

Is there life **after** dental practice ownership?

Dentists often put off selling their practices because they are concerned about life after dentistry.

What will they do with all those extra hours, how will they cope with leaving behind the identity that has defined them for decades? This series of articles explores the very busy lives of some of Practice Sale Search's clients, former practice owners who have embraced post-sale life.

Name: Igor Brook

Age: I was 71 when I sold

Practice Owned: Bondi Junction since 1994

Brief History

I studied in Kharkiv and Poltava in Ukraine when it was part of the USSR and graduated in 1973. I worked there as a dentist for three years after graduation. I knew I needed to leave so in 1978 my family and I went to live in Austria and Italy as refugees. We rented a small room, had enough for food and to get by day to day. In 1979 we received permission to enter Australia.

I knew some English at the time, but not enough to become a dentist. 2.5 years later I was able to pass the exams and became a dentist. I did a Master's degree at Sydney University and then went into private practice in 1982.

I started working for a dentist in Lane Cove for 1.5 years and when he retired I bought his practice.

Twelve years later I opened a new practice in Bondi Junction with Dr Michael Tveshor.

Tell us about the process of selling.

Practicing as a dentist is different as you get older. In my last years, I started cutting down my time in the practice as I wanted to travel more.

When I started thinking about selling and retiring I began talking to Simon at Practice Sale Search.



It was a bit complicated, as my partner in the practice (Michael) is younger than me and wasn't immediately ready to retire. I thought he might buy it, but after some back and forth he decided to sell as well. Practice Sale Search helped us find the right buyers and structure the sale. It went back and forth; Simon took a lot of the stress off us; he was very reassuring.



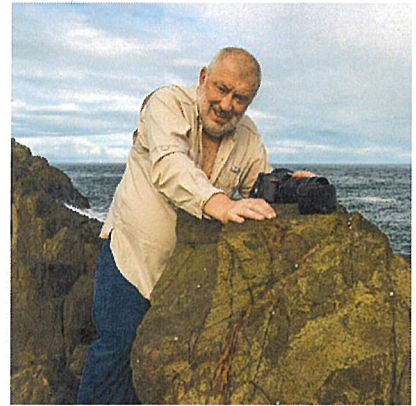
In the end we sold to two nice people from Sydney, who offered us the option of working or retiring. Michael decided to stay, but I decided I didn't want to work anymore, so I retired.

Tell us about life post sale.

I have loved travel and photography for a long time.

I now spend my time as a bird photographer, doing trips all over to photograph birds. On the weekend I'm going with a photographer and a biologist to find a Major Mitchell's cockatoo.

I am a nature lover, not only birds, but I have developed a particular interest in birds because they're so unusual to photograph, you need very precise equipment.



At the end of the year, I am going to Lord Howe to photograph, and I am meant to be going to east Turkey at the end of April. I went to Iran a few years ago, it was unbelievable. The guy I go with was an Australian travel photographer of the year twice, and he has taught me a lot.

My other undying love is soccer. I have been a fan since age of eight. I love it so much I can't even choose a favourite team between Chelsea and Liverpool, Real Madrid and Barcelona. In my travels I have visited the Madrid Football Museum (Santiago Bernabeu Museum de Madrid) and Camp Nou Stadium and Museum in Barcelona and saw Messi.

When I go to Turkey in the end of this month I will attend FC Galatasaray Stadium Museum, it is already arranged.

I don't really miss dentistry. I am so busy I have no time to think about my former life. ♦

