

Roger's Ramblings

Random ruminations on a plethora of points

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[Don't be Humble, Strive to be Awesome!](#)

Posted by: [roger](#) in [startup](#) , [Humility](#) , [General](#) , [Awesome](#) on Aug 27, 2012

I recently responded to a thread on the SiliconBeach email list that was looking at the issue of Australians underselling themselves and how this adversely affects their ability to get traction in the US. The post below is a slightly edited and cleaned up version.

In principle I agree with the sentiment that self-marketing is detracting from the SiliconBeach list, I reckon most people have met

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[Australia is fast becoming a hot place to do startups](#)

Posted by: [roger](#) in [Venture Capital](#) , [startup](#) , [NBN](#) , [Incubator](#) on Feb 14, 2011

Australia's entrepreneurs have long lamented that if you really want to create a successful global technology startup that you have to leave Australia and go to Silicon Valley. It's just too hard to do startups in Australia, they say. The market is too small, there's no big tech companies doing real product development here (it's just Sales and Marketing), the government doesn't support tech startups well enough, there's not enough venture capital, the tax structures are wrong, employees would rather get a fat pay check than equity, people here are more interested in having a great lifestyle than putting in the hard yards.... These are just a few of the

excuses that have been offered as to why we don't have a thriving tech startup scene. Well guess what? I think that the tide has turned and that Australia is about to become one of the next hotspots for startups. Let me tell you why...

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[MIT Media Lab 25th Anniversary Reflections](#)

Posted by: [roger](#) in [General](#) on Jan 07, 2011

On October 15th, 2010 I made the pilgrimage back to the [MIT Media Lab](#) for its [25th Anniversary celebrations](#)

. Some 18 years after first arriving at the lab as raw Master's student and 12 years after leaving as a newly minted Ph.D. this proved to be perhaps the best return visit I've had to date. It really helped me crystallise my own understanding of how special the Media Lab is and why I've made certain key career decisions since graduating. The event was one of the best I've been to at the lab, replete with talks from faculty, alumni, and luminaries such as MIT President Emeritus

[Charles Vest](#)

and Google CEO

[Eric Schmidt](#)

, demos galore in the new Media Lab building, and an awesome party in the new conference space on top of the aforementioned building.

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[Why Australia's Next generation Broadband Network \(NBN\) will create innovation opportunities](#)

Posted by: [roger](#) in *Untagged* on Mar 06, 2010

Australia's [NBN](#) is in the process of being rolled out, and I was recently asked to comment on whether or not Australia had missed a golden opportunity by

[Phil Morle](#)

at

[Pollenizer](#)

. The post below is a slightly edited and expanded version of my response.

First, I think it's worth looking at what this means, not just for Australia's technoratti, but for the wider population and what it could do for Australia's economy. Much ink and many photons have been spilled discussing whether or not the NBN is even a worthwhile endeavour. Why \$43B? Where's the business case? What's the ROI?

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[October Update](#)

Posted by: [roger](#) in *Untagged* on Oct 14, 2008

OK so I know it's been a while.... things have been really busy. I've been flat out at iPrime working on the new platform for the hyperlocal sites. We've managed to launch 12 with the old platform and will shortly launch another 17 or so. Check out <http://www.iprime.com.au> to see the results. The real fun will happen when we light up the sites using the new platform shortly thereafter.

In addition

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[Opening Entry](#)

Posted by: [roger](#) in [General](#) on Sep 08, 2008

Ok so I've finally launched the site. Thanks to all those who helped me and gave feedback. You will note that some sections have reasonable amount of content while others are still rather sparse. This will change over time.

I hope you all enjoy the content here and find it useful.

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