb, La Toque, Sydney**

Thank you for making the night such a success.

Roger Cornforth, Partner

It was such fun. And you'll be pleased to learn that we are still enjoying the experience and laughing about the night. The partners played on the hoax with those two partners who didn't attend, but the new appointment (of Rodney as the Chief Executive) was causing such an upset that (we) felt obliged to send around an email announcing Guy Dingkat's return to Atlanta!

What more could we have asked for ...

Jane Polkinghorne, Administration Manager

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**HomeSide Lending, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney**

All the feedback has been absolutely amazing. The Brokers are saying ... 'the best promotional event they have ever been to'.

Marisa Tuck

Senior Sales Support Analyst - Third Party Business

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**HomeSide Lending, Hamilton Towers Conference Centre, Hamilton Is., Regional Qld**

Everyone enjoyed your performance so it was a success.

Marisa Tuck

Sales Support Manager

Third Party Business

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**HomeSide Lending, Rydges North Sydney, Sydney**

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the session, however I don't think they will ever trust me again!

Linda Hayes

Personal Assistant, National Mortgage Broker Alliances

National Australia Bank

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**Horseland, Stonelea, Acheron - near Alexandra, Regional Vic**

Your impersonation of a senior executive from an associate company in the United States, announcing the takeover of Horseland, was brilliant. It was absolutely brain snapping stuff for both our managers and franchisees.

Roger Jackson, Franchise Manager

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**Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association, Sebel Townhouse, Sydney**

I have heard nothing but praise from our members, guests and the committee.

Sam Burbury, Executive Director

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**Howe Leather, Windsor, Melbourne**

A spectacular success.

Danielle Blain, Managing Director

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**Hunter Holden, Macquarie Graduate School of Management, Sydney**

Huge thanks for your participation yesterday. Was much enjoyed by (almost) everyone and understood by most.

Well done.

Adam Kaplan  
Managing Director

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**Hutchison Telecoms, Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast**

The effect of [Rodney] on the morale and togetherness of the group was invaluable.

Edwin Earl, National Cellular Manager

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**Hyder Consulting, Restaurant - L'Aqua, Sydney**

Thanks Rodney, it was a great night. We enjoyed working with you too!

Jill Murray - Regional Marketing Manager

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**Hyman's Valuers and Auctioneers, House - Warrawee, Sydney**

Thanks for last night. Very well received.

Ian Hyman - Chief Executive Officer

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**Hyperion Solutions, Manly Pacific Sydney, Sydney**

I wanted to take the opportunity to commend you on the excellent presentation you made as the world renowned Dr Edward de Bono at the Hyperion Annual User Conference on October 15. The content and style of the presentation suggest a significant amount of research prior to your performance and we thank you wholeheartedly for your efforts.

Given that 90% of the audience still believe you are Edward de Bono (they firmly believe that Edward announced he was the Sydney comedian, Rodney Marks, as an anti joke!!) indicates that your performance was extremely convincing and entertaining.

Many, many thanks,

Russell Evans, Director of Sales and Marketing.

I hear you were a huge success - even signing books. Well done Edward.

Allen Smith, National Sales Manager, Volante

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### **IAG, Australian Graduate School of Police Management, Sydney**

I work for Nola Watson at IAG and attended the Quarantine station dinner on Tuesday night....thank you so much, I don't think I've stopped laughing just yet. There was another round of complete hysterics in the office late today when we found out you'd convinced Ben you were interested in chaos theory & gaming theory!!

I've been an intelligence analyst for about 5 years, the first few with Nola at NSW Police prior to IAG. Everything you did, right down to your shirt and tie, and absolutely spot on for European law enforcement. To my unending embarrassment, I was more prepared to believe that you were Europol than a comedian, even when we were told. How did you know to paste Interpol?

Thanks for a great laugh - is it possible to see you at non-corporate functions?

Lisa Young - Intelligence Analyst

It was a great success. Thank you for a first rate performance.

From a learning perspective, it proved quite insightful. As you know, one of the fastest growing crimes is identity theft. This is where one person simply takes over the persona of another by obtaining a small amount of key personal bio details. As we reflected on your presentation, people realised just how easily this could be done. I think I may have generated a degree of health skepticism in the group.

regards

Nola Watson - Head, Corporate Risk Services

You had me in stitches. Everyone I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed your 'presentation', notwithstanding the lack of media skills of Dep Director Triage

George Karagiannakis - National Manager, Business Support, Fraud & Security Risk

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### **IAG, NRMA Care & Repair Centre, Sydney**

It was a lot of fun.

John Bay - Producer/Director

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### **IBA Health, Hilton Brisbane, Brisbane**

Great feedback from Greg [King, Marketing and Communications Director], thank you thank you thank you

Suzy Cohen, Researcher

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### **ICG: Internal Consulting Group, Restaurant - Otto Ristorante, Sydney**

Really appreciate your performance - it was exactly right for the event, and was very well received.

Julian Cappe - Practice Leader Retail and Business Banking

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### **ICI, Marriott Gold Coast, Regional Qld**

We thoroughly enjoyed your presentation and there is no doubt that the audience was equally appreciative.

Ken Kirby, Commercial Manager

The participants' comments suggest that [Rodney] was the "best" aspect of the day - generally instilling in them a sense of well-being.

Market Research Summary Report - PCK & Assoc.

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**ICMS, Offices of ICMS, Sydney**

Thank you so very much ... for boosting the spirits of the ICMS staff! ... It was a lot of fun.

Pamela Wheat, Producer, Special Events

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**IDRC Corporate Real Estate, ANA Hotel Sydney, Sydney**

We had to laugh at the evaluations. I've never seen evaluations filled in with all "0s" for relevance and quality of content, etc., yet get a top rating overall score. To quote a few of the general comments, your presentation was 'visionary', 'humorous', 'hugely entertaining' and 'clever'. I have to admit I was a little worried at one comment that said you were the 'first speaker that made any sense'.

John and Karen Fox, Regional Director and ANZ Operations Manager

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**IDS Enterprise Systems, Offices of IDS Enterprise Systems, Sydney**

Your presentation was well received and I trust you will receive many referrals as a result.

Kylie Liddell  
Marketing Manager

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**Illawarra Connection - Wollongong networking group, Novotel Northbeach, Regional NSW**

Straw poll of the audience indicated - 191 for, 1 still confused and thinks you are French, and 1 hates arrogant people. All in all, it was a great and successful night.

John Erickson, Chairman

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**INCE: International Not-for-Profit Network, Hilton Sydney, Sydney**

With Rodney Marks as the Master of Ceremonies, the evening was very entertaining

Review in "Association Management - The Magazine for the Not-for-Profit Sector"  
October 2005, page 32

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**Independent Education Union, Mercure Sydney, Sydney**

I want to point out your comedic mastery. Thanks for being part of our conference and starting us off with such tremendous intellectual fire.

Daniel Long - Organiser, IEU

Your session was a lot of fun.

Tara de Boehmler - Communications, IEU

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**Industrial Relations Society of NSW, Fairmont, The, Regional NSW**

We have had some great feedback about your after dinner speech. Some took a little longer than others to catch on however no-one that you met prior to your speech picked up on the fact that you were no Dr Mupps. It went really well!

I will be sure to recommend you to family and friends!

Nicole Law  
Human Resources Manager  
Sony Music Entertainment

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**infOready, Restaurant - Targa, Regional NSW**

Hi Rodney (Noel :)),

Thank you for entertaining our Infoready team at our annual retreat on Thursday night. I have heard raving reviews of how excellent your performance was. You had everyone in stitches. Cameron, Zoe and Eric still cannot believe they had lengthy conversations with you believing your character.

Tristan Sternson - Managing Director

Everyone had a really good time last night. It was great!

Emma Higgins - EA to the MD

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**InterSystems, Dockside, Cockle Bay, Sydney**

Thank you Rodney. We are very happy with your presentation. Denis (Tebbutt, Managing Director) even mentioned you this morning and had a few more laughs!!

Libby Eldridge-Smith, Marketing

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**Investec, Le Meridien, Mauritius,**

We have had such positive feedback from the delegates and, just this morning I gave your email address to our Investment Banking team who are wanting to invite you to SA (not quite as exotic as Mauritius but we try!)

Thanks once again for spending time with us and keeping our delegates entertained - they keep asking me what your real name is so I'm referring them to your website so they can make up their own minds!

. . .

Rodney had everyone very puzzled before they were in stitches with laughing so much.

Tanya Reid, Professional Conference Organiser, Investec - South Africa

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**IOOF, Parkroyal Canberra, Canberra**

Rodney's performance was not only highly humorous and entertaining in its climax, but his deception of all participants at the Conference with his character gave everyone the chance to enjoy laughing at themselves.

Philip Fraher, General Manager, Funds Management Division

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**Irrigation Industry Association, Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, Sydney**

The performance was fantastic ... It made the evening a memorable success and delegates are still talking about it.

Peter Garrad, National Secretariat

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**ITG Australia, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Terrigal, Regional NSW**

Rodney, you were brilliant!

John Whiting, Director

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**Jewish Communal Appeal, House in Northbridge, Sydney**

You were terrific and neither our relatives nor your parents' friends suspected who you were, as I had feared that they would. It was a great day!!

Warm regards, Sophie Caplan (email of 4 January 2006 -- over 12 years after the event)

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**Jewish Free University, North Shore Synagogue, Sydney**

Your act was fantastic - not just hilarious, but spot-on satire

John Safran, SBS and ABC TV comedian and presenter

As you must have been aware by the response of the very large audience your talk was much appreciated. You managed to entertain the audience and leave us all with some food for thought.

Peta Jones Pellach  
The Shalom Institute

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**Jewish House, Regent of Sydney, Sydney**

It was great.

Rabbi Pinchos Woolstone

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**John Holland Constructions, Restaurant - Lotus Pond, Star City, Sydney**

Tuesday was great fun

Stephen Sasse  
General Manager  
Human Resources, Industrial Relations and Safety

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**Judy Garland Show, Fairfield RSL, Sydney**

... a wonderful performance.

Melanie Parry, Producer (and "Judy Garland")

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**Kashrut Authority, Inter.Continental Double Bay, Sydney**

Your performance went down very well

Karyn Lemon - PPR

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**Knight Frank, Offices of Knight Frank, Sydney**

... a great show and thanks for fooling most of them a little too well!!!

Clive Betts - Executive Chairman, Australia

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**Kone Elevators, Hotel - Coogee Bay, Sydney**

Thanks again for your routine at our conference.

Chris Cassettari

Service and Modernisation Manager

Most people were still talking about it the next day. It kept bringing a smile to their face and they made sure they included a least one "waffle" statement in every presentation they did during the conference.

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**KPMG, Sheraton Mirage - Gold Coast, Gold Coast**

Your session was a hit with the entire crowd and despite their views to contrary, you had most of the crowd believing in your character until the end (almost)

Paul Tyquin

Senior Manager - Marketing

You successfully set the tone for the conference and it has been rated as one of our best.

David Dunn

National Managing Partner - Financial Advisory Services

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**KPMG and RISC, Royal Perth Yacht Club, Perth**

Many thanks Rodney for a very entertaining evening - I note also we may have got you a gig for APPEA next year which should be fun

Helen Cook - Director, Australia, Energy & Natural Resources: KPMG, Perth

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**Lanier - business technology, Hotel - El Rancho, Sydney**

Thank you for your fantastic performance.

Steve Snell, State Manager NSW

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**Law Practice Managers Association, Marriott Gold Coast, Regional Qld**

Many thanks for an excellent presentation.

Angela Richardson, Conference Convenor

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**Leaders' Soundbite Breakfast, The Royce Hotel, Melbourne**

I loved your bit at Ricky's breakfast.

Dr Jack Jacoby

It was so much fun and everyone really enjoyed your presentation. A couple of people didn't even realize at the end you were a hoax (including) my poor daughter who gave me grief afterwards!

Ricky Nowak - Founder/Director

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**Leading Edge Computers, Sebel Albert Park Melbourne, Melbourne**

Excellent thanks Rodney all went well

Lee Scott - Merchandise Manager | Leading Edge Electronics & Digital & Computers

You were sensational. We've had lots of great feedback. I thought towards the end that everyone knew it was staged but when Jim from Orange got up and asked that question I was blown away... he still thought you were serious!

You did a terrific job and set the scene for a great conference.

I look forward to working with you again

Ms Jo Mahoney - General Manager, Leading Edge Conferences

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**Leading Edge, The - Market Research Consultants, Restaurant - Zenbu, Sydney**

Thanks for the fab job.

Jennifer Cufar, Office Manager

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**Leighton Contractors, Restaurant - L'Aqua, Sydney**

You seem to have created a lasting memory for those that were present. I think that the timing of your session (and timing is everything) was perfect given the audience had been through 3+ hours of fairly heavy content prior to you. I think that some light relief to get the message over is certainly an alternative way of getting engagement that often sticks in the minds of those receiving the message. The audience certainly liked the comedy of your session - pity we didn't have slightly longer - however that was not within our control

Duncan Robinson, Project Management Systems Executive

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**Life Education Victoria, Chaucer's Function Centre, Canterbury, Melbourne**

The feedback from people attending the function was full of praise for your outstanding and thoroughly enjoyable routine.

Jim Boucher, State Manager

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**Limmud Oz, UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Thanks for your participation last night - you all did a fantastic job and the audience had a great time!

Liora Baram - organiser

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**Linfox Distribution, Monash Mt Eliza Business School, Melbourne, Melbourne**

... brilliant ... such wisdom and humour - what a winner!

Russ McKenzie, General Manager - Corporate Affairs

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**Living Edge Furniture, Living Edge Furniture Shop, Melbourne**

You hit the mark as was shown by the audience's obvious enjoyment.

Robert McKay, Chairman

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**Local Government Association of Queensland, Carlton Crest Brisbane, Brisbane**

Loved the show. (This comment was sent along with a photo of Rodney and the Mayor of Gatton Shire)

Colin O'Connor - Chief Executive Officer, Gatton Shire Council

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**Lucas Varsity, 86 Park Lane, London**

Your contribution to the London meeting was outstanding.

