

Smell, Taste, Touch, See, Listen! The Female Leader

The Female Leader programme is a discovery of who you are, personal affirmation of what you have achieved, an encounter with amazing talented women and a genuine experience of love, warmth, encouragement and acceptance.

From the first moment of being part of 'The Female Leader' you are welcomed and acknowledged for your contribution to society as a woman. Every detail is planned in a way to allow you to open your mind, recognise your full potential and harness the skills you have to achieve your goals. Our environment was breathtaking, set in the Marlborough Vintners Hotel, Marlborough. We started early morning with a sensory walk and meditation to gather thoughts and set the tone for the day. The mountains were stunning; the vineyards were spectacular and the weather...perfect! The hospitality was amazing- from the chef who described our healthy gourmet meals to the 'girlpower' music in the restaurant background; the freshly picked strawberries for a late night snack to the welcome baskets in our room filled with handmade treats and inspiring books authored by NZ women, our inspirational guest female speakers to the gifted handcrafted brooch of the 'Female Leader' at our closing meet.

These combined experiences prepared our minds for a state of learning, analysis, reflection and contemplation. We were provided with personal insights into our thinking and decision making style, followed by one to one coaching to allow an exploration of the most effective means of putting leadership into action. I really enjoyed the way the sessions were divided into various categories starting from 'My thinking' and 'My Behaviours'. This was a deep analysis of my personality and the way I tick. It exposed me to my own strengths and weaknesses and the character traits I have which gives context to the goals and dreams I aspire to achieve. From here we had sessions on 'My Purpose' and 'My Values' which further articulated, confirmed and reaffirmed who I am and the way my values shape the contribution I make to society as a leader. The 'My Mind Body Reset' and 'My Roadblock' provided fantastic tools to evaluate how I spend my time with work, family, rest, spiritual, individual and voluntary commitments, balanced with a clear picture of what would hold me back and block me from my success. Finally we completed the sessions 'My Networks' and 'My Brand' which allowed me to think strategically about the pathway forward. How to achieve my goals through networking and sustaining a personal brand that I have worked hard to establish (although not literally knowing this until being enlightened) that through that past 15 years of entrepreneurial and business experience it has shaped the way I see things today and my potential as a Female leader looking to the future.

The 'Female Leader' was an incredibly powerful moment in my life. It has confirmed that I can be all I want to be. That age, time, family, work and life experience contribute to being a leader in the field you choose to be in.

For me, I am Sara- Jane Erika, an Independent Director involved in governance. I enjoy working with people and being a part of organisations that seek to bring the best out of their circumstance and situations. I think strategically and through innovation find the best policies and procedures to create great relationships. I am NZ born of Samoan and Kiwi heritage. I have four amazing children and a husband that brings out the best in me. I am centred in a strong faith and commitment to integrity and justice.

I am a 'Female Leader'

Thank you Altris! It is an honour and blessing to be the 2017 scholarship recipient.

Jayne, Sue, Fiona, thank you xx
Fa'afetai tele lava



Arbour Restaurant- Marlborough, NZ
"The Female Leader 2017"