



We The People

Program 5

Leadership

Much has been written about management and leadership but the two are very different and it is leadership which is the focus of this narrative. Leadership is a remarkable human quality and the history of the world has been shaped by real leaders from all walks of life. Leaders stand at the forefront of society and give direction and purpose from a common gifted call. From politicians to dictators and religious leaders, from scientists to writers, actors, poets and business people, leaders can emerge from anywhere. They need not be rich or famous and a perfectly normal average person can be thrown into the role perhaps like Lech Wałęsa the Polish electrician whose actions ultimately defeated communism in Poland. Many great leaders have helped direct society toward the greater good while others have used their leadership qualities to suppress and dominate and reign terror on others. Let's reminisce however on the leaders with good hearts for just a moment.

The famous category includes the unlikely Winston Churchill, Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Christopher Columbus, John Kennedy, Nelson Mandela and Abraham Lincoln who abolished slavery. Let's not forget our own Fred Hollows and his selfless journey or Steve Irwin driven by the environment. Consider our first PM Edmund Barton or surgeon Victor Chang and the magnificent leadership of Edward Weary Dunlop or the courage of Nancy Bird and Daisy Bates. Marvel at the leadership of Jonty Bush and the rich determination of Tim Flannery. Today we see Aung San Suu Kyi leading the people of Burma to democracy and the despots are afraid of her 48kg frame. It could be argued however the Jesus Christ was the greatest leader who as a humble carpenter simply said, 'follow me' and we did. Here on the Gold Coast we have leaders in all kinds of places doing things at a local level and making our city a better place perhaps quietly but confidently and against the odds.

Leaders are purposeful courageous people willing to work and with great vigour inspiring others along the way. A sense of humility is often present as they pursue the near unattainable and call us to embrace change for the common good and to never give up. So it seems to me that our political leaders should be real leaders but when I look to Federal, State and Local government in Australia they seem thin on the ground if not downright rare. Take note of your elected member on the Gold Coast and ask yourself are they leading from the front or withering and yielding to the bureaucratic army that is sinking our country in red tape and over governance. We the people should demand leadership and encourage those who are inspired to run for Council and high office. Friends, how can the Gold Coast maintain its life style when town planning is now an oxymoron or when the city is in far too much debt and addicted to unbridled growth. Without leaders we lurch from one idle promise to another or constantly dwell amongst the flotsam and jetsam of mediocrity. Let's call on and encourage real leaders to step forward and run a functional, respected City Council where our kids have a future and where freedom from bureaucratic persecution is guaranteed.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley