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Introduction of Keynote Speaker

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I have had the privilege of serving in education for 35 years, firstly in schools, and then for the last 20 years in higher education. Most of my postgraduate teaching and applied workshops for practitioners are based on core leadership development foci, learning for all, team learning and organizational learning. I now facilitate approximately 25 leadership development workshops each year in New Zealand. Prior to the pandemic I was fortunate to travel to Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia many times to carry out similar work and encourage leaders and teachers to understand and practice leadership while being true to their own cultural and national identity, rather than borrow too much from western practices and thought. Each people group can find their own solutions to challenges if they are supported and encouraged to do so. This requires team learning, a distribution of expertise, as well as humility to learn from each other through harmonious relationships.

Nearly all of my professional work is related to leadership, be it teaching, facilitating workshops, research, thesis supervision, or publications. Rather than focus on traditional leader-follower constructs of leadership, my work focuses on leadership as a process and practice with some association to distributed and shared forms of leadership. Some of my most recent and up and coming publications raise the issue that we place too much emphasis on leadership as a simplistic means to overcome challenges and the ‘wicked problems’ we now encounter.