Abstract

In studying leading as a way of changing meaning, this research documents a journey of inner exploration amongst five self-nominated leaders in education. In contrast to change limited by outer dimensional structure, *changing meaning* in an inner dimension was seen as the necessary complement in creating real difference in educators and in educating. Over a period of almost a year, the leaders participated in an online project, travelling together through email dialogue focused around leading, changing and meaning. In this, they experimented with a changing way of researching, developing a personalised space of *changing* in which they could truth-test their thoughts and feelings about the multiple facets of *leading* and *meaning*. Such a space - interstitial to their outer working and inner personal lives, but deeply connective of both - was found useful in supporting coherent change processes in the participant leaders.

Frontispiece

Figure 1: *Two Forms* - Max Dupain
Used with permission.

Max Dupain
Australia 1911 - 1992

Two forms. 1939
gelatin silver photograph
50.2 x 38.2 cm

Collection: National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Changing Meaning: The Leading Way

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For my faithful companions on the journey,
especially James, Liz, Michael, Doug, Mark
and Robert Douglas.
Your wisdom lights my way.

In memory of Matthew and Emma
who have gone ahead.
May you play the lead and
surf the edge of possibility.

Love Always

A change of meaning is necessary to change this world politically, economically and socially. But that change must begin with the individual; it must change for him....
if meaning is a key part of reality, then,
once society, the individual and relationships are seen to mean something different a fundamental change has taken place.
(Bohm, 1987, p.107, 96 as in Sogyal Rinpoche, 1992, p.355)

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Declaration

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not currently being submitted for any other degree or qualification. I certify that any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged herein.
Signed: