

Strabane Chronicle Business

If you would like a business story covered contact 028 7188 2100 - email: editor@strabanechronicle.com

(1 GBP) = | EUR 1.16 | USD 1.25 | AUD 1.90 | NZD 2.08 | CAD 1.72

Embracing the unknown



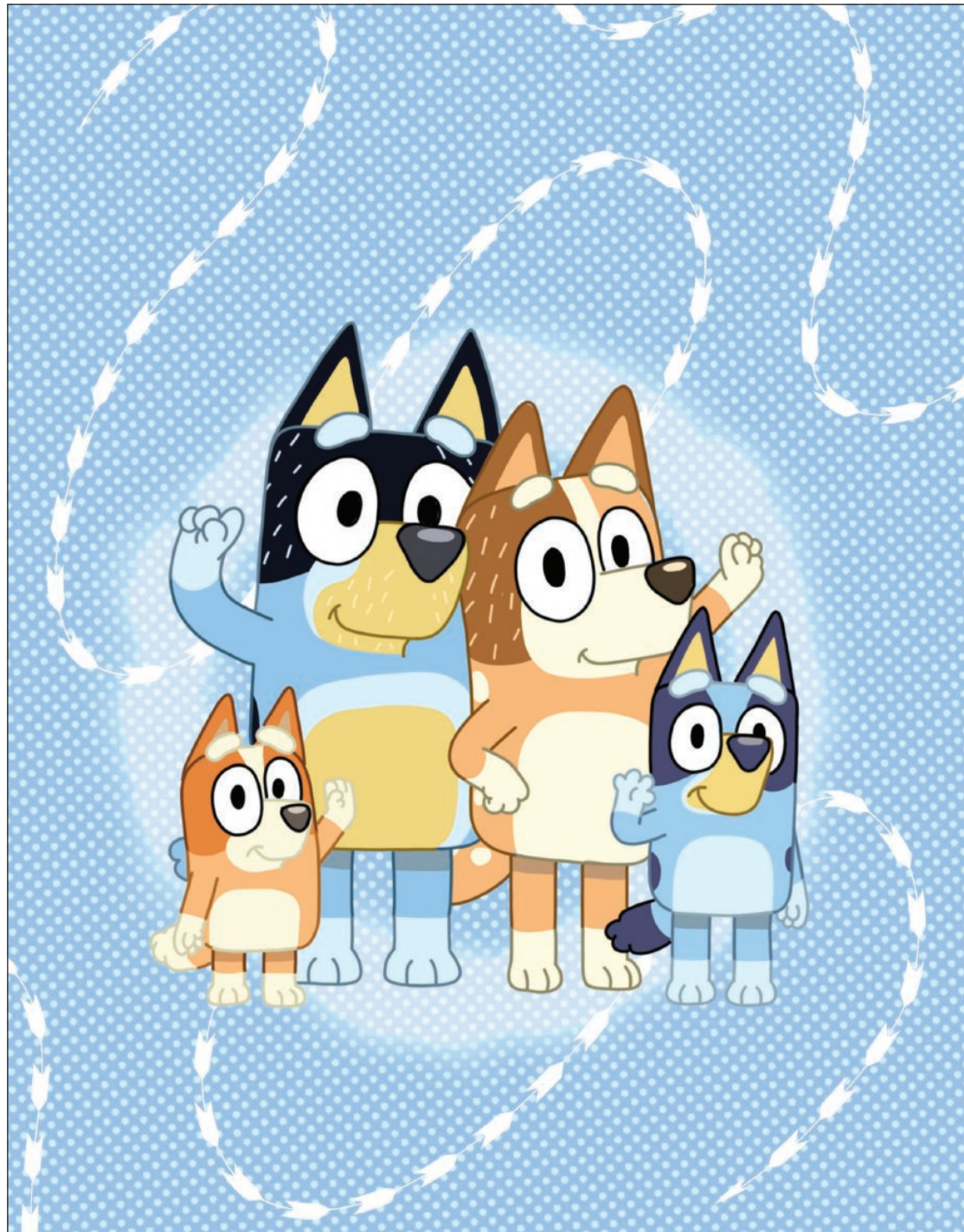
LET'S TALK MONEY

SHAUN McGLADE

I have touched on the idea of entrepreneurship and the risks taken in going into business in previous articles and here I want to explore the idea again from another angle, this time inspired by a cartoon I must confess our whole family loves in equal measure!