Kate Ferguson, London Organiser

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**Macquarie Bank, Rothbury Estate, Regional NSW**

We received positive feedback and look forward to working with you again in the future

Stephanie McLoughlin

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**Macquarie Bank, Restaurant - Vue de Monde, level 55, Rialto, Melbourne**

Your performance was very well received.

Jon Moodie - Executive Director, Head of Introducer Sales, Macquarie Leasing

Very well done!

Kelly Tan - Brand Manager, Macquarie Leasing

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**Macquarie Bank, Offices of Macquarie Bank, Sydney**

And what an outrageous speaker Dr Mike [Rodney] turned out to be! His topic, knowledge and delivery struck just the right note of credibility ...

Fiona Champion, PA to General Manager - Corporate Finance

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**Macquarie Bank, Restaurant - Bel Mondo, Sydney**

Really pleased with the night. Also, a great audience for your shifty work :-)

Amanda Heckes - Event Organiser, Macquarie Bank

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**Macquarie Bank, Restaurant - Aria, Sydney**

Very enjoyable, Rodney, and, most importantly, a night our guests will remember.

Gavin Bradley - Executive Director

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### **Macquarie Bank, Offices of Macquarie Bank (Shelley St, Sydney), Sydney**

We're so pleased with how it went - it was perfect to end the day on a lighter note.

Helen Copp - Head of Communications and Creative Services, BFS Central, Macquarie Group

(via LinkedIn) You were AMAZING! Thank you so much for joining us today. I get the feeling people will be talking about your presentation for quite some time. It was the most engaged I've seen that audience for a long, long time.

Simone Kilby - Internal Communications Manager

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### **Macquarie Dictionary, Macquarie University, Sydney**

Thanks a lot for yesterday's performance - it actually gained in amusement value in retrospect when we discussed who had twigged at what point and why was it we were so prepared to that tie and braces as perfectly acceptable for a Romanian professor [Dick Schonari portrayed by Rodney].

Susan Butler, Executive Editor and Publisher

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### **Macquarie University, Buena Vista Café Bar, Sydney**

Thanks for a great and entertaining performance.

Professor Piet de Jong, Head of Actuarial Studies

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### **Mainland Dairies, Peppers Anchorage, Port Stephens, Regional NSW**

You certainly intimidated some during the day, entertained all that night and fooled just a few! There are still a couple of confused believers amongst us, and of course you were mentioned in dispatches to our parent company, the New Zealand Dairy Board.

It was a very enjoyable day and night, with nothing but positive comments about your work with us and the character you played.

Donna Williams, National Sales Manager

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### **Manly-Warringah Division of General Practitioners, Newport Mirage, Sydney**

. . . A most entertaining speaker. If laughter is the best medicine, all present received an overdose.

Prof. Francois Edeot [Rodney] took delight in roasting (the) chairman, past chairman, executive officer, the area health CEO, the hospital executive and any other unsuspecting member who crossed his path. At the conclusion of his very witty and funny presentation, Prof. Edeot confessed . . . That he was not a French Professor of Psychiatry. Many GPs were disappointed that they would be unable to refer patients.

Dr. Frances Black, Director

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### **MARC Global Logistics Services, Hawkesbury Lodge & Rum Corps Convention Centre, Sydney**

Thank you for your effort on Sunday. It was a great success and debate still rages as to who cottoned on when.

David Jeffrey, Managing Director - Asia Pacific

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### **Matt Blatt, House (apartment) in Double Bay, Sydney**

Your presentation on Friday was well received and set the tone for the meeting that followed. We try to keep our staff (and customers) happy, stimulated and open minded and Otto certainly helped to achieve this.

Adam Drexler - Managing Director

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### **McDonald's Family Restaurants, Sheraton Sydney Airport, Sydney**

Thank you very much for your outstanding performance last week.

We have used a lot of guest speakers at our meetings and functions over the years, and I always think to myself what a tough audience McDonald's people are. Well, you certainly broke down that barrier, and did it so convincingly and with real style.

John Blyth, National Field Marketing Manager

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### **McDonald's Family Restaurants, Hydro Majestic, Regional NSW**

Thanks for ... the great job you did last week in the mountains. The group spoke about it into the early hours. I think half of them were stunned by what you were saying, another quarter were simply embarrassed about how Charlie could possibly have invited you to talk to us, and the final quarter are still wondering who the hell you were!

Once again a great job professionally researched and delivered with aplomb!

Nick Rodd  
National Marketing Manager

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### **McGrathNicol, Restaurant - The Quay, Sydney**

Thank you for your performance on Thursday. It was certainly a talking point and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Martin Walsh - Director

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### **Media Lunch, Restaurant - Mr Chow (above the Captain Cook Hotel), Sydney**

Full marks for a great show

Lindsay Foyle - 'pocket' cartoonist, The Australian newspaper

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### **Meetings Industry Association of Australia, Le Meridien, Sydney, Sydney**

Thanks for a great job as MC on Friday. We ended up raising (lots) for Jeans for Genes Day thanks to the raffle and the "fun fines".

Hayley Baxter, Events Co-ordinator

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### **Melbourne International Comedy Festival / La Mama Theatre, La Mama Theatre, Melbourne**

The best show in town for anyone over 24 . . . Is the brilliant Sydney hoaxer Rodney Marks. He's terrific . . . This is very intelligent, very funny stuff.

ABC Radio 3LO

Everyone smiles a lot . . . Great audience rapport.

The Age

Marks is a masterly raconteur . . . Unpredictable and funny

Herald Sun

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### **Merely Players, Hotel - Art House, Sydney**

Hey Rodney, thank you so much for 'leaping in' last night. It was great to see such a wonderful and supremely professional performer at work, and it was appreciated by everyone who came, as well as myself.

Until some other time, keep smiling,

Bryan Cutts, Artistic Director, [www.merelyplayers.com.au](http://www.merelyplayers.com.au), Creative Industry Night #10

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### **Merial, Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast**

. . . feedback was very positive and people were talking about it for the rest of the week. Hopefully we'll get to work together again some time.

Stephen Dove - Director, Companion Animal Division, Merial Australia

. . . feedback has been excellent both from our clients and Steve McIntyre and Jodie Middleton of Axis

Paul Christie - Managing Director, Axis Events Group

(First email) Thanks again for your time at the Merial Conference. The delegates loved it!

(Second email) They sure had a lot of fun!

Jodie Middleton - Event Manager, Axis Events Group

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### **Metcash, Hunter Valley Gardens, Regional NSW**

What excellent feedback from the Metcash Group! You really did an outstanding job.

Dr. Norman Chorn, Conference Facilitator

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### **Metro Holidays, Hotel - 1, Sydney CBD, Sydney**

The hoax that rodney pulled off left our preferred travel agents totally amused, and they found him to be quite convincing due to the research he had undertaken.

There is no doubt in my mind that (our) dinner will be one that leaves them with fond memories and much to talk about.

Roma Zucconi, Sales Manager

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### **Michael Easson's Ethics Seminar, Offices of EG, Sydney**

Just a quick, if belated, note of praise for your comedic presentation last week on joking and ethics

I thought you were superb.

Hopefully you can turn those thoughts into an article or another book

The story about the Macquarie banker and four graphs per slide, advising the Fletcher NZ audience "it is what it is" was hilarious

Thank you,

Dr Michael Easson AM FRICS FAICD - Chairman / Founding Director | EG

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**Michelle Anderson Publishing, The Boulevard, Sydney**

Hi Rodney and Benjamin

It was lovely meeting you both. I'll never forget our introduction, it's the funniest thing I've ever experienced.

We haven't stopped talking about it since....

I just wanted to say that!

Best wishes

Michelle, Michelle Anderson Publishing

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**Minolta Business Equipment, Radisson Plaza, Sydney, Sydney**

It was our privilege to witness an extraordinary performance that is still being talked about.

Graeme Fisher, Director and General Manager

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**Mirvac, Doltone House, Sydney**

Diana (Diana Sarcasmo, National Sales & Marketing Director, Development Division), Marie (Marie Hughes PA to Diana Sarcasmo, Development) and I want to say a HUGE thank you for the amazing job you did on Wednesday night.

You made the night!

We could not have achieved such an outstanding result without you pulling it all together.

Natasha Ryko - NSW Marketing Manager

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**Mirvac Hotels, Restaurant - Robert's, Regional NSW**

"Edward",

I think the Thursday evening was a highlight enjoyed by all, but in particular Greg and Stuart who were awarded the "gullible gong" for being enthralled by you during the pre-dinner drinks. The fact that it was kept a secret for so long was also great.

Many thanks from the "anal retentive" one; if in North Sydney call in for a coffee.

Noel Woodward, Director

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**Mirvac Hotels, Quay Grand Suites Sydney, Sydney**

We have just finished and I am heading home but not before saying the biggest thanks again. Am also flicking through feedback forms and without exception u have received 5 out of 5! WOW! The only person to receive this.

Linda Sweeney - Group Director of Marketing & Communications

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**MLC Insurance, Fairmont, The, Regional NSW**

Your talk was a great way to loosen people up -- everyone really enjoyed it -- even those that were bemused and confused to the end!

Michael Clancy, CFA - General Manager, Investment Management Division

Thanks so much for a wonderful performance! All the attendees thoroughly enjoyed your "talk" on macro-economics

Josie La Spina - PA to the General Manager

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**Montefiore Home, Montefiore Home (Eastern suburbs), Sydney**

Thank u so much for coming today.

Much appreciated.

Monte res loved ur visit.

Top day,

xox :-)

Alice Cohen - Diversional Therapist

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**Morgan and Banks, Sofitel, Melbourne**

You were a huge success and we received fantastic feedback from the day.

Junella Tuck, Executive Assistant to the Sate Director

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**Morgan and Banks, Hyatt on Collins, Melbourne**

Thanks for the fantastic session last Sunday at our National Conference.

Feedback has been received from all States, and the general consencus is that you had 'fooled them all'. However, even when they all realised that you were not who they thought you were, they all agreed that you still delivered a very powerful session, with a strong message.

Geoff Officer, Director - Human Resources

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**Moriah College, Moriah College, Sydney**

Thank you for all your efforts over the past 3 years with ABW ... on behalf of the College and students participating in this year's ABW Enterprise Education Program.

As always it really is so beneficial to hear first hand the entertaining way in which you enlighten our students

Gavin Russell - ABW Co-ordinator

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**Mortgage Force, Hamilton Towers Conference Centre, Hamilton Is., Regional Qld**

Thank you for a wonderful presentation last week. As you can imagine we have had a fair few laughs over the last couple of days talking about the various aspects of the conference and some of the very funny things that happened including the humour surrounding your presentation.

It was certainly a pleasure to work with you.

Karla Degli Esposti - Mortgage Force

I spoke to (Karla) yesterday and she was over the moon so again thanks so much

Sandra Rogerson - General Manager (Exclusive Speakers), Saxton Speakers Bureau

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**Mortgage Industry Association of Australia, Star City Casino, Sydney**

Great entertainment. Excellent.

Belinda Shaw, Kara Management - Conference Organisers

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**Narellan Pools, Mercure Sydney Airport, Sydney**

I wanted to thank you very much for the effort and clever tactics you played on the people involved in your presentation. I am probably going to have to pay for it for a long time. Our Financial Controller, Joe, has said to me personally that I should watch my back! So I guess as you can see you have certainly achieved what you set out to do, so from me and our franchisees, well done.

I hope we can use you and your services again some day, we enjoyed you, and should you require a referral please do not hesitate to let them contact me.

Guy Bright - National Sales Manager

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**National Australia Bank, Sofitel Gold Coast, Gold Coast**

Thank you - I had great feedback from your "performance" and great to have you along

Richard I C Kennerley - State General Manager, nabbusiness Queensland, National Australia Bank

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**National Australia Bank, Westin Melbourne, Melbourne**

It was a riot and nothing but effusive praise the next day.

Thanks for your wonderful work and look forward to future collaborations...

Colin James - professional speaker/trainer/facilitator

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**National Electrical Contractors Association, The Entrance Leagues Club, Regional NSW**

It was fun and many thanks for coming along.

Eris McCarthy - Central Coast President, NECA

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**National Mutual, Hilton on the Park, Melbourne, Melbourne**

Please thank Dr Frederic Lephrohg [Rodney] for his most timely, misleading and most successful presentation to our Insurance Operations Workshop last week.

The people who took copious notes of your most professional presentation of the AXA long-term views, have still not forgiven you. Nor has the person who thought he had successfully completed the groundwork for a trip to Paris.

The threatened retribution towards the organisers has not yet arrived! To ensure others are in the 'hot' seat, I am passing on your business card to business colleagues and acquaintances.

One last request, you'll recall that we spoke about copy of your slides. Please don't forget to send me a list of the words used.

Ron Wodson, Divisional Manager - Marketing and Planning

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**National Speakers Association of America, Hyatt Manchester, San Diego, San Diego**

Rodney was sensational in his three hoaxing sessions, one per post-lunch session. He posed as an Oxford Don and was cleverly biting and witty. He received a standing ovation each time, very well deserved. He was also mentioned during the closing dinner as the speaker who seemed to make the most sense on Day One!

Isabel Deeble - President, NSW Chapter, NSAA

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**National Speakers Association of America, Hyatt Manchester, San Diego, San Diego**

I really enjoyed your program ...

Rich Gibbons  
President, Speak Inc., and  
President, International Association of Speakers Bureaus  
San Diego, California, USA

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**National Speakers Association of Australia, Diana Plaza Hotel, Brisbane**

Fantastic spoof

Paul Brennan, Brennans, Solicitors and Migration Agents

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**National Speakers Association of Australia, Rydges Riverwalk, Richmond, Melbourne**

I simply couldn't have envisaged the mind bending, conference setting, audience involving, laughter provoking impact you would have.

Winston Marsh, Past National President

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**National Speakers Association of Australia, Hotel - Melbourne, Perth**

The workshop got a lot of good feedback and the attendees clearly enjoyed themselves

Glenn Cardwell - President, WA Chapter

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**National Speakers Association of Australia, Swissotel, Sydney**

You will have seen from the feedback summary that I sent you that you and Debra were a hit. I've never heard so much laughter caused around the MCs, rather than speakers

. . .

