Work ON Your Accounting Practice, Not IN it ...





Stop Practising and Start Running a Business in 2011and Beyond

About Us

As Michael Gerber points out in his book, The E Myth – Why Most Businesses Don't Work and What To Do About It, "Most people work IN their business. The secret is NOT to work IN it, it's to work ON it so that you don't have to work IN it." Sure, you've heard it all before but the truth is, most principals and partners in accounting firms struggle to find time to work on their business.

Our services to the profession are both broad and deep. We service a network of more than 2,300 firms across Victoria and southern New South Wales, that is expanding on the back of our annual national road show of seminars. Our services include general consultancy, marketing consultancy, profitability diagnostics and benchmarking. We also help firms develop content rich websites to attract new business and if you are looking to buy or sell a practice, a parcel of fees, merge or want to investigate partnership opportunities, we can assist. Our vehicle and equipment finance service offers excellent rates of finance for your clients together with referral rewards and access to fleet discounts.

While our consulting services provide you with the 'why and what to do', our software and range of purpose built tools for the profession provide you with the 'how to do'. You can read more about these tools in the 'Products' section of our website or you can download 'The Essential Product Catalogue for Tax and Accounting Professionals' from *www.pjcamm.com.au*.

Contact us today if you're:

- Looking to grow your accounting practice but are struggling to win new clients
- Thinking of starting your own practice and need a marketing or business plan
- Contemplating buying or selling an accounting practice or a parcel of fees
- An established firm with an ageing client base who are flat lining
- Lacking strategy or need a marketing action plan to grow your firm
- Poised for growth but need some assistance to take the next step
- · Confused about your marketing options and where to start
- Looking to systemise the processes around the niche markets in your practice
- Wanting to transition the practice from compliance based to consulting
- Looking to grow your revenue and profits by adding additional client services



We primarily work with smaller accounting firms with one to three partners and up to 25 staff. They are generally ambitious accountants who want to grow their firm and maximise their profitability and practice value. They recognise the importance of marketing and are willing to put some resources and tools behind the strategies so they deliver consistent and quality advice to their clients. They invest in their practice and are prepared to work hard but they also want to work smarter.

We believe our offering is unique and our pro-active team is incredibly passionate about *Helping Accountants Succeed*. Speak to us today and let's get to work ON your business so it is more profitable, valuable and saleable.

Pat Camm

About Our Director

After starting his career in the Tax Division of a 'big 6' accounting firm (Arthur Andersen & Co), Pat Camm spent 13 years as a sole practitioner in the South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. After 13 years 'in your shoes' he understands the issues that confront smaller firms. He also appreciates the value of the tools, checklists, templates and software programs that can help you streamline your processes so you deliver consistent and quality advice to clients.

He is very passionate about the profession and is often described as "*the accountant to the accountants*". Firms seek his counsel on a range of practice management issues including marketing, best practice software and procedures, website development and how to transition a practice from compliance to consulting. He also helps firms identify and implement profit improvement opportunities and is active helping his extensive network of 2,300 firms across Victoria and Southern NSW buy and sell accounting fees.



Pat is dedicated to helping accountants succeed with a focus on helping them grow their practice and improve their efficiency, profitability and practice value. He closely monitors emerging trends in the profession with a keen eye on how to harness the power of social media, blogs, websites and cloud computing. His editorials in our newsletter (The General Journal) on topics like 'The Practice Of The Future' and marketing strategies are widely acclaimed and he now writes regular articles for a number of trade journals including the 'National Accountant' magazine.

He is uniquely connected to the profession as a sought after practice mentor and public speaker who has addressed thousands of accountants on practice management issues at various conferences and his national road show of seminars. In addition, he continues to develop innovative marketing solutions and unique software tools plus he has authored several books and the very popular, 'The Accountant's Marketing Toolkit'.

As Victorian distributor of the software program Cashflow Manager, he has also personally visited more than 3000 accountant's offices. The foundation stone of our business is the personal service and relationships he developed at those meetings.