The cartoon in question is Bluey and in a recent 28-minute episode they visited the idea of uncertainty in life which can relate easily to the world of entrepreneurship where embarking on a new venture is akin to setting sail into uncharted and uncertain waters. The journey is filled with challenges and unpredictable twists and turns, yet it is precisely this that makes the entrepreneurial path both daunting and exhilarating.

In the episode of Bluey, they use the wisdom found in the ancient Chinese proverb, "Maybe so, maybe not. We will see." It's the one where a farmer and his son had a beloved stallion that helped the family earn a living. One day, the horse ran away, and their neighbours exclaimed, "Your horse ran away, what terrible luck!" The farmer replied, "Maybe so, maybe not. We'll see." A few days later, the horse returned home, leading a few wild mares back to the farm as well. The neighbours shouted out, "Your horse has returned, and brought several horses home with him. What great luck!" The farmer replied, "Maybe so, maybe not. We'll see." Later that week, the farmer's son was trying to train one of the mares and she threw him to the ground, breaking his leg. The villagers cried, "Your son broke his leg, what terrible luck!" The farmer replied, "Maybe so, maybe not. We'll see." A few weeks later, soldiers from the national army marched through town, recruiting all the able-bodied boys for the army. They did not take the farmer's son, still recovering



In the cartoon Bluey, they visited the idea of uncertainty in life which can relate easily to the world of entrepreneurship.

from his injury. Friends shouted, "Your boy is spared, what tremendous luck!" To which the farmer replied, "Maybe so, maybe not. We'll see."

The moral of this story is, of

course, that no event, in and of itself, can truly be judged as good or bad, lucky or unlucky, fortunate or unfortunate, but that only time will tell the whole story. At the heart of this proverb lies a profound acceptance of

ambiguity and the unpredictable nature of life.

This proverb encapsulates the essence of embracing uncertainty with an open mind and a willingness to adapt. It speaks to the reality that

in business, as in life, outcomes are not always predetermined. Instead of fearing the unknown, entrepreneurs can choose to approach it with curiosity and resilience.

One of the first lessons in setting up a business is to acknowledge and accept the uncertainty that comes with it. Whether it's launching a new product, entering a new market, or building a team, there are countless variables that can influence the success or failure of a venture. Rather than trying to control every aspect of the journey, entrepreneurs must learn to navigate the uncertainties with agility and flexibility.

To become an entrepreneur, we must find our own way. Just as there is no one-size-fits-all strategy for becoming an entrepreneur, there also is no one-size-fits-all strategy for learning to act outside our comfort zone. For many, the real entrepreneurship happens internally — stepping up, having courage, and doing something that we never thought possible.

As the journey unfolds, entrepreneurs will inevitably encounter obstacles and setbacks. It is during these moments that the wisdom of the proverb truly shines. Instead of becoming discouraged or giving up at the first sign of adversity, entrepreneurs can adopt a mindset of perseverance and resilience. They can remind themselves that setbacks are not failures but opportunities for growth and learning.

In the fast-paced world of business, with its uncertainty and challenges, the wisdom of the Chinese proverb, "Maybe so, maybe not. We will see," offers solace and guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs. It beckons them to embrace ambiguity, cultivate resilience, and navigate the unpredictable terrain with courage, flexibility, and perseverance.

There is a picture on the wall in our office with a famous quote from Albert Einstein which I find inspiring in my approach to business, and I will finish the article with it and hope that it strikes a chord with anyone reading this who may be considering taking the risk and setting up in business:

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

-- If you wish to get in touch to discuss this or any other matters raised in this article, feel free to get in touch with a member of the team at SMCG Ltd on the contact details shown and we would be happy to help.



SMCG LTD

Chartered Accountants

Shaun McGlade, Managing Director | Tel: 07742 364397



CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS
IRELAND

16 Melmount Road, Strabane, Co. Tyrone BT82 9EE | www.smcgltd.co.uk | Email: shaun@smcgltd.co.uk