Many thanks for the fun and laughter you both gave us

Isabel Deeble - NSAA NSW Chapter President

Thankyou both so much for MCing . . . Your warmth and wit touched all our hearts and you made the evening special for everyone

Julie Garland - NSAA NSW Chapter Secretary

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**National Speakers Association of Australia, Rockford, Adelaide**

Your session at NSAA (SA) was superb

David Griggs - Past National President, NSAA

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**National Speakers Association of Australia, The Pavilion, Darling Park, Sydney**

Rodney you are one of my favouritist people - thank you for a wonderful fitting (fitted?) performance and you got some great zingers in there ... you should seriously consider comedy professionally ...

Dale Rees-Bevan - President, SpeakersBank Australia Inc.

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### **National Speakers Association of Australia, Hilton Brisbane, Brisbane**

It was a real privilege to have you at the Qld Chapter meeting. Thank you for presenting for us in your generous, good-hearted style. It was lovely to see the different way of presenting in interview style and also the great example of good humour as well. From my perspective it was also quite heartening to see the meeting well-attended after a poorly attended meeting the month before. A real tribute to you, Andrew and Yvonne.

Ken Warren - Queensland Chapter President

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### **National Speakers Association of Australia, The Grace Hotel, Sydney**

Thanks so much for the very fun session you created for NSAA yesterday. It was a buzzing crowd to say the least and you managed it so well. It was professional, engaging and very entertaining. We loved every minute of it

Elena Reed, president-elect

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### **National Speakers Association of New Zealand, Wairakei Resort, Taupo**

On behalf (or more like be-threequarters, or maybe even all) of NSANZ, please accept the grateful thanks of the most appreciative audience who enjoyed your keynote speech at Wairakei Resort last Saturday evening. Only a man of effluence and extreme verbiology, such as your good self, could have rendered your important topic so magnificently impenetrable, nay, even impermeable - so much so that the dumbkops around the groaning tables had to work very hard to absorb your message at the same time as pushing their envelopes, walking their talks, measuring their outputs, maximising their opportunities, downsizing their middle managements and leveraging their glasses so as to be able to drink from them. You were the cream in our coffee, the milk in our tea, the gas in our champagne and the highlight of our evening.

Oh, and that other bloke who was MC-ing was extra good too! Thank you so much for sharing your talents with us.

Lindsey Dawson  
President, NSA Auckland

So much to thank you for. It was such a privilege to meet you, to hear you speak, to collapse with all consuming laughter. What a gem you are! ... So thank you very, very much. Your contribution was very valuable and I do thank you for your time and talent.

Wendy Betteridge  
Lasting Impact Limited

Rodney, it was fantastic seeing you perform at the Wairakei conference. Having said that, at one stage my head was aching so much from the laughter that I thought I might be suffering some sort of cerebral haemorrhage - but at least I would have died happy.

John Ansell  
Padded Sell Limited

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### **Nationwide Realty, Hilton Sydney Airport, Sydney**

. . . a most entertaining and fun-filled session.

Roger Moran, State Manager

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### **Nestle, Green screen studio, Sydney**

Nestle were very happy with the end result

Kate Whitehair - Head of Experiential & Events, Zing

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**New Holland Tractor Finance, Hyatt Regency Coolum, Sunshine Coast**

Subject: Client very happy

Thanks again. They were very happy.  
Sandra Rogerson - General Manager, Exclusive Speakers  
Saxton Corporation

You did an absolutely fantastic job! Everyone was talking about how good the "CNHC Leader" was.. a lil scary some people still believed you.

You were great!!

Ms Aisha Chandab - Brand Manager  
New Holland Finance

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**Newcrest Mining, Customs House, Brisbane, Brisbane**

From all the feedback: mission achieved.

John Grant - Managing Director, Imap Systems

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**NewTel, Offices of Hunt & Hunt, Sydney**

Thanks - you did a great job. Matters were very serious and some humour really did help.

Tony Lewis  
Director

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**Nomura, Restaurant - Spice Temple, Sydney**

Thank you!

Everyone had a great time and enjoyed your performance. I don't know if Nishikawa-san understood all of what you said but he saw people laughing so that is good

Michelle Sprod - Communications Manager

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**North Sydney Boys' High School, Luna Park, Sydney**

Master of ceremonies Rodney Marks (class of 1975) ran proceedings smoothly with his witty observations and introductions that kept the audience engaged and entertained.

Tim Donahoo - President, Old Falconians' Union (the School's alumni association)

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**North Sydney Boys' High School, North Sydney Boys' High School, Sydney**

Thank you for the MC job on Friday - a sensational job as always and it won't be the same without your witty commentary.

Neil Hunt - President, Old Falconians' Union

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**North Sydney Boys' High School, North Sydney Boys' High School, Sydney**

Thank you to - our MC for the evening, Rodney Marks, who did a fantastic job as always, and kept us entertained.

Neil Hunt - President

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**North Sydney Boys' High School, North Sydney Boys' High School, Sydney**

The feedback I received was that it was the best Dinner for years, due in no small part to your performance, which was sensational.

Tim Donahoo, Secretary - Old Falconians Union

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**North Sydney Boys' High School, North Sydney Boys' High School, Sydney**

. . . the brilliance of your hoax . . . was excellent.

Ron Moffat, Chairman - Old Falconians Union

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**Northern Territory Police, Holiday Inn Esplanade, Darwin**

Your act on Wednesday night definitely entertained all those at the dinner. You have an amazing knack of playing with words. Your compilation of strategic discussion was spot on. We had delegates talking about you all day Thursday, laughing etc. It is just what they needed after a couple of days of serious discussion.

You obviously do an amazing job if you have clients laughing up to a week after the event!

Olivia Paterson, Project Coordinator  
9th National Chemical Diversion Congress

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**NSW Department of Education and Training, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Terrigal, Regional NSW**

We all certainly appreciated and enjoyed your presentation, we have received some very positive feedback!

Colin J Wallis - Principal, Ettalong Public School (and formerly of Pennant Hills Public School)  
Leadership team member, Northern Sydney Region

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**NSW Department of Education and Training, Hotel - The Como, Sydney**

You did a great job Wednesday! So harass is now two words (that got the attention of a few feminazis!)

Jim Richardson  
Principal, Kirrawee High

It was a great night and everyone enjoyed your speech .... I am sure the event will be remembered for years to come

Dr Gai McMurtrie  
District Superintendent, Sutherland

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**NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp), Restaurant - Le Kiosk, Sydney**

I'm sure your act will be remembered at TCorp for a very long time. Thoroughly enjoyable.

Tracy White, Human Resources Adviser

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**NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp), Hotel - Harbour View, Sydney**

Many thanks for last Thursday.....it was a hoot!

Stephen Knight, Acting Chief Executive

Your "performance" definitely livened up the evening (there were still a few people later on asking what you did at Harvard?!). Wayne was totally taken by surprise and loved it all, needless to say!

Judy Burrige, Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive

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**Nulon, Marriott Sydney Harbour, Sydney**

Just wanted to say a big thank you for helping to make the party last Saturday night a huge success. I think it all went off very well and everyone seemed to have a great time. They really enjoyed the roast. I hope you enjoyed the night, too. Once again, thanks for your comic input! It was spot on.

Heather Hackett - Executive Assistant to the CEO

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**Oce - business technology, Offices of Oce, Sydney**

I just want to thank you for the wonderful assistance you provided me with in delivering the 'pay back' to my colleagues. I must say that revenge is the most satisfying feeling I have ever experienced, (it could become addictive).

Kerry Dowling, OCEP Manager

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**Omni Office Interiors, Artarmon Inn, Sydney**

I am sure 'Dr Des Irons' [Rodney] was far better received than, dare I say, our genuine notable designer. Your presentation was spoken about long after the event, and certainly contributed to maintaining a very positive spirit throughout the remaining day of work, thus ensuring the success of our seminar.

John Moffat, National Sales & Marketing Manager

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**Optometrists Association Australia - South Australia, National Wine Centre of Australia, Adelaide**

Hi Rodney - as far as I am aware you have got off scott-free - again! Very good feedback received - and I think one person thought your character were real and wanted a copy of your presentation!

Ian Bluntish did say that "someone is going to DIE...!" He was laughing when he said it but I might avoid him for a week or two!

And funnily enough, for the rest of the conference we couldn't stop referring to you as Perry!

Gary Edwards - Optometrists Association Australia, South Australia

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**Optus, Harbour cruise, or moored boat, Sydney**

I am writing to thank you so much for the sensational job that you did convincing everyone that you were [a senior Cable & Wireless executive from London] and how you even had [our Regional General Manager] worried that he was going senile.

Danielle Mills, Executive Assistant

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**Organisation of Rabbis of Australasia, The Yeshiva Centre, Sydney**

It was fantastic so thanks so much

Rabbi Mendel Kastel - President

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**Orlando Wyndham Wines, Augment Communication, Sydney**

Video was well received.

Maurice Levine  
Director - Incentives and Loyalty Programs  
Augment Communications

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**Orlando Wyndham Wines, Restaurant - Fraser's, Perth**

Thanks Rodney. All good feedback and it was great to meet you at last.

Debra Budich, Event Organiser

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**Oxfam, The Broadway Café, Sydney**

Thanks so much for making our night so successful ... everyone had a great time with you as their MC

Julie Claessens, Smart Food Choices

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**Oxygen Business Solutions, CohiBar, Sydney**

I have heard from several people your performance last night was absolutely FANTASTIC and the audience was completely taken in by Docktor Pauli Dunbai.

Thank you for your brilliant performance and making our 'Partner Event' a huge success!!

Sally Lowry  
People and Brand Team, Auckland

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**P&G Pharmaceuticals, Restaurant - Watersedge, Sydney**

Thanks for your contributions. It was a great performance!

Sahra Barton, Marketing Director

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**Palmer Holt - executive search, Offices of Palmer Holt, Sydney**

. . . thank you for the excellent evening.

Jim Crowe - Partner, and Deborah Cartwright - Senior Associate

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**Paragem, Sofitel, Melbourne**

Good Morning Commissioner: We are back safely ensconced in our Sydney office ( still opposite each other the wrong way round ) and this is the first opportunity I've had to write and thank you for your delivery in Melbourne on Monday evening. The whole evening turned out to be exactly what we had hoped for with a balance of refinement, wit and camaraderie. Your presentation and the sting were terrific and many advisers were still talking about the following morning. Without doubt it worked as we all wanted! Hopefully we will have cause to enjoy each other's company again, if you are ever wandering around the city looking for a lunch companion let me know I'd love to keep in touch.

Ian Knox - Managing Director

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**Pari Passu - corporate finance, Restaurant - Bistro Guillaume, Sydney**

Here's what one of our clients said in an email...

"I can't stop laughing about your guest speaker - what a great idea! His book is hilarious."

Errol Joseph - Director

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**Peck's, Hawkesbury Lodge & Rum Corps Convention Centre, Sydney**

. . . thank you for a most entertaining evening with Dr. (Eddie) Bull [Rodney] at our recent Sales and Marketing Conference.

There is no doubt that Dr. Bull surpassed our expectations . . . Excellent work.

Caroline Jones, Marketing Manager

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**Pennant Hills Golf Club, Pennant Hills Golf Club, Sydney**

. . . Entertaining. (We) enjoyed your performance.

Jack Townsend, Secretary/Manager

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**Perpetual Trustees, The Grace Hotel, Sydney**

Thank you for an excellent night last Thursday night - everyone really appreciated your involvement - it made the night. I am now a legend for my wonderful foresight in arranging your appearance but I couldn't have done it without you !!!!

Paul Prindable  
National Technical Manager  
Fiduciary Services Perpetual Private Clients Direct

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**Perpetual Trustees, Union Club, The, Sydney**

I am delighted with the feedback . . . You done great.

Graham Bradley, Managing Director

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**Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Southee South - Sydney Showgrounds, Sydney**

It was quite enjoyable for us in our corner with you entertaining us. Well done. Very funny stuff.

James, J and K Music - band leader

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**Philips, Fairmont, The, Regional NSW**

It was a lot of fun. Everyone enjoyed it. Some will now look upon me with suspicion and one has warned me to watch my back :-  
)

Tony Saliba - Director, International Key Accounts, Health Systems ASEAN Pacific, Singapore

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**PIMCO, Westin Sydney, Sydney**

Thanks for your message and also a big thank you from PPR for being so easy to work with. I'm yet to hear feedback from Pimco but seeing Peter laugh his way through your stand up I believe is enough!

Juliet Fallowfield - Account Manager, Corporate & Finance, Sydney, Professional Public Relations

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**Pioneer International - Caltex Oil, Novotel on Collins, Melbourne, Melbourne**

Your send-up of a visiting Corporate Adviser to the International Texaco Group of Companies firstly confused, then intrigued and finally won over our Franchisees . . . thank you for a very entertaining and very productive contribution to our Conference.

M. D. Skippington, Regional Manager - Reseller Operations, Victoria

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### **Plain Language Conference 2009, Sheraton Four Points, Sydney**

I can't tell you how delighted we were with what you brought to our conference. Thanks so much for your hard work and for putting up with my (at times) elevated stress levels

Dr Neil James - Executive Director, Plain English Foundation

I agree it was fun ... Now, about splitting the fee....

The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

Congratulations on such a standing lout performance last night. It was great to hang out with your altar ego in the church of well hung plane linguists

Ron Denholm - SEPADO editing

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### **Plaut, Westpac Training Centre, Ingleside, Sydney**

Thanks for last week. It was fun and the team really enjoyed it.

Mark Alder - CEO

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### **Presida Constructions, Sheraton Four Points, Sydney**

John and I thank you for making our Christmas Party so successful and for the professional manner in which you conducted the night and kept your word to every last detail.

Everyone said they had a fantastic time.

Your were right when you said how would we top this event next year, as some of the staff have already asked the question.

