



CoachED UPDATE

AUGUST 2021

Enhancing the quality of conversations in education communities

Short Read



TIME TO READ: 3MINS+

DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING - STAND THERE!

I was a bit slow picking up the intent of this statement when I first came across it. This might be because we are so accustomed to doing something – anything – especially in a crisis or emergency. Sometimes, perhaps most times, the best thing a person can do, especially in a crisis, is to take some time to assess what is happening, consider the broader context, and then take more deliberate and measured action. In an emergency, this 'stepping back' from the immediate action can have a dramatic impact. However, 'stepping back' from our leading, teaching, or coaching practice can also bring many benefits.

For those in the northern hemisphere, the school year is getting close to starting again. For those in the southern hemisphere, there has recently been a mid-year break. Both situations provide opportunities for some reflection and review before jumping back into the busyness of school or college life.

So, suppose you are emerging from a mid-year break, or planning for the year ahead, or indeed continuing to think about how to respond to the unpredictable pandemic. I wonder what different approaches and practices might be worth putting in place as you plan to get started again?

Reflecting upon the following questions can provide insights into new practices in your teaching, leading, or coaching that will help make what's coming up better than what has just passed...

- What are you most pleased about from last year or the year so far? And, what else? And, what else?
- When you reflect on these things, what general principles and practices might have underpinned these successes?
- What must you get right to ensure that the year or term ahead goes well?

- What would be the highest leverage focus area for you to give attention to this year or this term?
- What would success in this area look like? Who else would notice, and what would they be saying?
- Who can support you in seeing this through?

Of course, reflections like these need to lead to actions. 'Don't just do something, stand there!' is not meant to be the complete response to a crisis – just the first most helpful thing you might do. Reflecting without action actually does not change anything. " 'Do nothing' hardly ever changes anything. But 'do something' changes the odds of success every time a new action is initiated." (La Fasto and Larson, 2001, p22). This is especially the case when you have paused and reflected on your initial 'do something' so that your next 'do something' incorporates the learning from this reflection.

It seems obvious. However, while reflection and review are critically important, it is helpful to remember that it is acting on the learning from that reflection that changes the game.

And, of course, working with a coach can be the most successful way of creating space for reflection, since at the same time coaching incorporates a mechanism for moving to action.

So how can you turn the insights gained into actions that can help to ensure a successful next year or term? What might be the first small action you could take to ensure that you can change the odds of success?

Reference:
La Fasto, F. & Larson, C. (2001). *When teams work best: 6000 team members and leaders tell what it takes to succeed*. Sage.

Resources

Relating to this month's short read, you might be interested in reading the [recently published](#) study (van Nieuwerburgh et al., 2020) that considered the question "How does coaching work?". This study explored how 14 aspiring principals experienced 1-1 leadership coaching as part of a leadership development program designed by the Bastow Institute of Educational Leadership in the state of Victoria.

If you are a current **Victorian Department of Education Principal or Assistant Principal** you can access 'on demand' leadership coaching with a GCI coach [here](#).

We also have a team of expert coaches providing 1-1 coaching to any individual in an education context. See [here](#) for more details. The first session is free when you book two or more sessions.



Upcoming Programs



As the pandemic continues to cause various levels of restriction and unpredictability in schools, our online programs and coaching provide an accessible, flexible and adaptable way to keep your professional learning going.

Here's what some recent participants have said about our online training:

"The collegiality, the participants willingness to be open, supportive and great to work with. This was facilitated by the presenters very professionally with knowledge and warmth. Using Zoom meant I could focus on my learning and not have to deal with the minutiae of travel, public transport and other distractions." - *Caroline Burston, Assistant Principal, Caulfield Junior College, VIC*

"I just want to say, Thank you for such a powerful program! I feel equipped, energised and excited to coach staff in my new deputy head role this year!" - *Vicky Kirby-Beach, Assistant Head of Junior School, Oxley Christian College, VIC*

"I am extremely proud of the progress that I have made across the course. The online delivery has really suited me and given me the opportunity to deeply explore each concept at my own pace." - *Josh Bell, Assistant Principal, NSW*

