

BOOK REVIEW

HEAD & HEART: THE ART OF MODERN LEADERSHIP

BY KIRSTIN FERGUSON
316PP. PUBLISHED 2023 BY VIKING

Confession time. Despite being a lifetime avid book reader – mostly literary fiction and history, thanks for asking – until this volume crossed my desk I was a leadership book virgin.

Imagine my surprise, then, to find that according to Kirstin Ferguson, everyone is leader, including me.

On reflection, being editor of an industry magazine is a leadership role of sorts, and I was board chair of the local primary school for a decade, a role for which I was unwillingly shoulder-tapped but gradually came to embrace, with some expert coaching from an outstanding principal and support from fellow board members.

Ferguson, who has had significant leadership roles in her varied career, here blends her work experiences with her recent academic research into leadership, bringing it into focus with the help of many illuminating anecdotes leaders of all kinds shared with her in interviews. (Some years earlier, her PhD looked at leadership specifically in health & safety.)

There are quotes from these leaders which will resonate with anyone in a health & safety role, including this from BHP CEO Mike Henry: “When someone is willing to take a position on something and back themselves, then that is the act of a leader.”

The author’s thesis is two-fold: that all of us are leaders in some way; and that to be an effective leader you need to know when to lead with the head and when to lead with the heart.

The book has chapters for the four Head attributes (curiosity, wisdom, perspective, capability) and for the four Heart attributes (humility, self-awareness, courage, empathy.)

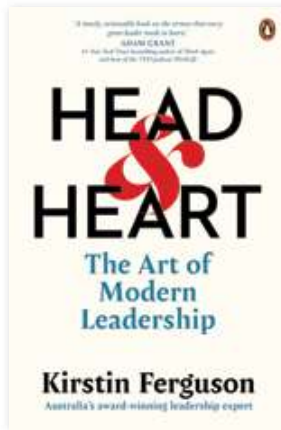
Perhaps the chapters on curiosity, perspective and courage will most resonate with Safeguard readers. There is plenty here for anyone interested in asking better questions and in creating psychological safety to enable them to be honestly answered.

Ferguson knows of what she speaks, recalling her days in the Australian Defence Force Academy, which she describes as having had the antithesis of a psychologically safe culture.

Having now succumbed to the allure of this most popular of book categories, I feel no urge to carry on with my wanton ways. I will ignore the siren calls of Simon Sinek, Brené Brown, and Jim Collins.

This book has challenged, illuminated and expanded my thinking on what makes for outstanding leadership at any level. It’ll do me just fine.

Reviewed by Peter Bateman.



FATALITY REPORTS WORKSAFE¹

- 24 Nov 2022 – 31, Manawatū-Whanganui**.....Agriculture
Quad bike rollover.
- 25 Feb 2023 – 41, Marlborough**.....Arts & recreation services
Drowned.
- 20 Feb 2023 – 78, Southland**.....Agriculture/forestry/fishing
Tractor incident.
- 18 Feb 2023 – 42, Bay of Plenty**.....Agriculture
Side-by-side collision with wire cable.
- 17 Feb 2023 – 24, Manawatu-Whanganui**.....Agriculture
Vehicle contacted live wires.
- 13 Feb 2023 – 39, Auckland**.....Public administration & safety
Land slip.
- 13 Feb 2023 – 41, Auckland**.....Public administration & safety
Land slip.
- 12 Feb 2023 – 59, Waikato**.....Construction
Collision with truck.
- 2 Feb 2023 – 16, Waikato**.....Agriculture/forestry/fishing
ATV rollover.
- 20 Jan 2023 – 35, Marlborough**.....Construction
Fall from ladder.
- 18 Jan 2023 – 79, Otago**.....Agriculture
Side-by-side rollover.
- 12 Jan 2023 – 75, Bay of Plenty**.....Other services
Fall from ladder.
- 29 Dec 2022 – 63, Bay of Plenty**.....Health care & social assistance
Drowned.
- 27 Dec 2022 – 64, Southland**.....Agriculture
Tractor with trailer rolled over.
- 16 Dec 2022 – 76, West Coast**.....Agriculture
Fell from horse while mustering cattle.
- 15 Dec 2022 – 26, Canterbury**.....Arts & recreation services
Fell from horse during race.
- 13 Dec 2022 – 62, Otago**.....Transport/postal/warehousing
Truck vs pedestrian.

NON-WORKSAFE²

- Dec 2022 – 26, South Wairarapa**.....Telecommunications
Car incident.

1 Deaths reported to WorkSafe NZ since last edition
2 Deaths recorded in WorkSafe’s data centre generated from other agencies such as ACC, Maritime NZ, CAA, Police. These lag behind the WorkSafe fatality list.

YEARLY TOTALS

	WORKSAFE	OTHER	TOTAL
2017	51	27	78
2018	42	21	63
2019	85	25	110
2020	47	19	66
2021	52	18	70
2022	44	16	60
2023	11	0	11