Oh well, I'll think about that tomorrow: tomorrow's another day (as Scarlet O'Hara said in "Gone With The Wind").

We will also be recommending you to any of our clients looking for an impressive arms dealer with mafia connections.

Kerry and John Paini - Owners and Directors

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### **PricewaterhouseCoopers, Offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Melbourne, Melbourne**

The event in Melbourne went really well

Nick Houseman -- Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia

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### **PricewaterhouseCoopers, Offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Sydney, Sydney**

Thank you for a great performance last night. I received some great feedback from many people who were taken in by your presentation.

I can assure you that there has been no breach of protocol through your winning the mystery wine game. That is, unless you truly are from the ATO, in which case, accepting a bottle of plonk is the least of your protocol concerns!. Please feel free to enjoy the wine or circulate it as a gift to a family member or friend with our compliments.

Nick Houseman -- Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia

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### **Primary Industry Bank of Australia (PIBA), Defunct Manly Hotel, Sydney**

Dr Levi-Strauss [Rodney] was a great success. He was the talking point of the evening's festivities.

Mike Walter, General Manager

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**Prince of Wales Hospital - Post Acute Care Services, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, Sydney**

The formal evaluation showed . . . the average (score) for your presentation was 8.7 out of a possible 10.0.

Dr. Gideon Caplan - Director, and Ann Brown - Nurse Manager

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**private function - 10th parliamentary anniversary, Gary Nairn, Parliament House - New, Canberra, Canber**

. . . (T)hank [ ] you for the wonderful job you did . . . People are still talking about it in the most positive terms

The Hon. Gary Nairn - Special Minister of State

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**Private function - 18th birthday, Cameron Brown, Telephone performance,**

Thanks so very much for your starring role in Cameron's Senior Basketball Dinner last night! The phone call was a big hit and you had Cameron convinced that Guido really did call.

Cindy Monical  
Birthday boy's mother

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**Private function - 40th birthday, Craig Barnett, House in Rodd Point (Drummoyne), Sydney**

You are the talk of the town! Everybody was blown away by your ruse.

Renate Barnett

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**Private function - 50th birthday, Allen Sobel, House in North Bondi, Sydney**

Everyone loved you.

Louise and Allen Sobel

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**Private function - 50th birthday, Caren Cohen, House in Darling Point, Sydney**

The night went very well and that you certainly fooled 95% of the people - which is a pretty good hit! I know Carin and Mark were very happy with the the evening to which they attributed a great part to you. Take care and I am sure our paths will cross again soon.

Pat Skalsky - friend of Carin, and an event organiser

Thank you for contributing to the success of my party on Saturday. The audience flawed me they were sucked in and the interesting things is they are still talking about the fact that they got sucked in. The other thing was that they were not in a hurry to expose themselves and I must say some of them surprised me but on the whole they enjoyed themselves and I was very happy with the way the format worked. It was a pleasure meeting you and working with you. Once again thank you for your time and patience and for the fun we had on the night

Carin Cohen - guest-of-honour

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**Private function - 50th birthday, Clive Scott, Restaurant - Mezzaluna, Sydney**

You did a fantastic job last night.

Dave Douglas  
Comedy Agent  
Peak Promotions

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**Private function - 50th birthday, Mark Paterson, House in Greenwich, Sydney**

Absolutely everyone there thought you were sensational.

And I don't know where you got the 'comma' from, but it was exceptionally funny and relevant because Mark did indeed remove the comma!

Mark thought you were very clever, very funny and very 'Brussels'. He was surprised and then delighted by your performance.

Anne Riches

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**Private function - 50th birthday, Martin Grunstein, House in Kensington 2, Sydney**

I wanted to thank you most sincerely for your contribution to last night's party.

Apart from making people laugh your words were very kind and well chosen and you made me feel very special.

MG

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**Private function - 50th birthday, Oliver Reichert, Sheraton on the Park, Sydney**

Thank you for the enormous contribution you made to the success of the function. Everyone remarked on what a fabulous speech you gave.

Oliver

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**Private function - 50th birthday, Peter Debnam, Restaurant - Jackie's Bar, Sydney**

Your Cecil Bloggs was quite wonderful. Everyone loved him/you and you both struck just the right note. Despite a thousand explanations, everyone remains convinced you went to school with Peter!

Your generous input helped make the party a fantastic success.

Deborah and Peter

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**Private function - 60th birthday, Andrew Sempell, The Australian Club, Sydney**

It was an excellent night, very much due to your contribution, Rodney.

The Reverend Andrew Sempell - Rector, St James' Church, Sydney

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**Private function - 60th birthday, Frank Marks, House in Seaforth, Sydney**

Manly Warringah GPs group, November 2001

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**Private function - 60th birthday, Margaret & McClay Towers, Gunners Barracks, Sydney**

Lots of compliments. Excellent! Thank you - Stewart McClay, spouse

I wanted to pass on my thanks- you really made my special birthday extra special. A few people cottoned on early- apparently some not all - Margaret McClay Towers

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**Private function - 70th birthday, Glen Bowden, Milton Park Country House Hotel, Regional NSW**

Your performance was very successful on Saturday night and many of the guests were taken in ... even the ones who then remembered seeing you on another occasion. Thank you, it certainly added to a most successful evening

Glen

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**Private function - 70th birthday, Ian Stuart, House in Lindfield, Sydney**

Thanks again for coming to the party (excuse the cliché) and for your kind remarks.

Ian Stuart

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**Private function - 70th birthday, Katharine Brisbane, Currency House, Sydney**

. . . it was terrific and captured exactly the mood we wanted and Katharine was delighted.

Dr. Margaret Leask, Director - Currency House

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**Private function - 70th birthday, Anna Marks, B'nai B'rith Centre, Sydney**

Thank you for the delightful entertainment yesterday. Everybody is raving about your presentation. It really made the day.

Anna Marks - no relation!

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**Private function - Aussie wedding party, Gary and Sharon Friedman, South Maroubra parklands, Sydney**

Let me sincerely thank you for your brilliant performance as the Randwick City Council BigWig or should I say 'BigMoustache' today. You were brilliant and got my dear Scottish mother riled up enough to clobber you. Lucky you stopped in time! Thank you so very much for that and for being with us at our beautiful party today.

Gary Friedman - the groom

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**Private function - Bar Mitzvah, David Kohn, Royal Motor Yacht Club, Sydney**

Thanks so much for yesterday. You were wonderful and made it such a great event.

Professor Robert Kohn

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**Private function - Bar Mitzvah, Guy Suttner, Bonnie Doon Golf Club, Sydney**

People have been reporting back they found Sunday evening very refreshing, and that they enjoyed very much your portion of it.

Immanuel Suttner, father of the bar-mitzvah boy

People loved your jokes and thought you were a hired professional (sic). Which you kind of are. This can only mean that you are very good at your job.

Guy Suttner, bar-mitzvah boy

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**Private function - Bar Mitzvah, Jeremy Cohen, Shangri La, Sydney**

You were fantastic and you made Jeremy's Barmitzvah so special for us all

Karen, Greg, Jeremy and David

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**Private function - Bar Mitzvah, Yossi Doron, Restaurant - Cipri Italian, Sydney**

You were hilarious, seriously you put a smile on everyones face, I'm still laughing at how well you tricked Troy (the butler) into believing you were a rabbi!!

Yossi Doron

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**Private function - funeral, Teresa Pilipowski, Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens & Crematorium, Sydn**

Thank you for being there for me today. I didn't get any of your Polish jokes and hopefully neither did any of my cousins in Poland!

- and later -

I am OK Rodney (except I'm still recovering from your jokes).

Paul - son of Teresa

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**Private function - wedding, Bettina Kaldor and Rodney Brender, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney**

I thought it all went well ... we expect an upsurge in people sampling the Temple this Rosh Hashanah

Rodney Brender - the groom

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**Private function - wedding, Claire Wivell Plater and James Kirby, Hungerford Hill Winery, Regional NSW**

It's been a delight working with you on this grand project - thanks for taking us on and making us laugh!

James and Claire

Thank you so much for last night! It was the best wedding I've had! I think Claire would say it was one of the best she's had. We'll definitely catch up when we get back from our honeymoon.

James

We're back from our honeymoon, but still floating on air! The wedding was all we hoped for and more ...

Thank you so much for all your help ... we knew what we wanted to achieve, but we were really struggling with how to go about it and your humour, creativity and guidance were a major factor in making it so wonderful.

Claire

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**Private function - wedding, David Pickford and Richard Winsbury, House in Redfern, Sydney**

My brother and nieces and nephews thought you were absolutely brilliant. My psychiatrist friend wanted to put you away and study you. Some were just plain confused. What a show!

David - groom

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**Private function - wedding, Liliya Dutch and Tim Donahoo, Northbridge Golf Club, Sydney**

It was a great day and thanks to you for adding to the occasion. Many commented on how well you ran the show and your ability to string words together so cleverly

Tim Donahoo - The Groom

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**Private function - wedding, Susanne Mautner and Ian Middleton, Pymble Golf Club, Sydney**

Thank you for making our Wedding Day so special.

The reason it ran so smoothly was because of the efforts of some special family and friends. And you have been extraordinary !! Your wit, charm and humour made the evening so joyful and gave it that wonderful intelligent, cheerful touch.

Many guests have approached me with much much praise about you !! You have been the highlight of the evening

Susanne and Ian

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**Project Management Institute (NSW), Offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Sydney, Sydney**

Thanks for . . . the great show at the PMI

Leigh Moyle - Vice President & Chief Operations Officer, Sydney PMI Chapter

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**Proprietary Medicines Association of Australia, ANA Hotel Sydney, Sydney**

The audience response was extremely positive - even from those who took copious notes right up to the end. Many thanks for adding a delightful spark to our programme.

Juliet Seifert, Executive Director

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**Public Interest Advocacy Centre - PIAC, Gazebo Sydney, Sydney**

Thank you very much for agreeing to appear at our Open Government Conference recently.

Your insights and experiences were a worthy addition to the program.

Thank you very much Rodney!

Andrea Durbach - Director

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**Public Relations Institute of Australia, Sofitel Brisbane, Brisbane**

I thought the evening went well ... the crowd was with you!

Marjorie Anderson - Chair, PRIA Fellows

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**Qantas Airways, Royal Pines, Regional Qld**

. . . a most enjoyable hoax . . . We all thoroughly enjoyed both you style of presentation and the content.

John Campbell, Marketing Director - Australia

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**QBE, Restaurant - Dedes on the Wharf, Sydney**

The team and myself enjoyed having a man of your standing at our event. Let's hope you can be our guest again soon.

Tatjana William - Executive Assistant to the CEO

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**Quality Assurance Services, Furama Hotel Central, Sydney**

The response was great. It was a good wrap-up for the week's work.

Robert Schonberger, Marketing Services Manager

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**Radio 2GO FM, Breakers Country Club, Central Coast**

... very good feedback from clients, thanks very much.

Richard Pryor, General Sales Manager - Southern Cross Media

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**Rainmaker - financial research, Stamford Double Bay, Sydney**

What a hit

Thank you very much for doing such an excellent job on being our MC for the Rainmaker Marketing awards and for delivering a superb keynote address.

Let's talk soon about opportunities re rainmakeritv and developing a concept that uses your amazing talents.

Christopher Page - Managing Director & Group Publisher

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**Rainmaker - financial research, Ivy, Sydney**

It was such a treat to see you as you and watch you perform in character. You were very funny and I loved your piece and you handled yourself superbly. Doing a piece that requires concentration in a room full of people who were getting looser by the moment - yikes! You were great!

Jean Kittson, comedian - emcee

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**Randwick District Rugby Union Football Club, Randwick District Rugby Union Football Club, Sydney**

. . . excellent. You are still a major topic of conversation around the bar after the game.

Ray Evans, former Australian Captain

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**Red Meat Advisory Council, Stamford Sydney Airport, Sydney**

(Feedback 1) It was great having you ... fabulous feedback from everyone with whom I spoke

(Feedback 2) Hope you had great feedback on your performance ... Terry and I certainly did!

JustinToohey - Secretary, Red Meat Advisory Council (Terry Nolan was the President)

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**Reed Business Publishing (Thomson Business Publishing), Jamberoo Valley Lodge, Regional NSW**

You were undoubtedly the hit of the conference. You made us squirm, you made us laugh and you made us think about the way we go about business - all in all, a very successful enterprise! You received more 'better than sex' ratings than any other speaker on our post-seminar survey!

Ray Welling, Group General Manager - Editorial

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**Reinvent Australia, Sir Stamford Hotel, Sydney**

Hi ... Prof Cherry,

On behalf of the Management Committee I want to thank you very much for last night. A good time was had by all. If I receive any requests for refunds because they feel we got them there under false pretences, I'll surely pass them on!

I'm still in disbelief as to how many people thought you were the real thing, despite your inane answers ... sorry Prof - "at Harvard we believe in systems within systems within systems until everything becomes so systemic, even systematic". Or when I asked you "How could Australia be more like the U.S.?" Didn't that bring the house down.

It just demonstrates the power of frames ... a very useful lesson for RA and for the issues we're addressing.

Graham Kenny - Founder/President

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**Resnik Consulting Group, Restaurant - Watersedge, Sydney**

I thoroughly enjoyed your performance on Tuesday at Pier One, good job mate. Having been an entertainer all my life (as well as a Financial Adviser), I know the feeling of a receptive audience

Brian Sadler, CFP - Financial Planner

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**Rexel, The Black Stump, Sydney**

Everyone had a great night, they thought you were extremely funny, and you had a few people going until the very end!

Jennifer Prior, Marketing & Communications Office

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**Ridley, Yarra Valley Conference Centre, Regional Vic**

Professor: Thanks for your efforts, everyone enjoyed it. It will be memorable. I will keep in touch

Peter Weaver - Chief Executive Officer

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**Ridley, Deep Sea Fishing, Regional NSW**

. . . excellent . . . expertly delivered for maximum effect. Given the feedback I have received, delegates were fooled as well as being entertained.

Mike Dryden, Human Resources Manager

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**Ridley, Tokar Estate, Regional Vic**

It was a great night and is still being talked about by those who were conned (most of the attendees).

