

Leadership Matters!

Results not Excuses

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The month of October sees a couple of anniversaries that nobody wants to celebrate. There is the first anniversary of the Bali Bombings on the 1st of October 2005 and the fourth anniversary of the Bali Bombings which occurred on the 12th of October 2002. I was personally involved in the investigation of Bali 1 - 2002.

The first explosion occurred in Paddy's Bar and was then closely followed by the devastating blast in the Sari Club. 202 people, 88 of whom were Australian, died as a result. The response by the Australian Police was swift and decisive but not without challenges.

There were many challenges when we arrived in Bali and these were challenges that none of us had faced before or were prepared for. We were working in a foreign country under the jurisdictional authority of the Indonesian National Police (INP) and the resources at hand were primitive to say the least.

Challenges Present Opportunities

Everything that we required to do the job, to investigate the bombings and identify the victims had to be imported into the country. This included the shovels and excavation gear that were needed to dig out the site of the bombings, the computers that were used to build the MO of the likely offenders and even the photocopier, which was also flown in from Australia.



Results Not Excuses

Coupled with this was what is best described as a less than enthusiastic level of support from INP, ongoing bomb threats from members of the terrorist sect JI, and numerous suspect packages that were delivered to the hotel at which we were staying - just to remind us that our presence was not welcomed by all.

Such challenges could have been described as excuses - reasons why it was all too hard.

But in times of real challenge, Leaders understand that it is results and not excuses that people want.

Prime Minister John Howard said in paying tribute to the courage of Australians and pausing to remember those who died in last year's Bali bombings. "We will reflect on the courage and strength the Australian people demonstrated in the face of the tragedy. These qualities, and our ability to pull together under difficult circumstances, irrespective of race, religion, or background have become an integral part of our national character," he said.

Excuses are Easy

I always find it incredibly stimulating to work in areas that are so far out of my comfort zone and relish being surrounded by people who have the attitude of making things happen, regardless of the challenges. Excuses after all, are just opportunities yet to eventuate. Great Leaders recognise opportunities where others see obstacles.

One of the real lessons that I have learnt from working in situations such as Bali following the bombings of 2002, is that excuses are easy but the results are always worth the effort.

The benefit of working in Bali following the bombings for me was that now, when I step into an area where people are all too quick to offer excuses, I can help them find their way to achieving the results they didn't think were possible. Whether it be a team that I am leading through investigating a horrific crime or tragic accident that has claimed the lives of many, or working with a corporate to help them turn their excuses into results, I understand that Leadership Matters.