Consulting Services

Success for accounting firms comes down to strategically thinking about the future. You can't run the practice looking in the rear view mirror because the client needs keep changing. The standard tax and accounting services menu is not enough anymore and we can help you develop a plan that could involve re-engineering the practice, focusing on more value added services, actively pursuing niche markets or adding additional income streams to your practice.

Our consultancy services are unbiased and independent.

We are not influenced by prior events or personalities that are often too close to the situation. We bring a fresh pair of eyes with current knowledge of the profession and the latest trends to your practice. Combining our knowledge of the profession and your practice with our expertise and consulting tools will help you achieve more than you ever imagined possible.



We develop strategies that are success driven and provide software, systems and processes to ensure your marketing generates a better return and more referrals. We benchmark you against other firms of similar size so you understand what is working in your practice and what needs working on.

We look at your profitability and introduce you to a range of tools and techniques designed to help you increase your fees and improve your productivity and workflow. Our 'practice profitability diagnostic' will also investigate the possibility of bolting on additional client services to improve your profitability while our marketing consultancy services will help you raise client awareness of these services.

We recognise the need to deliver cost effective strategies and solutions and our approach is personal so you enjoy support, guidance and accessibility. Here at P J Camm & Associates we are committed to "*Helping Accountants Succeed*."



Profitability Diagnostics

Many partners and principals work long hours for inadequate financial returns. The fact is, GST turned many firms into compliance sweatshops with valuable staff resources bogged down processing 'computerised shoebox' records. Compliance is almost a commodity these days and it's no surprise that write offs remain a big issue while profitability for these compliance based firms is flat lining.

Traditionally, we measured the success of smaller firms (with fees less than \$1M) on their top line revenue due to the fact valuations were based on the 'cents in the dollar' of revenue method. However, the ultimate measure of business success is bottom line profitability. When the baby boomer principals finally retire and flood the market with practices for sale, buyers will gravitate towards the more profitable firms.

Our consulting engagements include helping firms achieve greater revenue success using what we refer to as the 'Practice Profitability Diagnostic'. It explores 12 ways a firm can generate additional income in the practice. The results to date indicate an average increase in revenue of \$42,000 per annum from opportunities including leasing, lending, risk insurances, audit insurance and a range of other opportunities.

We show firms where to focus their investment to promote growth and increased revenue. Through benchmarking and analysis of your processes, KPIs and financial data we can identify the areas within your firm that are limiting your profitability. Our mission is *"Helping Accountants Succeed"* and improving your profitability is a key part of that strategy.



Marketing Consultancy

There are lots of marketing groups that want to work with you to grow your accounting firm. Some promise a quick fix but in reality, there is no marketing 'silver bullet' for accountants. You need to recognise that all your business resources play a role in marketing including your staff, right down to your logo, slogan, letterhead, business cards, website, signage and the reception area.

Here at P. J. Camm & Associates we work exclusively with accountants in public practice and take a different approach to your marketing. It starts by asking a lot of questions to identify your target clients, niche markets and your point of difference. We teach you a new way of thinking and develop the differentiators that will set you apart from other firms. Only then will we start crafting your marketing action plan.

Once you identify your ideal clients and niche markets you can then use a targeted approach with all your future marketing messages. If they point directly at the right audience with an appealing message you will get results. In essence we help you turn your marketing focus from what you have to offer to what your clients get from using your services. This 'positioning' process tailors your messages and explains how you can solve your prospects' problems and alleviate their pain because that's all they really care about.

There are some marketing essentials that every accounting firms needs and you can read about them in our e-booklet, 'The Marketing Essentials Guide for Accountants' that you can download from our website. It is really just the tip of the marketing iceberg but it does introduce some valuable tools to help you get traction with some popular niche markets including business start ups, trades people and clients buying a negatively geared property.

