

# LEADERSHIP MATTERS

April 2010 ISSUE 39



## Limiting Thoughts

How often do we think we are operating at capacity and something comes our way and we step it up a notch? Then something else comes our way and we are able to step it up another notch. It's like the standard response you get when you ask "How are you going, much on?" You expect and you get "Flat out mate, just flat out".

That kind of response just washes over us these days and what does stop you in your tracks is when someone says, "Actually don't have a lot on and have plenty of capacity to take more on."

Do you really think we are that flat out, or is it part of the positioning statement. We're

trying to create one of two things I would suggest.

Either that "we are really busy and therefore must be great at what we do and hence become the next person they have to engage because we are so busy" or do we say that to create the thought in the mind of the person we are speaking with "don't even think about asking me to take more work on, I am way too busy and your new piece of work just won't get done - so go away!"

I guess the truth often lies somewhere in the middle and then depends who you are working for. If the return you are going to receive increases with your output - no surprise

you want more, if your return will not change, then why would you want to take more on?

I understand the thought process of both positions above, don't necessarily agree, but understand the tactics. What I became aware of though recently was the impact on our capacity when we actually start to believe what we are saying and how limiting that can be.

I was seconded out of NSW Police for a period of twelve months to research and then write a paper on Counter Terrorism, focusing on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear threats. I had six months to

travel and research threats and trends and then another couple of months to write the paper before traveling to France to present to the International Forensic Science community at Interpol. Great job and I loved it.

I have an impending trip to Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia coming up in a few weeks to review the emergency management response to devastating floods they had in November of last year and then provide direction for improvement for those who responded in a leadership capacity.

The brief is an incredibly exciting one where I get to look at contingency planning, resource management, building strong teams, focusing those teams on a clear outcome (or as I call it knowing your clarity of purpose) and addressing leadership capacity issues.

So here is the connection back into the message at the beginning of the newsletter. I think I am a reasonably busy person and confident that at the end of each day I have had a real go, well most days anyway. On the 28th of April I received a request from the Saudi group that they wanted my two reports by the first

week in May. My initial response was "what reports I don't arrive in Jeddah until the 21st of May to conduct my assessment".

Then it became clear what they were after and that very important message had failed to make it through the various intermediaries along the way. (This is not a newsletter on effective communication) They were seeking reports similar to what I spent almost ten months researching and writing for Interpol.

So I now had a long weekend to do what I did in some eight months. It was done and dispatched within the time frame arriving safely in Saud

Arabia, ahead of my work in a couple of weeks.

The really interesting thing in this for me was around capacity and our mindset. It was a reminder that when we are really pushed we have two choices. We can have a mindset of "no its too hard, I am way too busy, you should have given me more time, more resources, more..." or we can have a mindset of "ok, this will push us, but what needs to occur so that this is delivered?"

If you continue to tell yourself you are too busy, it can't be done, you will end up believing it and you may well miss the opportunity to be, do or have more of what turns you on.

**"To avoid criticism do nothing, say nothing, be nothing."**

**Elbert Hubbard**

## HANDS UPDATE

The Board of Hands has agreed to take on the new project at Yasothon with the kids affected by HIV. Either infected with the disease or living with it in another capacity.

The state of the health of the director Khun Thill, was reflected recently when I learnt that late last year she left her home, said goodbye to the children and went to a monastery to die.

Her time had not yet come and her health improved and she returned to Yasothon. Suffice to say our desire to lead the renovation project in November of 2010 has an air of urgency about it. Find our more on the Hands website and get in touch if you would like to join us in the project. Yasothon Project