REGISTRATION FOR THE FOLLOWING ONLINE AND FACE-TO-FACE PROGRAMS IS CLOSING SOON:

o Online:

Introduction to Leadership Coaching

Commencing Tuesday 7 September (London, UK) for 6 weeks
Commencing Wednesday 13 October (Sydney) for 6 weeks

Advanced Coaching SF Masterclass

Oct 14 & 21

Individual Coaching

Scheduled to suit you

Introduction to Leadership Coaching Intensive

6 sessions over 3 half-days during school vacation + implementation session - 22-24 September 2021

6 sessions over 3 half-days during school vacation + implementation session - 12-14 January 2022

[Click here for NZ courses](#)

o In Person:

Coaching Accreditation Program Phase 1-3 (4-days)

Commencing Aug 17/18 Hobart Commencing Sep 9/10 Melbourne
Commencing Aug 26/27 Perth
Commencing Aug 26/27 Brisbane

Introduction to Leadership Coaching 2-day

Sep 1/2 Canberra Aug 19/20 Melbourne
Aug 19/20 Brisbane

The Impact Cycle Program 2-day

Aug 9/10 Darwin Oct 28/29 Melbourne
Oct 11/12 Brisbane Nov 1/2 Perth
Oct 28/29 Sydney

Be sure to [click on the dates](#) to visit the registration pages!

Complimentary Professional Learning



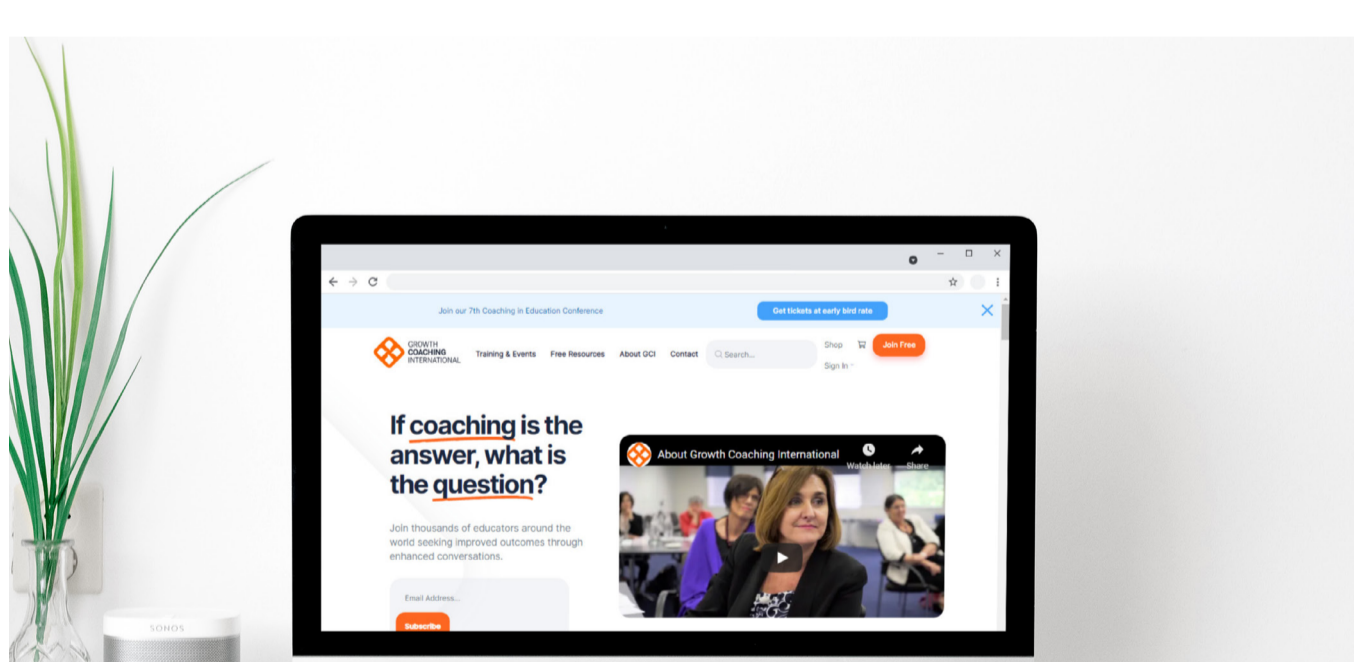
We are taking a break from our webinar series for a month or two.