Thanks again, Rodney, for being part of our company, and I think you have made a few of us have a close look at how we behave as a management team, as the next day saw a few home truths come to the surface.

Malcolm Gresswell, National Operations Manager

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**RMIT University, Flowerdale Executive Retreat, Regional Vic**

We all had such a great time, staff can't stop talking about it

Elizabeth Tsotra - Personal Assistant to Professor Aleksandar Subic, Head of School  
School of Aerospace, Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

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**Robbie Waterhouse: Bill Whittaker Book Award, Restaurant - Drink Better Wine, Sydney**

From your lunch mate Tim Storrier's wife: "U totally got Tim. He said there was a very interesting Finnish academic and he is not believing me :-)".

Robbie Waterhouse - bookmaker

You did a great job, fooled Tim Storrier!

Pennie Psaltis - Robbie Waterhouse's personal assistant

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**Rogen, Restaurant - Liquidity, Sydney**

I have heard only positive feedback, your presentation was very enjoyable. We don't have enough roasts!!

You have been a pleasure to deal with.

Natalie Orehov

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**Roger Wilson Advertising, Offices at 55 Hunter Street, Sydney**

You had them on a string, a great performance.

Roger Wilson, Director

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**Rotary, Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre, Melbourne**

Ya did great, pal, ya did great!

We loved your contribution to the Centenary Celebration on Wednesday.

On behalf of all of us who were involved in the planning for the occasion, and also on behalf of all of those who enjoyed evening, (and I think that just about means all of those who were present) thank you for your contribution and humorous entertainment. One Rotarian came to me after you finished and said that he got a lot from your wisdom, and in particular, the final thought you left with us all!

And Sir Gus Nossal told me he would gladly be a stooge for you whenever he was invited!

David Wittner, Past President

A very large majority were truly convinced that you were Professor Harry de Kulaus! We have received many messages/letters of congratulations on the night, which included comments on your excellent 'performance'.

Anne Jacques, President

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**Rotary - Chatswood, Roseville Returned Servicemen's Memorial Club, Sydney**

We had all been had . . . Every gullible one of us but none more so than those who rose to their feet and in asking a question showed that they had been taken in: hook, line and sinker! It was a most entertaining evening.

Wayne Kearns - Past President

Thank you to Con deWitt for his wonderful Yes Minister presentation where he said an awful lot about absolutely nothing and then shared some more.

Michael MacQuillan - Rotary newsletter editor

That was great fun last evening. You had them in on the act, but also managed to weave in some very funny pointers to the art of speech writing. The Q&A was especially a laugh . . . I'm still being ribbed for this great hoax!

Richard Gilbert - guest speaker liaison

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**Rotary - Crows Nest, Restaurant - Small Bar, Sydney**

Just wanted to say thank you very much for your talk today, it was very enjoyable. It actually sounds like you're having too much fun for a fellow 'old bloke'! Enjoyed talking to you as well beforehand.

Mark Warr - speaker seeker

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**Rotary - District 9680, Post Productions, Sydney**

Thank you very much for doing the various segments (on video, in preparation) for our 2006 District Conference. The end result is terrific.

Your unique style of humour is refreshing.

Greg Muldoon, District Governor 2005-2006

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**Rotary - Lane Cove, Lane Cove Country Club, Sydney**

Thank you for your entertaining presentation last Tuesday evening, Life as a Comedian, with examples. It was greatly enjoyed by our Rotary audience as you may have judged by the laughter generated and the many questions asked; a truly pleasant change from the educational but sombre talks we've had recently.

Frank Rule - Speaker Programmer

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**Rotary - Macarthur Sunrise (Camden), Camden Valley Golf Resort, Regional NSW**

Everyone enjoyed the night immensely and sought us out on the Sunday morning to compliment us on our choice of entertainer.

David and Mary-Ann Wheatley, Event Organisers

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**Rotary - North Sydney, North Sydney Leagues Club, Sydney**

Nothing short of brilliant.

Brendan Walsh - Program Director & Paul Harris Fellow

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**Rotary - Queensland, Maryborough City Hall, Regional Qld**

Rodney provided a great evening and my guests are still talking about it. An amazing talent.

Craig Winter - Rotary District Governor

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**Rotary - regional NSW/ACT, Dunn Lewis Centre, Regional NSW**

Thanks Rodney. I would certainly recommend you in the future.

Judy Ford - Conference Chair 2020, Rotary District 9710

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**Rotary - Roseville Chase, Roseville Golf Club, Sydney**

Just a sincere word of thanks for last night.

You had most of the people completely fooled right up until the end and we were all thoroughly entertained. A most professional and amusing guise.

I hope I get to meet one or more of your other characters at sometime in the future.

Richard Wilmott - Chair

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**Rotary - Strathfield, Strathfield Golf Club, Sydney**

The members are still talking with glee about your hoax with some members insisting they were not conned! Thank you for a most entertaining and professional performance.

Brian (Board Member)

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**Rotary - Sydney CBD, Menzies - All Seasons Premier, Sydney**

Last night was such fun, thank you for the laughs it made my day. I'll be recommending you!

Yve Lavine - Committee Member

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**Rotary - Sydney Cove, Harbour cruise, or moored boat, Sydney**

The hoax went extremely well.

David Scarlett, President

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**Rotary - Western Australia, Leeuwin Estate Winery, Regional WA**

Thanks for your presentation. It went across exceptionally well.

Colin Thorniley, District Governor (2002-03), District 9450

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## Roxbury Hotel, Hotel - The Roxbury, Sydney

Review written by Lloyd Bradford (Brad) Syke

Rodney Marks is something of a chameleon. Possibly the most personable comic you could ever hope to meet, he is the very picture of respectability, in pinstriped suit, fastidiously-pressed business shirt and old school tie (though look carefully, the traditional-looking emblem thereon may bear a trap). But when the jacket is removed, colourful suspenders betray a hint of mischief and eccentricity. Which means The Farewell Tour of Sydney's Longest Serving Public Servant should be approached with some caution, lest you become snagged on one of countless barbs, or fall into another of the traps he almost compulsively sets. This is to be expected, because Marks is a professional practical joker.

Any lengthy address by a senior public servant in the context of The Roxbury Hotel, in Glebe, on a Sunday afternoon, has to come under scrutiny and suspicion as a hoax. But the genius of Rodney Marks, MBA (Master of Bullshit Artistry), is that his comic monologue, to the unsuspecting or uninitiated, may not be immediately recognised as such. After all, he embraces all the buzzwords that would make him sound the part. He looks the part. And his sober demeanour does nothing to dispel one's reflexive credulity. The address is even flooded by an apparently earnest Q & A. Under the skin, though, his Farewell Tour 'is, as you might imagine, a clarification, elucidation, explanation and illumination of waffle, piffle, double-talk and bureaucratic nonsense'. So steeped are we in such, however, so bombarded by evasive, non-specific polliewaffle, we become susceptible to falling, haplessly, hopelessly and helplessly, into unwitting, sympathetic complicity with his 'self-referential parody and self-deprecating satire', which are 'underemployed and so is Rodney, hence this season'. Our compliance constitutes the comic elegance. Even having realised what we're in for and up against, we must remain, at all times, vigilant, so as not to have the parody do a one-eighty and bite us on the face.

If you've ever been to a convention, conference, congress, colloquium, seminar, tutorial, brainstorm, workshop or breakout session, you'll have something to laugh at, somewhere between the mission and vision statements, white papers, what-have-you. Marks covers all this ground. In his public service persona, he's a man of many words. Most, utterly and intrinsically meaningless which, of course, is as it should be. Much time is spent on linguistic assessment and analysis; because semantics matter.

As a child, I had the Professor Branestawm books. One of the good professor's revolutionary theories, as best I recall, was that if you go double your speed travelling between points A & B and keep doubling it, pretty soon you'll get to B at precisely the same time you left A and, should you go even faster, you'll get to your destination before you even left for it. The same internal logic seems to apply when Marks appeals to us, as follows. 'Perhaps if I talk for five minutes and you listen for five, we might both finish at about the same time. If you finish listening before I finish speaking, perhaps just sit quietly and think privately to yourself until I catch up; it would be most appreciated.'

And, of course, Marks is every bit as clever as Branestawm. By way of but one example, he's been able to put into a system he's developed the framework of a structure for the activities he describes. Well, something like that. We 'free radicals' can't be expected to penetrate such sophisticated modelling at first byte. Much of the modelling, as I'm sure you'll appreciate, proceeds from a semiotic and pragmatic viewpoint, as well it should. I mean, is there any other way of looking at it?

What's more, when Marks shares something (as he's only too pleased to do, being nothing if not generous with his knowledge, such as it is) off-the-record, he does so in the utmost confidence, moving the meeting into camera, so that what goes on is as discreet as it would be if it took place under a cone of silence. In the era of Assange, Manning, Snowden and wholesale identity theft (which, at least, is cheaper than retail), it's damn reassuring.

Just as a car that yes like greased lightning is likely to be automatic, systematic and hydromatic, Marks' thinking system, 'based as it is on systems thinking, isn't so much circumlocutory, annular, or radial, as systemic and, ultimately, cyclic; albeit in a roundabout sort of way'. In terms of process, I'm sure you'll be as relieved to learn, as I was, that 'the system itself is part of its own feedback loop', somewhat akin to 'the snake in Taoist philosophy, impossibly swallowing its own tail'. Inputs are input as input and then, as throughput, transformed, cunningly, into output, which is then measured; 'initially, qualitatively and, ultimately, quantitatively, against a plethora of hierarchies, an aggregation of continua and a collection of assessment criteria', before being put back into the system as refined input.

Marks even deigns to discuss the emerging popularity of research into the subject of deferred gratification, but promises 'more of that later'.

The co-writer (with his son, Benjamin) and performer is best summed-up, methinks, in his own words. 'Rodney performs mostly at business events for the corporate, government and non-profit sectors, so this is a rare opportunity to see him expose himself in public'. Except, in truth, he lays bare much more. As a result, I'm a Marksist.

Farewell Tour of Sydney's Longest Serving Public Servant  
Rodney Marks and Benjamin Marks

Venue: The Roxbury Hotel | 182 St Johns Rd, Glebe, NSW  
Dates: until Dec 15, 2013 (1st + 3rd Sundays each month)  
Bookings: [www.roxburyhotel.com.au](http://www.roxburyhotel.com.au)

### Reference:

The Farewell Tour of Sydney's Longest Serving Public Servant | Rodney Marks. 2013. [ONLINE] Available at:  
<http://www.australianstage.com.au/201309106521/reviews/sydney/the-farewell-tour-of-sydney-s-longest-serving-public-servant->

%7C-rodney-marks.html. [Accessed 15 September 2013]

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**Royal Australian Planning Institute, Panthers, Sydney**

. . . your performance was wonderful.

David Kettle, President

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**Royal Blind Society, Randwick Labor Club, Sydney**

How different is your presentation! The clever use of so many words was quite amazing and I thank you for giving us all such a great night of light-hearted fun.

Patricia Collier, Secretary - Eastside Friends

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**RSA Security, Star City Casino, Sydney**

It was definitely a good play on Identity Theft. Scary thing is I think some people in the audience are still wondering.

Mark Pullen, Manager - Business Development, RSA Security

Am I glad that I didn't just run off and and print what you said from the beginning... you were quite convincing.

Julian Bajkowski, Senior Journalist, Computer World

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**RSA Security, Sheraton Mirage - Gold Coast, Gold Coast**

We had great feedback continue throughout the remainder of the event on the weekend regarding your performance. We thought it was great and look forward to staying in touch for future activities.

Renée Lee, Channel Marketing Manager - Australia and New Zealand, RSA Security

I saw your preso (presentation) up in QLD as part of the Express Data Kick-Off. I was in bloody stitches.

Robert Russo, Express Data, Adelaide

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**Rubik, Offices of Rubik, Sydney**

I'm still in disbelief at how many of our clients truly believed you were a psychiatrist working for Rubik ... even after Wayne thanked you using your real name. Amazing ...

It was lots of fun so thank you again!

Alex Mercer - Account Manager

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**Rural Press, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney**

They all loved the performance and are still talking about it

Alan Pont - General Manager, Special Projects

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**SAI Teys McMahon, Andrew (Boy) Charlton Swimming Pool, Sydney**

Everyone had fun and (of course) all are claiming they knew it was a hoax from the very beginning ... We'll be in touch with an invitation for drinks very soon.

Judy MacMahon, Executive Director

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**Sailability, Manly Yacht Club, Sydney**

I'd like to give you our heartfelt gratitude for presenting Admiral "Rusty Stern" to our fund raising dinner last night. You had the audience of a hundred people roaring with laughter, setting the mood for an absolutely wonderful evening and a most successful auction which followed a little later. It would seem that there is a magical connection between people opening their mouths to laugh and opening their wallets to bid.

Bob Ronai, Public Relations Officer

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**Saint Aloysius' College, Sydney, Saint Aloysius' College, Sydney**

Absolutely fabulous night is the feedback; to think the Chairman of the School and the Deputy Head could be spun out for so long (into thinking that you were Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee)

Grant McMillan, Convenor - sportsman's and co-curricular fundraising dinner

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**Saint George Hospital, Sydney, Novotel Brighton Beach, Sydney**

The feedback I have had from our Annual Symposium has only been positive, and I write to thank you for your contribution in assuring the success of our meeting.

Dr. Stephen Adelstein, Chairman - Postgraduate Committee

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**Saint Peter's Collegians, Adelaide, Royal Automobile Club, Sydney**

You . . . were an outstanding success.

Your style of 'informed corporate comedy' is certainly unique and a welcome change from the more traditional after-dinner speaker's format. It combined that rare combination of wit and a well-researched speech that had all those who attended absolutely enthralled.

Ian Matheson, Secretary

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**Salvation Army, Salvation Army Conference Centre, Sydney**

This is simply to let you know that your visit to our conference was greatly enjoyed. We continued to cover our important subjects, but the constant interjections regarding the "double act" helped us keep our spirits light at important moments.

