

# 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:** Peter Bassin

**Age:** 61

**Graduated:** Univ Syd 1982 BDS

## **Brief career summary:**

I have worked in various practices, sometimes I think a few too many! I did a few months in England after graduation, and then came back to Australia. I bought a small practice in Bondi Junction in 1982 and worked there for five years, before selling and going to work at HCF for 9 years. I was their inaugural dentist and enjoyed working together with many fine people.

I purchased my practice in Double Bay, NSW, about 20 years ago, and was there for 18 years.

It was a two-chair practice, which was shared by a few dentists. I bought the practice from one of them, modernised it, built it up, and was very happy working there for four days a week. The person who owned the other side of the practice later moved his practice elsewhere, and I continued working by myself at the original location.



## **Why did you sell?**

I had been through a divorce, had some health problems, and felt drained. I was 59 and I thought I'd had enough, so I decided to sell.

The selling process went well. I was familiar with Simon, and was comfortable with how he ran things. It felt like a fairly quick process, and it went very smoothly. As agreed, I stayed working for the purchaser for a period of time, and then left.



## **What did you do after you sold your practice?**

A few years before I sold my practice I became involved in charity work with Karen refugees, through Effective Aid International in Thailand, after reading about it in the ADA journal. I decided to move to Thailand after I sold my dental practice. I have a house and a new wife there in a country town called Phetchabun, in central Thailand. It is very affordable to retire in Thailand at an early age.

I did some work in Thailand, teaching at the local university, having the unique talent of being a "native" English speaker.

## **Why did you come back to dentistry?**

I never thought I would do dentistry again, but, after taking a break from it, I began to miss it. My energy and enthusiasm for dentistry came back. While I was in Thailand, I saw a lucrative dental job advertised in Far North Queensland, so I thought I would try it out and have an adventure.

I got the position and it was the perfect job for me. I am now living on a country property, among the gum trees, (kangaroos – no, wallabies – yes) with a clothesline out the back and a veranda (and swimming pool) out the front, but no old rocking chair yet.

It's very different from my life in Sydney and Thailand.



There are a lot of great country people here. The Tablelands also has a significant immigrant background; there are a lot of Italians, Germans, Croatians and people from many parts of the world, some who came here after the war. Sometimes I hear second and third generation people conversing in Italian in Woolworths.

## **What's next?**

As far as I am concerned, this will be my last job as a dentist. I don't think I could ask for a better way to see out my career in dentistry. I am having a very rewarding adventure, by simply following up on a 'random' opportunity advertised on a dental website. ♦

**Practice Sale Search is the leading dental practice brokerage in Australia, with the region's largest database of registered buyers and practices for sale.**

**For more information, contact [info@practicesalesearch.com.au](mailto:info@practicesalesearch.com.au) or call 02 93284678.**

