### LEADERSHIP BEYOND THE THEORY

### **MEL ZIPF**

ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER - ST JAMES LUTHERAN COLLEGE



"This program has shown me that leadership is leadership, regardless of the industry. 'Soft' leadership is poor form, and sets a team up to fail for a multitude of reasons."

12 NUMBER OF YEARS AS A LEADER 10/10

LIKELIHOOD TO RECOMMEND TO OTHERS

20

LARGEST TEAM
MELHAS LED

#### WHAT SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

I expected the content to be delivered in quite a dry fashion.

At first I recognised the set in the video as the regular 'pot plant and spread of books', and thought "Ohhhhh here we go!", but as the content was always sharp and concise, interesting and brief, I stopped noticing the setting at all, and got lost in thought and learnings instead!

### DO YOU THINK THAT THE PROGRAM IS VALUE FOR MONEY?

For me, I've gained a bunch of valuable information, and some fantastic techniques that will make me a better manager, so the price is irrelevant.

But since you asked, I do think that it is incredibly good value for money, especially considering I can continue to access the training in its entirety for life. This is unheard of!

# IF SOMEONE ASKED YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHOULD DO THE PROGRAM, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

I would say that if their mind is open to re-thinking the way they lead, then go nuts! If they aren't prepared to consider the possibility that they have habits to break, or new skills to learn, then I'd say the program is not for them.

Another leader in our organisation completed the LBT program, and it's proven PRICELESS! The shared understanding of leadership principles, and a common language in executive meetings and leadership conversations has been invaluable and will continue to be.

Working through the program together, or even in consecutive cohorts will definitely be something which we will consider moving forward.

# WHAT MAKES LBT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER LEADERSHIP COURSES THAT YOU'VE DONE?

I can't exactly put my finger on why it was different, but given the depth and complexity of the theory, it never felt 'heavy' to me. Often this kind of study can leave you feeling overwhelmed and exhausted. I think that perhaps the regular, bite-sized chunks of study is what was different, but also the stripping out of all of the academic bullshit that normally comes with this kind of training and just 'keeping it real' and on track.

#### WERE THE WEEKLY WEBINARS VALUABLE?

I think the webinar sessions showed us all just how well Marty knows his stuff. The fact that he speaks so well, even though he has done some preparation, just gives greater power to the messages he sends us. It made Marty come to life!

### WHAT WAS THE MOST VALUABLE THING ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

Marty's confidence in saying things like "You just need to shoot one hostage" although funny, was incredibly empowering!

I know what I need to do to be a great manager, and I know I have what it takes, but sometimes 'hard calls' are not terribly popular.

### WHAT WAS YOUR 'PIE IN THE FACE' MOMENT DURING THE PROGRAM?

Definitely the 'dipping down'. The fact that doing this makes me a less effective leader, it disempowers staff and makes them less accountable, makes it extremely obvious that if I change only one thing about the way I lead into the future, this is it!