We were delighted that you came. Thank you for the terms.

Please convey our thanks to Sergio.

Robert Street, Lieut-Colonel  
CHIEF SECRETARY  
Australia Eastern Territory

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**Sam Leon Insurance, Hilton Sydney Airport, Sydney**

You are truly a great performer.

Sam and Pam Leon

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**Sans Souci Public School, St George Motor Boat Club, Sydney**

The feedback has been great - everyone loved (your character) Spiros. You did a great job

Ray Pooley - Principal

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**Sara Lee, Gold Coast International, Gold Coast**

Your display was masterful and the hoax worked a treat to unfreeze our large conference and set it up for a very good result overall.

We took a risk in front of our worldwide divisional President, and it was received extremely well. He thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Ian Cormack, Director - Business Development

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**Saxton Speakers' Bureau, Westin Sydney, Sydney**

We enjoyed working with you and your great performance on the night!

Corina Black  
Sales and Marketing Director  
Westin Sydney

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**Schneider Electric, Marriott Sydney Harbour, Sydney**

Your performance went down very well will all involved, and talk has even filtered outside the room which is always a good sign. We will certainly keep you in mind for any other functions we have in the future, hopefully they will be just as humorous and well played out

Sophie Dixon, Personal Assistant to the Director - Pacific Zone

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**Scots College Old Boys' Union, Australian Jockey Club Convention Centre Randwick, Sydney**

Thank you for your contribution to our annual Rugby dinner. Your presentation was exceptionally funny, was received very well, and added value to our evening

David Purtle - Director, Scots College Old Boys' Union

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**Sefar, Restaurant - Pavilion, Sydney**

A great night. Delighted to be hoaxed and scammed by Rodney. A true professional. ...

Rodney provided a completely believable charcter in Proffesor Phil Terrain, an American Proffesor in business studies at Harvard University. The audience were completely fooled, some still not believing they had been hoaxed after he left. I was particularly impressed with the obvious detailed preparation carried out to present such a believable character and delivery.

David Fleming, General Manager, Filtration - Sefar

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**Select Credit Union, Luna Park, Sydney**

The feedback from staff regarding your session was very positive and enjoyed by all. Thanks. Should any of the other Credit Unions enquire about a speaker I will put forward your name

Delysia Riffel  
Executive Assistant

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**Serco - outsourcing and facilities management, Kirkton Park, Regional NSW**

Thanks for performing last week. Everyone very much enjoyed the evening.

Stephen Ell, Chief Executive

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### **SGA Property, Ivy, Sydney**

Thank you for a wonderful night - your team input made the night go swimmingly and gave the party goers something different and something to talk about. The few that I have seen, ( so early this morning) have all mentioned your great show and interviews way before the beer and Wagu burgers.

It has been great fun and so easy to work with you all.

Keep up the good work

Roger Webster - Non Executive Director

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### **SHL, Novotel Darling Harbour, Sydney**

SHL Australia engaged Rodney to act as our 'new equity parnter' at our National Staff Conference. In this role, Rodgeny provided the final closing speech of the day to all of the SHL team. Rodney played the role superbly, despite presenting to a highly evaluative and descerning audience. It was extremely entertaining to watch the reaction of my team to Rodney's speech and even more so when they finally realised it was a hoax. My team thought he was fantastic and he was the talking point over the conference dinner. I would definitely recommend Rodney for similar corporate hoaxes, and have already done so to a number of colleagues

Sarah Kearney -- Managing Director, SHL Australia & NZ

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### **Sidesplitters, Surfers Paradise RSL, Regional Qld**

I well remember your brilliant performance at Sidesplitters as one of our unpopular local councillors on the issue of our free parking opposite the Surfers RSL.

We "hated" you which made your performance even more credible.

Anytime you're around our way, you're very welcome to come and "chew the fat" with us.

Ian Franklin - committee member - in a letter more than six years' laler: 16 January 2012!

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### **Siemens, Sheraton on the Park, Sydney**

You are still being talked about in the corridors which is a sign of an ever lasting impression.

David Brown is still in therapy and vows he will find a way to "stitch" me up. He admits he only became suspicious when you did the 'hip hip' joke.

Albert enjoyed it but said you must have come from the far east of Germany as he had never heard such an accent other than in Moscow.

It was great fun and I hope to witness you performing again one day

John Chapman - Regional General Manager NSW

I would like to pass on my thanks and congratulations for what was a most enjoyable and entertaining performance. The feedback has only been positive and poor David Brown will never be the same. I'm sure next time he is introduced to a politician he will proceed with the much caution and suspicion.

Until next time, thanks and take care

Tony Saliba - Regional Manager, Sales - NSW/ACT

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**Silcar Communications, Restaurant - Skyway Blue Mountains, Regional NSW**

Thanks, Rodney

You did well. Some people still didn't twig until I thanked you & announced the hoax. One guy, in spite of all you said was disappointed you still didn't cover the FTTN (fibre-to-the-node)

Peter Zeegers  
Business Development & Regional Manager VIC/TAS, Silcar Communications

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**Sinai College, St Lucia Golf Club, Brisbane**

We have heard very good feedback about your show.

Rabbi Levi Jaffe

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**Smart Conference - logistics industry, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney**

This led to a boardroom event in North Sydney, in July 1999

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**Smorgon Steel, Crown Entertainment Complex, Melbourne**

Enjoyed your presentation at Ray's dinner. Will let you know if another opportunity arises

John Barber - Marketing Director

I heard all went very well on Monday evening and thanks for doing such a great job! I wish you all the best and perhaps our paths might cross again one day

Dora Hsieh - PA to Chairman

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**Société Générale, Royal Pines, Regional Qld**

Thanks for your work up north. The feedback was positive and it was well received by all.

All the best and I hope we can work together again.

Jason Shepherd  
Director

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**Sofico, Harbour cruise, or moored boat, Sydney**

Thank you again for your performance last Friday. It was a great hit and everyone is still talking about it. We certainly pulled it off.

Koenraad Van Grimbergen - General Manager

That was so funny, I had to borrow my girlfriend's puffer. I thought I was going to die!

Sue Johnston - Account Management, Support (email, 27 May 2015)

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**Sony, Doncaster Shopping Centre, Sydney**

Thanks for Friday. Great work!

Loren August, Producer

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**Sparke Helmore, Rafferty's Resort, Regional NSW**

It was a great pleasure to have you in our company

Josie Simon - PA to Geoff Pike, Chairman

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**Speakers' Club, Offices of Christie Offices, Sydney**

AND.....how about Rodney Marks? "Thoroughly perplexing", "Brilliant", "Unforgettable" were some of the words used by members to describe Rodney and his "systems thinking" last night - thank you Rodney! Please book Rodney for your next conference.

Michelle Bowden - Founder

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**Special Education State Conference (NSW), Novotel Brighton Beach, Sydney**

Feedback was fantastic - you were the icing on the cake

Paul Wood, Special School Principal and Convenor

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**State Emergency Service Volunteers Association NSW, Bankstown Sports Club, Sydney**

I really enjoyed your presentation . . . I haven't laughed that much in ages and was trying to hold it back, but then ended up laughing so much I was crying. Thanks for the laugh and fun

Therese Cook - Executive Officer

Thanks again for brining such a perfect "end-note" to our conference! Love you work

Camille Valvo - Master of Ceremonies, [www.emcee.com.au](http://www.emcee.com.au)

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**Steel Reinforcement Institute of Australia, Stamford Brisbane, Brisbane**

Excellent.

Mark Turner, Executive Director

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**Stewart Brown & Co. Chartered Accountants, Restaurant - L'Aqua, Sydney**

Thanks, Rodney. Really happy with how it all went. Excellent feedback all round, including on your contribution

Max Hopkins - Partner

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**Stratco, Ayers House, Adelaide**

All went well and the customers had a blast

Michael Horne - Sales Manager, Stratco (SA)

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**Stratus Computer, Novotel Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour, Regional NSW**

You added excitement to the mundane process of routine presentations and gave everyone something to talk about.

Nicole Kennedy, Office Administrator

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**Style Council, Sydney, The Hellenic Club, Sydney**

Congratulations. You were magnificent!

Susan Butler, Publisher - Macquarie Dictionary

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**Suncorp Metway, Novotel Brisbane, Brisbane**

. . . your contribution to our workshop in September was phenomenal. Dr. Noel Hedge [Rodney] blew the audience away.

Dean Williams, Organisation Development Manager

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**Superannuation Services Co., Offices of Superannuation Services Co., Sydney**

For days after you presented . . . We were still receiving comments from those invited to say how much they enjoyed the evening and the speech from you.

Claudia Dalla Pozza, Executive Assistant to the Managing Director

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**Supply Chain Business Summit, Macquarie Graduate School of Management, Sydney**

Rodney, we very much enjoyed having you at MGSM on Thursday night, and will look out for fresh opportunities. Everyone that I have spoken to was taken in, some completely, so I am waiting for tricks to be played on me!

Dr. John Gattorna and Deb Carpenter Ellis - Convenors

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**Svitzer, Radisson Hotel, Chinatown, Sydney, Sydney**

We enjoyed your performance.

Mark Cox - Director, Human Resources

It was a privilege to watch you work.

Tony Latimer - Master Executive Coach and the conference's facilitator

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**SWAP (Salespersons with a Purpose), The Grace Hotel, Sydney**

Thank you for a great hoax this morning. There were a lot of hidden gems in the presentation.

David Ball - Special Associate, Global Supply Chain Group

Sheer class at SWAP today Rodney!

Hugh Todd - Mentor, Strategist & Coach

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**Swim Schools Conference, ANZUS, Stamford Grand Glenelg, Adelaide**

Thank you very much for your performance - it went down very well.

David Urry, Managing Director

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**SwissCham Australia, Dockside, Cockle Bay, Sydney**

As always, it was a great pleasure working with you.

Marcel Svatos - General Manager

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**SwissCham Australia, Swissotel, Sydney**

You were great as usual and absolutely made the evening.

Brian Greig - Non Executive Director

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**Switzer - Sky TV, Sky TV, Sydney**

I have had some great feedback

Peter Switzer, Switzer Financial Services

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**Sydney Airports Corporation, Restaurant - Imperial Peking Harbourside, Sydney**

Ruth, Ron, Ellie and myself thoroughly enjoyed having you, as did the rest of the team. In fact, they're still laughing about it.

Deirdre McDonald, Personal Assistant to the Head of Finance

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**Sydney Boat Show, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney**

... a great morning. We made one error - we should have had Mike Bailey announce who you were at the end of the presentation. I was stunned by the number of people who asked me post event if they could interview you. Some very funny stories (and some scary) which I can tell you about ...

Domenic Genua  
Marketing & Event Manager  
The Boating Industry Association of NSW Ltd  
The Sydney International Boat Show

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**Sydney Boys' High School, South Sydney Junior Rugby League Club, Sydney**

Your concept was brilliantly conceived and proved to be a great success.

Paul Gay, 20th Anniversary Reunion Committee Chair

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**Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney**

Your presentation was excellent, revealing the scope that humour can add to a meeting. Judging from all the feedback from those attending, your efforts greatly contributed to the success of the evening.

Cheryl Heley, Sales Development Manager

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### **Sydney Fringe Festival, The Other Room @ The Factory, Sydney**

Excerpt from a review in Australian Stage, by Brad Syke

Be afraid, be very afraid. The world needs more of him, lest we start to take ourselves, our institutions, governments, corporations, processes or systems too seriously; a constant danger we must vigilantly guard against. Rodney Marks is a genius, wrapped in linguistic parody, inside a suit. Any resemblance to any executive, official, spokesperson, expert or authority is purely unavoidable.

Full Marks!

The whole review is at

<http://www.australianstage.com.au/201009143847/reviews/sydney/comedian.com.au-%7C-rodney-marks.html>

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### **Sydney on Sale, Australian Jockey Club Convention Centre Randwick, Sydney**

After operating for twenty years, how was the Sydney Opera House going to make an impact on the somewhat jaded audience that would attend the launch of the 20th birthday celebrations?

The politicians, the arts media and the leaders in the performing arts industry . . . were all suitably surprised and entertained, when as a world leader in architecture, you took the stage and explained how we intended to "modernise the old-fashioned Utzon-designed, beginning with flattening the roof".

Deborah Cartwright, Marketing and Media Manager

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### **Sydney Weekly - newspaper, Australian Museum, Sydney, Sydney**

I would like to express my warm appreciation to you for your excellent performance as Joe King. . . Not only did you fool almost everyone with your hoax, you did so in great style, and with a level of sophistication that was not expected. . . A number of people commented to me afterwards that your depiction and script were 'brilliant'.

Mark Chipperfield, Contributing Editor

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### **SydneySiders Express - Men's Barbershop Chorus, Abbotsleigh School, Sydney**

Very polished, a true pro, let him off the leash next time; he's a great performer.

Written feedback received by John Unsworth - Concert Committee Chairman

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### **Tasmanian Awards for Excellence in Advertising, PR and Marketing, Grand Chancellor Hobart, Hobart**

Your portrayal of the esteemed American academic Professor Marc Etting . . . was extremely convincing, to the extent that our Premier and the Chief of the Hobart Mercury were contemplating a possible return by you . . . to a formal luncheon of distinguished guests. In a way it's a shame the hoax did not continue . . .

Phil Wallbank, Member - Organising Committee

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### **Telecom New Zealand, Rotorua Convention Centre, Rotorua**

Great work - really enjoyed your sharing (of) all that expert knowledge.

Jo Reynolds, General Manager - Celebrity Speakers (New Zealand)

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### **TeleTech, Offices of TeleTech, Melbourne**

. . . thank you for your wonderful performance at the Melbourne lunch. People are still talking about it.

Michelle Sprod, Marketing Manager

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**Telstra, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Terrigal, Regional NSW**

I have to compliment you on the excellent material you prepared for us. Your after-dinner speech was riotously funny and certainly deflated any egos still floating out there in the ether.

Jennie Wright, Marketing Services Manager

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**Temple Emanuel North Shore, University of Sydney, Sydney**

Your patter helped set the tone for a relaxed and enjoyable evening.

