



4 December 2019

Dear Graduates,

I am excited to let you know we are now accepting applications for the Emergent Leadership program commencing on 8 February 2020. The 2019 course was a huge success, allowing participants to grapple with their yearning and ambivalence about taking up power in their professional and personal lives. Most who attended this year were clear that they didn't necessarily want traditional leadership roles but wanted a space to explore participation and community. The program offers a counterpoint to conventional leadership stereotypes.

I have been fortunate to know leadership that is contained, nurturing and supportive. I have experienced leadership that was controlling, demeaning and discouraged autonomy and growth. In the world, I see countless examples of leadership that is driven by fear, competition and desperation. I want no part in most of the public leadership that I see. Thus, I have often avoided active leadership roles.

When leadership is solely conceived as 'internal' and focused on an individual's capacities (behaviours or skills), then leadership is often imposed on others. This is so often our experience of leadership that we are pre-organised for compliance or rebellion. When we understand leadership as emergent, that is it flows from and is authorised by communities, we can more easily become followers and support the leadership of others. What leadership looks like will be unique to each setting but may not look like the leadership we are used to seeing.

In last year's course, we started to explore leadership that arises in aware and situated individuals who are authorised by the group and the circumstances. Leadership, then, could be felt as shared, nurtured in others, ethical, well-bounded and as an act of service. Leadership can be seen as the outworking of the relational capacities of contact; courage; self-regulation; responsiveness; sensitivity to the situation; embodiment and ethical presence. In these ways, emergent leadership stems from and builds community.

Graduates of last year's program will continue to meet in 2020 and will take over the running of the Gestalt Project. They are excited to give back to the gestalt community and support the critical ideas that underpin all that we do. Leanne and I hope that in 2020 the new group will surface new insights about leadership and community, and we hope you will join us. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Attached with this letter is a flyer for distribution to your networks for colleagues who you think may be interested in this course.

Sincerely,
Tony Jackson
Gestalt Centre / Managing Director