A quality website that targets your ideal clients and niche markets is mandatory. It should be your marketing hub and not just a 'billboard' that lists the who, what and where of the practice. If your current website isn't attracting new business, it's time to talk to us about a new website. If you currently don't target niche markets or you simply hope referrals will happen - it's time to take action. To some extent, GST disguised the need for accountants to market their services but more than a decade on there has never been a more important time to ramp up your marketing. Most firms have an ageing client base but if 30 percent of your fees come from your top 20 clients who are baby boomer business owners, you need to start marketing to the next generation of younger clients and quickly!

The Accountant's Marketing Toolkit is our 150 page publication full of marketing theory supported by numerous purpose built tools, templates, software programs, letters and checklists on a CD. Combining the strategies with the tools will help you develop your marketing plan and attract record levels of referrals. We have also prepared numerous 15-20 page Marketing Action Plans for accountants complete with a list of steps to follow and implementation timelines.

Our marketing consulting services and tools are creating great results for accountants who want to grow their business. We develop strategies and provide software, systems and processes to ensure your marketing generates a better return and more referrals. To discover more, call us today on (03) 9824 5300 and learn how we are '*Helping Accountants Succeed*.





To support our consultancy and marketing services we have developed and distribute a range of practical tools specifically designed for the Australian accounting profession including:

- Business Start Up Manager
- Websites for Accountant's
- Client Newsletters 'On The Money'
- Negative Gearing Manager
- Firm Brochures & E-Booklets
- Cashflow Manager
- 'Negative Gearing' Booklets
- Vehicle Log Books
- Templates
- Various Checklists
- Seminar Materials
- Accountant's Marketing Toolkit
- 'Starting A Business' Booklets
- Practice eBrochures
- Business Benchmarking Tool
- Marketing Tools



A summary of all of our products are contained in "*The Essential Product Catalogue for Tax and Accounting Professionals*" that is available as a download from our website. The catalogue gives you an outline of the proven 'products' on offer designed to help you improve your practice efficiency, profitability and value.

Apart from the tools featured in this catalogue, our website is also a valuable resource for anyone currently in public practice or contemplating starting a practice. You'll find the site includes free tips on growing your practice plus downloadable e-booklets on how to add extra income streams, the practice of the future and the process of buying or selling fees.

Further information is available on our website under the "Products" tab and you can download a copy of the Product Catalogue from our website *www.pjcamm.com.au/Resources.*

If you don't already subscribe to our popular public practitioner's newsletter, **The General Journal**, you can register on the site and also access back issues.

Contact us today to discuss any of the tools and you can order the products by contacting us directly.



Practice Broking

Selling your accounting practice is a business decision full of emotion because in most instances, you are selling your life's work. To successfully transition both your clients and your staff requires a combination of careful planning and chemistry between the vendor and the purchaser. Price is obviously important and the transaction demands total integrity and confidentiality.

After 13 years as a sole practitioner, Pat Camm has been through the sale process. He offers the experience, expertise and practical knowledge to help you:

- Sell Your Practice or a Parcel of Fees
- Buy a Practice or a Parcel of Fees
- Merge Your Practice with another Firm
- Source a New Partner
- Find Placement as a Partner



A key ingredient in a sale is the chemistry between the parties and our major point of difference is the fact we have a relationship with more than 2,000 Victorian and Albury based accounting firms. This has been developed over the past two decades and we can discreetly bring together buyers and sellers without the need for public broadcasts. Generally knowing both parties allows us to do some preliminary 'due diligence' and match vendors with our list of registered buyers. We consider factors like location, gross fees, spread of clients and charge out rates at this matching stage.

Your time is valuable and our network of contacts means you only interview genuine prospects who meet your criteria. By vetting buyers and getting an understanding of their firm culture, background and reason for acquiring fees we can minimise the disruption to your practice. While competition is vital to obtaining the highest price, a lot of time can be wasted on buyers who are looking for the 'ideal' practice or prospects who don't have their finance in place.

