



# Crosswise

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**THE PRICE OF MEMBERSHIP IS ATTENDANCE**

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## **PERCEPTIONS OF A PRIVATE EYE.**



Last week's guest speaker, Warren Mallard started his working life as a goldsmith, then moved to the police force. After an accident he left the force and became a private investigator. He is a former Rotarian and spoke of his work was nothing like a Peter Corris novel!

To be an investigator, you need to be trained and skilled up, as he works with people of all backgrounds. He admits that many of these people have uncommon sense! Slowly but surely the industry is becoming more professional. There are 80,000 security guards and 16,000 police in Australia. Each have a high rate of resignations.

Centrelink now out-sources its surveillance to private companies. Covert surveillance of work places is also being outsourced, along with monitoring cameras, strictly regulated. The court system only deals with illegality.

Warren used the illustration of a printing company losing production. This company convinced a magistrate to be able to install cameras to monitor the work place. This revealed that only one of five employees actually turned up for work late at night. They had roster system to stay away known only to themselves. The theft of time is equal to the theft of money. But this was not the only issue for this company. Foreign orders were rife and materials used at work were being stolen.

When it comes to surveillance, while people can be very devious, there has to be a balance with the use of cameras.

An extrusion company found that its staff were stealing the metal products and selling it. Investigation found that they would take long lengths of the special extrusions and cut them up to fit on a trailer and sell it for scrap metal. The workshop manager was caught.

The use of surveillance has three prongs, reduce theft; catch the perpetrator and to recover monetary losses.

The world of investigation has also changed. Cameras can be adapted to any situation. He showed us an illustration of a camera in a bag strap.

There was a nanny with a heroin addiction who stole from her family employer when they were out. Another addict would hang around supermarkets where electrical goods were sold and collect the receipts people left in the trolley. She would go into the shop and pick up those same goods from the shelf and take them back to the refund counter saying there was something wrong with them and get a refund!

For investigators Warren reckons that intuitiveness, a blend of other attributes, is vital for private investigators. Having gotten all the evidence

Warren says that the biggest problem is getting the people charged. Police seem to be reluctant to make arrests.

On the other side, he once had two policemen who came to him for help and were prepared to pay their own money for some cameras. This is really an indictment on how the police operate if they do not have enough money to do the job properly.

At the end of his talk, Warren had a good flow of questions and answers.