Editorial

This Journal in the year 2013 marks a significant time in our history. Born of the disillusionment with the scientific and intellectual certainties of the last decades, this period appears to be seeing a more integral and integrated worldview; one that is based in a connection with nature and the larger cosmos; one that invites imagination and yet arises from experience. It appears that both the human spirit and the planet are waiting for the turning that is required. And that turning is a kind of activism – an activism of both observation as well as engagement. The papers in this edition each speak to a different kind of turning and activism. I follow with a brief description of each.

The relationship of spirituality to wellness is a new topic for this Journal. Australian author, David Tacey, has suggested that denying the spiritual life and not attending to the sacred can have a detrimental effect on the body and give rise to illness, especially mental disease. The article in this issue focuses on what supports wellness and approaches to human health and wellbeing rather than the factors that cause dis-ease. Clearly the notions of health, stress and coping are imperative to effective leadership and management. Rachele et al. introduce the topic of wellness through the literature and thereby provide signposts for the reader into the field. This is not an exhaustive review; it is more like an introduction to the topic. It is hoped that the relationship of spirituality and wellness will be further explored through the journal.

Wisdom is not a new topic to this journal. Edwards et al. forge connections between leadership and wisdom, utilising indigenous understanding and wisdom. This approach to wisdom offers accessible glimpses of the sacred within the somewhat desacralised body of Western knowing. Weaving Western cultural and scientific knowledge with Indigenous wisdom in researching new responses to the pressing issue of sustainability, is both refreshing and enlightening. The authors thoughtfully suggest that indigenous knowledge systems give rise to a completely different set of questions about what we know and what is significant in our knowing. They carefully review the nature of the relationships of the personal, the social and the natural worlds and note that their interdependency has become imperative for the sustainability and the survival of the planet!

With the recent passing of Mandela and the growing realisation and understanding of how sharply and remarkably he manifested the overlays of spirituality, leadership and management, it seems apt to consider how the struggle of apartheid in South Africa was integral to his development as leader. The article, Leadership Dreaming, uses the personal experience of the author to build an imaginal understanding of how leadership and management can be imbued with spirituality in a living and embodied way.

Whilst we may speak about and discuss the need for managers to bring a spiritual dimension to their work, there is little research into methodologies for enabling this capacity in leaders. This issue of the Journal presents such a program and it is hoped that our future editions will include other courses. Tarun Pasricha of the Goa Institute of Management, India, describes a course that primarily uses ancient Indian scripture but also comparative studies of Western spiritual thought to enhance the spiritual intelligence of MBA students. The article describes the course structure, pedagogy and evaluation scheme. It also includes some feedback from the students who participated.

This issue contains one book review. Glenn Martin reviews the Jennifer Garvey Berger book, Changing on the Job: Developing leaders for a complex world. He observes that leadership development programs tend to focus on skills and knowledge without exploring our underlying patterns of thinking. Berger’s book emphasises the need to explore how we can grow in our ability to recognise and handle complexity. In the context of this journal, this is a fresh and helpful insight into the development of the spirituality of leaders.

We sincerely thank our authors for contributing your work and thinking to this Journal. And special thanks are due to those nameless angels who give of their intelligence and passion to thoughtfully review articles. This Journal only exists because of your brilliant input.

I would like to acknowledge our many authors who have submitted work which has not been included in our publication. We give all submissions as much support as we can, often through several rounds of reviewing, for which we thank our reviewers. Nevertheless, in some instances we have to make the hard choice not to proceed to publication, as we simply don’t have the resources to provide the assistance needed to bring papers to publication standard.
We trust you will enjoy, and be stimulated by, the articles in this issue. You may also be able to help us to extend the readership of the journal. We attract papers from authors around the world, and our readership is similarly widespread. But your university’s library may not know about this journal and not have our papers listed on its database. The journal has been in existence for over ten years now, and it has an ISSN (ISSN 1447-3771), which is a requirement to be listed with many libraries. The papers in the journal undergo a peer-review process. With the current issue we have taken the step of introducing DOI (digital object identifier) numbers for all articles, which is also increasingly expected by libraries.

Please help us to extend the readership of the journal by telling your institution’s library about the journal. For authors, this has the added benefit of increasing the exposure of your own papers. Thank you.

As usual, we invite submissions for future issues of the Journal. See the guidelines for contributors at the end.

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