



GLF Update

20 September 2010

What is a GLF Update?

At the most recent Alumni Executive Committee meeting a number of initiatives were raised and reviewed. One of which was the Leaders Institute News which now has an extended format and will be distributed on a monthly basis. To supplement this there was a call from the Alumni Executive to publish regular updates from current year GLF participants. This concept is now a reality and thanks to our very generous volunteer participants (starting with Paul Minahan last month), who as you all can appreciate, are extremely time poor, this publication will arrive in your in box every month on the alternate fortnight to the Leaders Institute News. The purpose of this update is to inform Fellows about the past month's Program activities and their impact on participants. We regularly hear from Fellows that you want to stay connected not only with each other but also with the GLF Program as it continues to evolve and we are confident that this new initiative will provide this much desired link and will help connect current year participants with the wider network of Fellows that they will soon enough be a part of.

GLF2010 UPDATE – REV PETER MCDONALD – MINISTER, UNITINGCARE WESLEY

From the very first morning GLF 2010 challenged me to explore further. Explore myself further – the assumptions I hold, the attitudes I bring to my work, the approach I have to conflict and conversations. Explore further outside myself - the issues and people around me, their thoughts, their approach and their vision (or lack) of the whole.

My GLF experience falls into three distinct parts. First, the continued journey of self discovery and awareness. Beginning by completing gathering the results from personality surveys to put alongside my current self understanding. Conversations with trusted GLF colleagues about how we work with each other on projects. I have been profoundly challenged and changed by my coaching conversation with Richard Harmer. Exploring the presence of 'intent' and 'compassion' has been and remains a life changing moment of clarity and beauty.

The energy of working with a team on a project that has the potential to reduce the incidence of road fatalities is the second part. Exploring how groups work, deliberately taking a role which creates group intention, and putting my experiences into practice at work has all been invaluable. To say nothing of the way in which our teams have explored case studies, drawing on our own experience and wisdom to set aside (or maybe step outside) our own self pre-judging nature (prejudice)!

The third distinct part is the exposure to the issues which face South Australia through the lens of business, government and not for profit agencies. As a recent graduate of the Adelaide Uni MBA program I have been exposed to these three views. But a MBA program doesn't have the capacity to create and sustain a 'group of inquiry' as the GLF2010 has. This has been invaluable, challenging and life changing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RESILIENCE REQUIRES BOLD LEADERSHIP - A FREE member event. Cost for non members or non financial members will be \$35. **Tuesday, 28 September at 5:30-7:30pm** (Venue: Conference Room, Leaders Institute of South Australia, Level 1, 164 Greenhill Road, Parkside). The session will be led by Alastair McAslan.

Alastair is the inaugural Director of the Torrens Resilience Institute having assumed the appointment on 1st August 2009. For the past eight years he has been involved in developing the concept of national and international resilience at Cranfield University and the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, and more recently with the Torrens Institute.

On graduating from Glasgow University, Alastair joined the British Army and followed a standard military career which included command and staff appointments in a range of leadership settings: on operations in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Kuwait and Bosnia; at a strategic-political level in the UK Ministry of Defence and UN Headquarters New York; and delivering education at the UK Army Staff College and Royal Military College of Science. In 2002, Alastair joined Cranfield University as Director of Cranfield Mine Action and Disaster Management, which in 2004 became the Humanitarian Resilience Centre. One year later, his responsibilities expanded when he became Executive Director of the Resilience Centre at Cranfield.

Alastair was awarded the OBE in 2002 for his work in developing international standards for humanitarian demining, and in 2008 Cranfield University was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education for the Resilience Centre's work in building national and local governance in post conflict countries. His particular interests are international relations and strategic planning, and the application of advanced systems and improved processes to real world problems.

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Why do leaders need to understand the concept of resilience?

The concept of resilience is attractive to policy makers, practitioners and academics. It suggests an ability of something or someone to recover and return to normality after confronting an abnormal, alarming and often unexpected threat. It is used alongside security to understand how governments, local authorities and the emergency services can best address the threats from terrorism, natural disasters, health pandemics and other disruptive challenges. It is also used by leaders to build resilient organisations. But what is resilience and how can it be used to help us operate successfully in today's volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment? How can our understanding of resilience make us better leaders? Alastair will explain the concept of resilience and its contemporary evolution. By the end of the session you will:

- Understand the enduring principles of resilience and their application to individuals, communities, organisations and leaders;
- Understand the relationship between resilience, business continuity and risk;
- Appreciate the threats to society and understand the concepts of volatility, interconnectedness and tipping point; and
- Through discussion and interactive learning, understand how you can apply the concept of resilience to your own organisation and sector.

If you have not already registered, please email Raeleen.day@lisa.com.au by Friday 24th September.

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