In the meantime, as part of our upgrade to our current website, we recently conducted a review of the available content on our site. It turns out there are over **100 short articles**, **30 podcast episodes**, **57 short video clips**, including **school case studies** and **29 Curious Convos and webinars**, featuring some significant global thought leaders in our field.

Check out what's there. It's almost guaranteed you will find something of value that will speak to your own coaching in education situation!

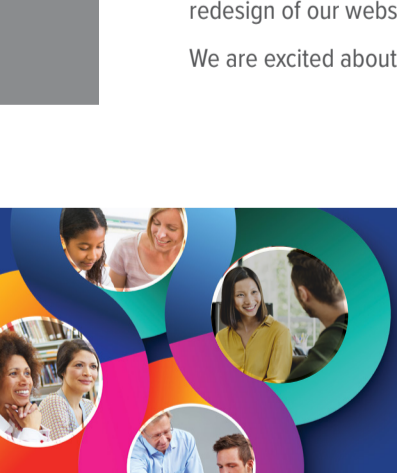
Click [here](#) to check out more of our resources.

Coming Soon



As mentioned earlier we are close to finalising the re-design and re-launch of our website. It will be the most comprehensive redesign of our website for many years and will reflect our new online learning capabilities, plus our broader global reach.

We are excited about how it is coming together. Stay tuned for the relaunch and some special offers!



7TH COACHING IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Connect with us on social media

#CoachED2022



GOING GLOBAL: CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

1 & 2 March 2022

Next year will see our 7th Coaching in Education Conference go online for the first time!

The conference has as its theme *Going Global: Celebrating International Perspectives*, and it is this global perspective that is one of the big pluses of hosting an event of this kind virtually.

We are genuinely excited by the possibilities that this format offers. Building on the quality and reputation of our previous face-to-face conferences, next year you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn from practitioners making an impact in different systems and different educational settings all over the world
- Hear the latest thinking on some global thought leaders from the US, UK and Australia
- Avoid the dreaded conference 'FOMO' feeling. All keynotes and presentations will be recorded and available to view both during and after the event so you don't need to miss anything
- Experience a conference program designed to enable access across international timezones with recurring live workshops
- Network internationally with colleagues you would normally never get to meet
- Experience a professional virtual conference environment custom-built for this event

Keynote Speakers

Professor Dianne Vella-Brodrick
Gerry Higgins Chair in Positive Psychology, Deputy Director and Head of Research at The Centre for Wellbeing Science, University of Melbourne (Australia)



Professor Ellie Drago-Severson
Professor of Education Leadership and Adult Learning & Leadership, Teachers College, Columbia University (USA)



Dr Jim Knight
Senior Partner, Instructional Coaching Group and Research Associate, University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning (USA)



Dr Mark McKergow
Co-Director of The Centre for Solutions Focus at Work (UK)



Indicative Program

The conference program will be delivered in four three-hour blocks and will include:

- Opening Address: Prof. Christian van Nieuwerburgh and John Campbell
- Keynote Speakers: Dr Jim Knight, Prof. Dianne Vella-Brodrick, Prof. Ellie Drago-Severson, Dr Mark McKergow
- Stories from the Field (Implementation)
- Stories from the Field (Research)
- Concurrent Live Workshop Sessions (Repeated once) to suit varying levels of expertise, role and interest. More details coming very soon.
- Scheduled networking discussions
- Closing Address: Prof. Christian van Nieuwerburgh and Prof. Rachel Lofthouse

[Register here for early bird rates](#)

[Conference webpage and full program coming soon](#)