There are many issues involved in selling your practice including restraint, the treatment of work in progress, debtors, creditors, contracts and price. We guide you through each of these areas so you make an informed business decision. If you are considering selling, buying or looking to merge call us today for a no obligation discussion.

Also feel free to visit our website where you will find the following articles under the 'Practice Management' tab – Selling or Buying a Practice:-

- The 10 Don'ts of Selling Your Accounting Practice
- Buying An Accounting Practice? 7 Things You Need to Know
- The First Wave of Sellers
- The Process of Selling Your Practice
- Factors That Influence Practice Values
- Are You Ready to Sell

Testimonial – "I was extremely pleased with how the whole deal progressed from start to finish and I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to yourself for facilitating the process. It wouldn't have happened without you. I feel like we have had a 'win-win' situation with every party happy with the outcome."

D.T. Melbourne

Vehicle & Equipment Finance

For your clients who are financing vehicles and equipment by Chattel Mortgage, Lease or CHP we offer a finance broking service.

We have a panel of lenders and can supply you with an instant quote by calling our in-house Leasing Manager, *David Jakimuik* on (03) 9824 5300. Most importantly, our volume of activity guarantees wholesale rates of finance through our association with the Money Resources Group.

David has over 20 years industry experience and provides free consultancy services to accountants. We service a large number of accounting firms across Australia and offer principals, partners and staff special terms on their personal vehicles.

We can also access fleet discounts through our association with a large number of Victorian car dealers. You and your clients could save thousands of dollars when purchasing a new car or light commercial vehicle.



The service also offers accountants a referral fee for your assistance in providing copies of the clients' tax returns and financials. The fee is obviously optional and is paid directly into your nominated bank account within 48 hours of settlement. The referral fee is generally based on the cost of the asset being financed:

Cost of Asset	Your Brokerage (GST incl)
< \$20,000	\$ 0
\$20,001 - \$35,000	\$220
\$35,001 - \$50,000	\$275
\$50,001 - \$70,000	\$330
> \$70,001	\$385+

We also provide you with a number of marketing tools to help you promote the service to your clients. These include brochures and a repayments calculator so you can provide clients with an estimate of their monthly repayments based on a range of different scenarios/residuals/balloon payments.

To obtain a quote simply call David today on (03) 9824 5300 or email him at leasing@picamm.com.au







Bookkeeping Division

Following the success of our Cashflow Manager Group Training 'workshops' over the past 12 years, we launched a Bookkeeping Division in 2010 headed by Brien Thompson.

Traditionally, at the workshops clients sit at a dedicated computer and work through a series of receipts and payment transactions. They get guidance on data entry, the bank reconciliation process and how to back up their data file. While we continue to run these sessions, the demand for personalised training has increased due to the growing popularity of the Invoicing/Debtors module and Wages Manager.

The Bookkeeping Division's primary focus is to train clients in Cashflow Manager and improve the quality of records you receive from clients. This in turn will eliminate the 'write offs' associated with 'computerised' shoebox' records. Not only that, it will create capacity so you can focus on the things clients really want from their accountant - strategies to grow their revenue, profits and wealth.

The one-on-one training usually includes customising the file with appropriate column headings, incorporating the client's logo on invoices, downloading the bank statement from the internet and importing the data directly into Cashflow Manager. Increasingly the bookkeepers are also assisting clients with setting up their wages file. Training is restricted to Cashflow Manager, Invoice Manager and Wages Manager and sessions are booked in 2 hour blocks at a cost of \$110 per hour. Clients can expect to leave the session with their columns and invoice layout customised, a complete month of data entered and reconciled plus the knowledge to back up and email the file to their accountant.

In addition to training, the division also offers an ongoing bookkeeping service at \$66 per hour. It is designed to help clients who are struggling for time as well as accounting firms who have an overflow of Cashflow Manager work.

Contact Us





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