Dr Frank Wolf, President

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**Tempo Services, Novotel Brighton Beach, Sydney**

Thanks for your presentation the other evening at Tempo's dinner - it went down an absolute treat

Narelle Walker, Executive Assistant

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**Ten Questions You Must Answer Before You Die! - book launch, Hotel - Hughenden, Sydney**

Dear Rodney And Joshua,

What an extraordinary contribution you made yesterday!

I've had outstanding feedback from all parties, who found it a delightful afternoon on every report.

I thank your entire family for your creative and considered kindness!

Dr Danny Beran - author

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**Tenix, The Point, Melbourne**

Well done tonight ...

Thanks for the laughs ...

Gordon Sue - Mergers and Acquisitions

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**The Buzz Insurance Co., Manly Quarantine Station, Sydney**

Thank you for the great contribution to our conference and dinner

Jacki Johnson - CEO The Buzz

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**The Cargo Club, Roselyn Court, Melbourne**

Thanks for yesterday. You were certainly the talk of the party. Do you realise the "cylinder controller" from Air Liquide had no idea you were other than the Managing Director from Kuehne & Nagel? Our friend "Mr King" down the back is the most obnoxious person - I won't begin to describe - so everyone agreed it (the insult comedy directed at him) couldn't have happened to a better person.

It was great to see Arthur enjoy himself so much. He has a pretty tough time.

Ruth Giddings, Event Convenor

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**The CEO Circle, Shangri La, Sydney**

They all enjoyed greatly your extraordinary ability to create havoc with their thoughts and craft a meaningful message.

A J Williams  
Chief Executive - Sydney

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**The CEO Institute, Four Seasons, Sydney**

What a wonderful job, and thanks so much ...  
a great contribution, very hard to top!

Yvonne Howie, Chief Executive - NSW

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**The CEO Institute, Offices of The CEO Institute, Sydney**

What a great night!

Yvonne Howie - Chief Executive, NSW

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**The Chris O'Brien Lifehouse at RPA, Restaurant - Rock, Hunter Valley**

Your clever and witty keynote address was well-received and added to our guests' enjoyment of the evening

David S Clarke AO

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**The Emanuel School, The Emanuel School, Sydney**

. . . thank you for your absolutely fantastic contribution to the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. I split my sides laughing.

David Solomon, College Principal

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**The 'Mo' Awards, Bankstown Sports Club, Sydney**

Your comedy routine really set the fun atmosphere on the night.

Thanks for the clever lines and the quick ad-libs.

Marty Morton - Producer/Director

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**The 'Mo' Awards, Bankstown Sports Club, Sydney**

I really enjoyed myself last night --- and "you" did a great job

BAZ - Barry Crocker

Compere Rodney Marks delivered a fantastic monologue in his inimitable deadpan fashion that had the audience in stitches

Entertainer Bobby Bradford - President

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**Tom Waterhouse, Restaurant - Rosetta, Sydney**

Rodney, you were so good.

- Tom Waterhouse

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**Tomago Aluminium, Hexham Bowling Club, Regional NSW**

Thanks again for a great evening, your spot was amazing (how do remember that stuff??), I thoroughly enjoyed it and there has been plenty of talk at Tomago about you.

Tony Camps - Sourcing Advisor, Tomago Aluminium

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**Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce, Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, Regional QLD**

Grand performance, congratulations!

Greg Johnson - Chief Executive Officer, Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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**Trish Multiple Sclerosis Research Foundation, Hilton Sydney, Sydney**

Your performance was awesome Rodney, evidenced by the laughter in the ballroom.

Carol Langsford OAM - Chair

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**Trish Multiple Sclerosis Research Foundation, Parliament House, New South Wales, Sydney**

Hi Pauli (Rodney)

Quite frankly, you were FANTASTIC. Your assistance helped the Foundation raise over \$100,000. You did a great job Rodney, and had Mr. (Barry) O'Farrel (the Deputy Leader of the NSW Opposition, and the host of the event) in stitches.

Thanks a million for all your help!! See you soon - Thanks again

Geoff Wolf, Committee Member

The feed-back regarding your brilliant performance has been amazing. Everyone is speaking about you!! Everyone to whom we have spoken has been glowing in their praise - quoting parts of your performance and laughing all over again. There were people with the tears rolling down their faces from laughter

Carol, Committee Member

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**Twenty Twenty Marketing, ANA Hotel Sydney, Sydney**

Well, those who got the joke on the day are still laughing, and those who didn't are still intrigued.

Again, on behalf of my fellow directors and our clients, thank you for a great experience wonderful laugh.

Matilde Busana, Managing Director

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**UBS, Theatre in Chifley Tower, Sydney**

Your presentation was extremely well received.

David Leitch - Director, Utilities

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### **UGL, Yarra Valley Lodge, Regional VIC**

Was a great night and well played as usual. Everyone had a great night and had you have not done the outro, I think we could have carried it to the next day! Will be sure to keep in touch,

Anthony Ward - National Operations Bid Manager, UGL Engineering

Was great to be entertained and sucked in last night!

Alison Cukier - PA

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### **UGL, Château Élan, Hunter Valley**

Thanks, Arlo. Team loved it! Particularly Ross (Taylor, CEO)

Emily Holborow - Group Marketing and Communications Manager, Corporate

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### **UNE (as artist-in-residence), Booloominbah, Regional NSW**

. . . thank you most warmly for having given hundreds of UNE staff, UNE alumni, and delegates to various conferences great entertainment, permission and opportunity to laugh at themselves and us, and to reflect afterwards on our use of language.

Professor Ingrid Moses, Vice-Chancellor

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### **United Group, Restaurant - The Malaya, Sydney**

I also enjoyed the whole experience of working with you - you made things easy and you were very efficient! The hoax went well and, most importantly, provoked great conversation about our culture ie why it was that we could be taken in, when we have stated values of integrity, open communication and teamwork!!

Dr Margaret Byrne - Principal Consultant UGL Learning

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### **University of New England, Parliament House, New South Wales, Sydney**

You were fantastic, and I want to say how thrilled we all were at what you did. The feedback has been totally marvellous.

Jamie, UNE Alumni Association

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### **University of New South Wales, UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Whoever you were, you were a hit with the organisers and your ultimate UNSW audience.

Jessica Milner Davis, President

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### **University of New South Wales, Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney**

Just wanted to give you a big thank you for MC-ing the Gala! It was a big success - we couldn't have done it without your humour and ability to keep the crowd entertained all night.  
-- (Katrina Iannella - Student/Event Organiser)

A wonderful evening last Friday greatly enhanced by your skills in corporate observation and commentary.  
-- (Professor Mark Uncles - Deputy Dean (Education), UNSW Business School)

Dear Rodney Professor Lou Pole,

It was such a pleasure meeting you on Friday night at our gala event. Thank you for making us all laugh throughout the night - you did such a terrific job - and keeping the UNSW GSDO show on the road. Many of the attendees were raving about you at the end of the night, and couldn't believe how well you convinced them that you were the Dean of Harvard Business School.

I would also like to thank you immensely for spruiking me in front of all our guests. I am not sure what opportunities may arise from the connections I made on the evening but I have lots of emails to send this morning, and I am sure something fabulous will come up for me! Thank you again, and I look forward to any opportunity where I will work with you in the future!!  
-- (Natalie Romaniuk - Student/Event Organiser)

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### **University of Newcastle, Sails Resort, Regional NSW**

I was in Port Macquarie a few days ago, meeting with local government and local business folk, but all they wanted to talk about was Herman.

They told me, in fact, that Herman is mostly what they've talked about at their meetings since that night. Amusingly, apart from being impressed by Herman's intellect and insightful comments, they also told me that they thought "things like that" (the hoax) only happened in sinful places like Sydney and Melbourne and were really chuffed that it happened in Port Macquarie. So, it seems that Herman bought big city sin to an innocent holiday spot

Professor Kevin McConkey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

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### **University of Sydney, University of Sydney, Sydney**

. . . thanks for your marvellous contribution to the evening.

Michael Larkin, Sydney University Management Association

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### **University of Sydney, HC Coombs Centre, Reserve Bank, Sydney**

Thanks again for your great performance.

JB (Jan-Baptiste) Claray - Administrative Coordinator, Executive Programs, Executive MBA

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### **University of Sydney, HC Coombs Centre, Reserve Bank, Sydney**

I really enjoyed your performance. In fact it's been my favourite dinner speech on the course. There have been many discussions about it from quite different perspectives amongst the cohort.

Tim Scholes - Head of Software Architecture, Qantas Assure

Thank you again for working with us this year. Everyone was surprised and it got them all thinking. We'll have to watch out for paybacks in future modules though!!

Lucy Commis - Program Coordinator, Executive MBA - Management Education

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**University of Sydney, University of Sydney, Sydney**

Thanks again for Tuesday. The group is still talking about it.

Jane Lowther - Senior Facilitator

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**University of Technology, Sydney, UTS Kuring-gai Campus, Sydney**

The class really appreciated the elaborate joke.

Lee-Anne Hall, Program Co-ordinator, School of Leisure and Tourism Studies

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**University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Lodge & Rum Corps Convention Centre, Sydney**

Thank you for what was a most entertaining event. The feedback from all who were there was very positive

Mick Serena - Director, Capital Works and Facilities

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**University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Lodge & Rum Corps Convention Centre, Sydney**

Excellent.

Christine Brierley, Executive Officer - Chancellery

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**University of Western Sydney, Novotel Northbeach, Regional NSW**

The feedback from Wollongong was terrific. Well done! And thanks very much. I hope we catch up again in the next five years. (Rodney's last performance for this same senior executive team had been five years previously.)

Rhonda Hawkins  
University Secretary

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**University of Wollongong, University of Wollongong, Regional NSW**

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from all sections of the University, and many are still asking whether you are really the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Infrastructure).

Your skill and intelligent humour worked extremely well with what is normally a difficult and highly critical audience.

Professor Sharon Bell, Dean - Faculty of Creative Arts

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Good performance.

Professor Fred Hilmer, Vice-Chancellor

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Thanks for a great performance - we loved it!

Jenny Denman - Manager, Client Services, Facilities Management

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Thank you so much for your performance yesterday. It was GREAT - to coin an old phrase (from people of my era) "you laid 'em in the aisles". I am quite sure you made graduation for all involved a most memorable and enjoyable experience.

By the way, I am not normally so slow on the uptake when you tried to scare me with the "Power Point" moment. Next time, I shall be prepared. I'll have to keep my ear to the ground and listen for other characters, alias Rodney Marks, as they appear on campus.

Debra Thompson - Manager, Ceremonies Graduations and Examinations, Student Administration and Records

I was speaking to a girlfriend yesterday (film producer not academic) who attended her daughter's graduation the previous day and she raved about the the graduation speech you gave. A breath of fresh air is what she called it. She also told me that her daughter's aunt (an academic at UTS) was crying with laughter, as she herself was.

Congrat's on this achievement

Associate Professor Lucy Taksa, PhD  
School of Organisation and Management, and Director, Industrial Relations Research Centre  
Faculty of Business (incorporating AGSM), University of New South Wales

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

I loved your talk, especially the interaction with the questioners and afterwards as by then I think they had all realised it was a scam and were right into the swing of it. I must admit I was a bit nervous for a while as I think many of them wouldn't have understood most of the words you were using at the start but the presentation evolved nicely into the more obviously outrageous. It was a great light touch amidst the serious advice and hopefully made them feel that they were out of the school milieu and entering one which includes a bit of intellectual sophistication and wit

Carolyn Cousins - Teaching and Learning Consultant, Education Development Unit, Faculty of Business, UNSW

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Your presentation was a great success. Brien loved it and the staff are still talking about it! Thank you so much for your time and humour.

Clare Gillis - Corporate Services Manager, Institute for Eye Research

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Professor Fred Hilmer  
Vice Chancellor  
University of New South Wales  
The Chancellery  
Gate 9, High Street  
KENSINGTON NSW 2052

Dear Fred,

The Artist in Residence of University of New South Wales, "Visiting Professor" Rodney Marks, addressed our staff (from the Institute for Eye Research, Vision CRC, International Centre for Eyecare Education and Postgrads and some staff from the School of Optometry and Vision Science) at our Staff Meeting last Friday 25 May 2007 as Prof Len Schappe. (Lenschapp?)

He was an absolute hoot. He had the staff in two minds whether as the new Deputy Vice Chancellor for Strategy, he was an eccentric ex-English professor that was hired for his elocutionary and economic brilliance or whether the University had gone 'troppo'.

In these serious times he was an outstanding contribution to sanity and insanity, fun and frolic, levity and learning. The staff loved it.

When he got stuck into me and our 'Unilove' project (i.e. making UNSW love us and us love the UNSW) for being sycophantic, hypocritical, bottom feeders that raped and pillaged the University at every turn, i.e. not giving the University a big enough slice of the cake (not true of course), or for me being oversized for my height and overeducated for my IQ - the staff did not know whether to laugh or die suppressing their laughter. Several had to leave the room for fear of a Monty Python-like explosion.

He was in a word, wonderful.

I wanted you to know how appreciative we all are of this innovative and thoroughly uplifting initiative. It was the perfect way to end the working week.

Thanks from all of us,

Brien Holden, Scientia Professor

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

On behalf of all of us, thank you for your presentation yesterday. I will not easily forget the opening remark about 15 minutes talking and a quarter of an hour listening and we should finish at the same time. Priceless

Dr Erik van Voorthuysen - School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, UNSW

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

My Dear Vice Chancellor

I thought you might like some feedback on students' reactions to Rodney.

I invited Rodney to be an "expert guest" in my 4th year honours and Masters class in the actuarial program last night.

The course is about risk management in financial institutions and we also try to get students as part of the course to think for themselves and just not follow accepted practice without reasonable reflection.

