

LEADERSHIP THE AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC WAY

What is the essence of leadership in the Australian Hellenic community?

Is a leader born, is it a learned experience, selected, popular vote, inherited, or just plain luck of being in the right place at the right time? I wonder what is it that attracts those us who have a Hellenic background towards an individual who holds a leadership position in the Australian Hellenic community. Is it because he or she is charismatic, looks good because of their physical appearance, political connections and community ties of allegiance. Can it be that it is merely because, they who control the deck of cards so to speak have the cunning to manipulate them in order to produce a royal flush every time.

According to Lao Tzu, founder of Taoism, Tao Te Ching, who lived during the period 604 to 531 BC, that "To lead, one must follow". I take it that he meant that if a person is to become a leader he must first learn what is a follower.

I shall look at a select group of leaders within the Victorian Hellenic Community and make an attempt to identify their leadership characteristics and what lessons can be learnt from them. It is important that our leaders face such scrutiny in order to learn from their experiences and prepare the next generation to take on the heavy burden of responsibility. The members selected are known to me through a variety of interactions over the past twenty years in one form or another. They as follows:

Peter Jasonides, Peter Kalimnakis, Steve Kyritsis, Chris Paikopoulos, Leon Tsongas, Bill Papastergiadis, George Fountas, Peter Kalla, Kon Kontis, Nick Kotsiras, His Grace Bishop Iakovas, Kostas Nikolopoulos

We in the Australian Hellenic community need to identify and cultivate potential leaders that will lead and retain Hellenic traditions within an Australian environment that is compatible with the Australian way of life. **Peter Adamis**

INDIVIDUAL	CAREER	CHARACTERISTICS	ANALYSIS
George Fountas	Businessman	Self made, confident, life experiences, community connections, respected, Personal following, Community leader	Organiser, Vision, Experience, Well known
Nick Kotsiras	Politician	Educated, Teacher, political connections, Political Leader, Community connections	Academic, Organiser,
Bishop Iakovas	Clergy	Educated, community connections, Religious connections, Personal following, Religious leader	Priest, Academic, Vision, Influential, Well known
Kostas Nikolopoulos	Journalist	Educated, Community connections, political connections, respected, Community project organiser	Trustee, Secretary, Vision, Organiser, influential, Well known
Leon Tsongas	Public Servant	Educated, community connections, Religious connections, Respected. Community leader	President, Vision, Example
Kon Kontis	Businessman	Self made, confident, life experiences, community connections, respected, Religious connections, political connections, Community leader	President, Vision, Learned, Experience, Well known
Peter Kalla	Businessman	Community connections, Travel Agent, respected, Business connections, personal following, Community leader, Fund Raiser	Influential and known to many
Chris Paikopoulos	Businessman	Community connections, Religious connections, respected, Business connections, personal following, community Leader	President, Participative, Vision
Bill Papastergiadis	Lawyer	Community connections, Religious connections, respected, Business connections, personal following, Community leader	President, Logical, Example
Peter Kalimnakis	Architect	Educated, Community connections, political connections, respected, Community project organiser	Chairman, Organiser, Participative, Vision
Steve Kyritsis	Businessman	Educated, community connections, Religious connections, Political connections, Community leader	Military, President, Organiser, Researcher, Participative
Peter Jasonides	Consultant	Educated, community connections, Religious connections, Political connections, Business connections, Community leader	Religious, political, Radio, Welfare, Consultant, CEO, Vision, Experience, Well known