



Anne Pratt is a Founding Partner and Managing Director of Memela Pratt & Associates, a top-end executive search firm. She has had major success in her role, seeing the company's turnover grow by R6-million in a 5-year period. Now she is doing her utmost to see that other African business leaders succeed.

What is the value of assets under your control?

At current market prices, R42.75-million.

What did you study?

A social science degree majoring in Economics and Psychology and an honours degree in Psychology, both at the University of Natal (as it was then known), and an MBA from Wits Business School.

Businessperson whom you most admire?

Peter Watt, the former Deputy Chairperson of the Altron Group and previous Chief Executive Officer of Business Connexion. He has a great intellect as well as integrity, and is a very balanced and practical human being. He achieved great things while being unquestionably and unwaveringly honest throughout his career. He continues to give back and to make a difference in South Africa, as he cares about the country and its future.

Three words to describe your leadership style?

Honest, accountable, humble.

Anne Pratt

What occupies your time outside work?

I travel a lot, am often designing, renovating or maintaining different properties, and I entertain a lot at home. I also assist with different community-based projects.

What would you be if you weren't in your current position?

Presenting a television show profiling the unsung and sung heroes in South Africa and Africa, from all sectors of society, sharing their stories of success, sharing their leadership lessons, and inspiring hope and confidence.

What's your pet peeve?

Lack of good governance and basic integrity – it is putting the whole South African dream at huge risk, and, globally, it has destabilised most major markets, affecting the lives of ordinary citizens around the world.

What led you to your current career path?

I was on the short list of a search being done by a global search firm, and, after that process, I was approached by them and a competitor of theirs to join the industry.

What's the worst decision you ever made?

Being far too trusting and not having my own checks and balances when a large listed bank advised and structured a large deal; and not sufficiently educating myself independently regarding issues relating to financial structures, risk management, and exchange controls.

What's the best decision you ever made?

To focus and to achieve more balance in my life, thereby developing a stronger spiritual belief that we can find a balance and can succeed financially, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically.

What do you know for sure?

That we get one chance to live the best life we can, that every day counts, and that small steps are the building blocks to great success; that our spiritual beliefs and support, our life partner, our close friends, our close family, and solid, inspiring work colleagues and clients, who often become friends, are the foundation for an abundant life; that true cultural diversity adds a quality and richness to life and our experience of it, and that support, help and wisdom often come from the most unexpected sources; and, finally, that no dream is impossible, and that, if we can dream it, we can become it and live it!

What can't you live without?

My life partner, close friends and family (including my cat, Chelsea), regular exercise, adventure, travel, lifelong learning, time to reflect, and a great bottle of bubbles!

What are you reading?

50 People Who Stuffed up South Africa by Alexander Parker, cartoons by Zapiro, *Many Lives, Many Masters* by Dr Brian Weiss, and *Nelson Mandela By Himself*, an authorised book of quotations. □