The purpose of having Rodney was therefore to:

- (i) drive home that experts are not always what they appear to be
- (ii) the class is about learning in a fun environment

As you can see from the (unsolicited) email below that reflects the majority of students' views (but possibly not the few that got taken in completely), we achieved the objectives

Thanks for providing Rodney

John Evans  
Associate Professor, Actuarial Studies  
Deputy Director, Centre for Pensions and Superannuation Faculty of Business  
University of New South Wales

-----Original Message-----

From: Imanuel Costigan [mailto:i.costigan@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2007 9:40 PM  
To: John Evans  
Subject: Guest Lecturer

John

[Rodney Marks] aka Rob Deklyent was a fabulous and hilarious treat. I think he more than adequately was able to demonstrate (live) the ability of audiences

(even 'smart' professionals like us) to be overtaken by hollowness parading as intellectualism.

I was quite concerned that even after Rob had gotten well into his post-modern deconstructions and waxing ever the more eloquently, that there were still students that were unsuspecting of the stunt being pulled. I must admit, I was drawn in for about the first 2 mins, after which I suspected either a pompous fool presenting or some cruel joke. As you had selected this speaker, I almost ruled out the former.

Didn't realise that I was watching Tuesday Night Comedy Live @ UNSW.

Very good! Look forward to the rest of the year and am happy that I returned

to my alma mater to do Part II study.

--  
Kind Regards  
Imanuel Costigan  
e: i.costigan@gmail.com  
m: +61 (0) 409 787 519

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

What great feedback from the students - far more questions than the first mob - a cynic or two but it went over well and they seemed to appreciate it more. Which surprised me - I thought the more mature students would be more into it

David Laurence  
Associate Professor and Director - Postgraduate Studies & International Development  
School of Mining Engineering, UNSW

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

I enjoyed your presentation immensely, as was probably evident from my tears of laughter. A number of people expressed their appreciation of the light note on which the symposium concluded. Given that people were tied to their chairs from 12.30 until 4 without a break, your spiel was truly a welcome relief

Associate Professor Lucy Taksa

School of Organisation and Management; Director, Industrial Relations Research Centre, Faculty of Business

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

I want to thank you for today. I thought it went fantastically

Dr Diana Olsberg, Head, School of Sociology and Anthropology, UNSW

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Hello Rodney,

Many thanks for your appearance at our Board meeting on Monday. A good suggestion from my Dean, good luck that you were available at such short notice and a nice touch that the VC was happy to support the event.

I've had a very varied feedback from absolute enjoyment to some anger with me for 'setting up' the RQF – with hindsight, may be a topic too close to the bone for some, so serious it should never be trifled with. However, as another colleague has said I should have had a little sign "Lighten-up". So all in all a positive in-put to our last formal meeting of the year and my last as Presiding Member.

Again my thanks and hoping you have a good summer break.

Regards

Peter

Peter Murray - Presiding Member, Faculty of the Built Environment

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Bravo! Oh the stress release from a good laugh!

Victoria Finlay, Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

The students may have been puzzled at first, but your simulation of a art theory class was spot on and I think it provided the perfect conclusion to a long, and pretty dry information session, and helped set the tone for the rest of the day

Graham Forsyth - Associate Dean (Academic), COFA, UNSW

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Thanks for your contribution to our retreat last week ... everyone enjoyed your presentation.

Professor Alec Cameron - Dean, Australian School of Business

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Excellent! Thanks so much

Dr Ross Harley, Senior Lecturer - School of English, Media & Performing Arts, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Sent: 14/05/2007 12:39 PM  
To: Fred Hilmer (Vice-Chancellor)  
Subject: Artist-In-Residence

Dear Professor Hilmer

I am sending you this email to provide some feedback on the success of having Rodney Marks address my students last week.

Rodney addressed my postgraduate class on Policy Analysis. He addressed the students as Dr Beau Rocraci, President, Cabinet Secretariat, European Parliament, Brussels. The students were advised in advance that he was visiting Australia and through the university was able to speak to a small number of students.

Rodney put on a great performance. It was almost some 30 minutes into his performance before some students pick up that this was a hoax. Rodney very cleverly poked fun at the students, the staff and the broader process of public policy and the institutions involved. When the hoax was revealed the class broke down with laughter. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Rodney then engaged with the students in a debrief discussion where we examined the need to seriously question how people present their case, probe for evidence etc.

It was an extremely valuable and enjoyable learning experience for students. For postgraduate students, who have all spent a full day at work before coming to class, they found the experience stimulating and worthwhile.

The university's support for humour in the teaching process has certainly proved to be appreciated by the students and I hope the university continues to support such innovative programs.

Christopher Walker  
Senior Lecturer and Co-ordinator, Master of Policy Studies, School of Social Sciences and International Studies

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Another dazzled audience, another incognito success, another entertaining triumph. Many thanks for a wonderful presentation, everyone has been raving to me - which is so appropriate for working at UNSW

Peter Coady - Marketing Communications Manager, UNSW Global

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), Dockside, Cockle Bay, Sydney**

We wanted to thank you so much for your performance at Law Ball! You handled an incredibly difficult crowd impressively

Leana Livits - Co-President, Law Students' Society

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Dear Professor Hilmer,

I should like to put on record---and thought you might be pleased to learn---that Rodney Marks made a most significant contribution to the celebrations held in the Webster Building last Wednesday (28 November) by the School of English, Media & Performing Arts to farewell Professor Philip Bell. (It was an occasion which I helped organise and at which I acted as MC.) Rodney's hilarious contribution was the fourth and climactic speech, on behalf of the Administration in general and Human Resources in particular, following three speeches by colleagues within the School. I have heard similarly glowing reports of his contribution to University life over the past year. It was an inspired decision to appoint him, and I urge that his contract be renewed for 2008!

Best regards,

John Golder  
Hon. Senior Research Fellow  
School of English, Media & Performing Arts

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), Restaurant - Pool Café, Sydney**

Very good Luc! For some of them the ruse lasted the whole gig! Nice word trix

Dr Greg Peters  
Centre for Water and Waste Technology, Civil and Environmental Engineering

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Bravo! That was absolutely MASTERLY!

Dr Anne Wyatt - Visiting Fellow, Safety Science

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Many thanks indeed for a great performance on Monday

Dr. Erik van Voorthuysen - School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Thanks for an outstanding performance last Friday night. You pitched the whole thing perfectly and had everyone in stitches

Jane Westbrook - Director, Alumni and Community Partnerships

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

I dont think I've enjoyed a lecture more than your 'ethics' lecture last Tuesday. Shame I can't pay attention in the lectures I'll actually be tested on. Nice work, haha

James Ryan - third year engineering student

I'm surprised only one student found the feedback form. I received many enthusiastically positive comments on your lecture and I am very happy that we bumped into each other and decided to go forward with the idea. Let's just say the "Student Experience" was a winner that day. Now if we could just get more academic staff on board with innovative teaching practices we might actually make a difference

Dr. Carl Reidsemar - Senior Lecturer in Design, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW Global, Sydney**

Thank you ... for your outstanding contribution on the night. Staff still talk regularly about it, with many of them shaking their heads in amusement and others just laughing at the memory

Peter Coady - Marketing Communications Manager

Thanks very much for an entertaining afternoon

Liddy Korner - Director, Sales & Marketing

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Dear Professor Hilmer

Just a quick note to let you know that we used Rodney Marks (aka Professor Djieff Zecativ, President of Riga State University and the former Treasurer of Latvia responsible for the introduction of the infamous Latvian flat tax) at our Personal Income Tax Reform Symposium today. Rodney was excellent and added a wonderful touch to the end of a very successful conference. I certainly applaud the initiative of the appointment of the roving Professor of Comedy, and will be looking forward to enlisting Rodney's services again when the chance arises

Professor Chris Evans  
Atax, The University of New South Wales

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**UNSW (as professor-at-large & artist-in-residence), UNSW: University of New South Wales, Sydney**

22/11/07

Professor Fred Hilmer, AM  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of New South Wales

Dear Professor Hilmer,

I am writing to thank you for your sponsorship of the 'Artist in Residence Program' which has supported comedian Rodney Marks being at UNSW for 2007.

Rodney made a splendid contribution to the Planning and Urban Development Program's 'Launch 2007!' event last Tuesday.

Kind regards,

Susan

Associate Professor Susan Thompson  
Head, Planning and Urban Development Program  
Faculty of the Built Environment

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**Van Leeuwen Pipe & Tube, Crowne Plaza Norwest, Sydney**

It was such a fantastic performance that I'm sure all participants will remember for many years to come!

Katherine Cole - Executive Assistant

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**Variety Club of Australia, Hyatt Regency Adelaide, Adelaide**

What a fabulous night! Your quiet artistry was something to behold.

Chris Osterman - Hon. Event Chairman, SA; and Sue Fraser - Executive Director

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**Vascular Interventions 2009, Restaurant - Harbourfront, Wollongong**

Just a short note to thank you for your contribution to VI2009. We enjoyed your participation very much.

Dr David Huber - Convenor

Thank you for your participation. I for one enjoyed it.

Andrew Carraro - conference organiser

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**Veritas Software, Peppers Anchorage, Port Stephens, Regional NSW**

We really got great value out of your session and presentation to us. The level of professionalism you showed in designing and setting up the session was excellent and it showed in the final product. Having an irreverant but pointed look at how we operate and getting the whole scenario linked in was a great focus for self reflection, irreverance and just plain fun for the team ... Really enjoyed by everyone in the team including our Senior Execs from the US.

Personally I thought it was great and I had a pretty good laugh too - even at my own expense at times.

Russ Whitley  
Northern Region Manager

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**Veterinary Manufacturers & Distributors Association, Lauriston House, Sydney**

Thank you very much for a highly successful evening. Very good feedback coming in already! Sally was taken in, hook line & sinker and very much appreciated the 'flea colony' plug

Alan Pyefinch - VMDA organiser

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**Volante Systems, Offices of Volante Systems, Sydney**

Thanks for a great performance, the office is still talking about it. I hope we can convince marketing to get you to do a client function in the near future.

Allen Smith, National Sales Manager

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**Warner Bros. Movie World, Warner Bros. Movie World, Regional Qld**

U have to come and see the show. U and your (stage) nephew are hits!

Jen - Production Manager, Hollywood Stunt Driver

Show is a smash hit. Rave reviews.

Robert Clark - Director and Writer, Hollywood Stunt Driver

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**Water, Law and Policy Conference, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney**

Thanks for being so wonderful.

Anne Vince, Professional Conference Organiser - Country Conferences

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**Western Power, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Perth**

Fantastic performance

Neil Cullingford - Marketing Manager

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### **Western Sydney Business Connection, WatervieW in Bicentennial Park, Sydney**

"Dr Phil": Great work yesterday. Much good feedback and some are still scratching their heads - making it even funnier. I suspect the poor AV guy is seeking therapy.

\* Whitney Rousham - President

Hilarious session at lunch today Rodney... thank you.

\* Anthony Moss - Deputy Chair, Sydney Hills Business Chamber

Fantastic work. Just wanted to thank you for a highly entertaining lunch at the Waterview today you certainly fooled our table. I'll certainly keep you in mind as I quite often require talent for our clients.

\* Jerome Ballard - Sales Manager, ANZ Stadium

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### **Westpac Bank, Hilton Sydney, Sydney**

. . . not only did you rate well (the highest score of any speaker), your 'presentation' has been the talking point around the office ever since . . . well done.

Tom Mulligan, Head of Solutions Delivery

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### **Westpac Bank, Hamilton Towers Conference Centre, Hamilton Is., Regional Qld**

Your sessions contributed to the mighty success of these few days and were fantastic in themselves. Leaving aside the humour, I think the message "don't take yourself too seriously" was not lost on most. Thanks again and great to have been associated with you once again

Geoff Officer

General Manager People & Performance,  
Business & Technology Solutions & Services and Corporate Core  
Westpac

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### **Westpac Bank, Hotel - The Blackett, Sydney**

The event went really really well, so thank you.

Cheryl Miles, Project Coordinator - Connect@Westpac, People & Performance

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### **Westpac Travel, National Convention Centre, Canberra, Canberra**

Your address was very appropriate - or strictly inappropriate - I'm not sure which. Anyway, again, many thanks for a job well done. It was a great pleasure working with you.

Geoff Appleton, Chief Executive

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### **Wyong Race Club, Wyong Race Club, Regional NSW**

Just a short note to offer, on behalf of the Woodbury Club, our most sincere appreciation for entertaining us so well last Friday. A couple of the guests were still thinking a few days later your character was real. Even told friends that they had met you.

I had fun disappointing them.

Once again many thanks, we had a ball.

Tony Drew - Secretary/Manager

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**Yale Club of Australia, Sheraton on the Park, Sydney**

. . . a good laugh was had by all.

Dr. Duff Watkins, President

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**Yandell Wright Stell - lawyers, Aanuka Beach Resort, Regional NSW**

The feedback from others present is that you had them fooled until the last minute, and we then gained the credit for leavening the weekend with your wit.

However, the credit is all yours. Thank you again.

Don Wright, Partner

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**Young Business Network, Restaurant - Newtown, Sydney**

. . . thank you for Dr Phillip Pitt's inspirational presentation on the life cycle of young executive brains.

As I was in on the whole comic hoax, I personally found your presentation cruelly entertaining in an intellectual sort of way.

Ian Hutchinson, President

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**Young Presidents' Organisation - YPO, Inter.Continental Sydney, Sydney**

. . . you did a great job and brought a great deal of enjoyment and laughter to the evening.

Dr. Mike Hirshorn, Sydney Chapter Chairman

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**Zurich Insurance, South Bank River Room, Brisbane**

Many thanks for all your help during the year - at our Sales Conference in Sydney and adviser function at the Financial Planners Association Conference (in Brisbane). On each occasion - sensational!

Steve Newnham, Head of Distribution - Zurich Financial Services

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**Zurich Insurance, Hotel - Crows Nest, Sydney**

Thank you so much for the other Friday night; everyone had an absolute ball - I have never seen so many smiling faces.

Fiona Nicol, Head of Marketing - Zurich Financial Services

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**Zurich Insurance, Restaurant - I'm Angus, Sydney**

Michael did call me the next morning to say what a fantastic time he had - I think he was very touched

Fiona Nicol  
Head, Corporate Marketing

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