

VERNON CRESSWELL

Natural Teamwork Lessons from Nature

From Bushveld to Boardroom

BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY

No matter how established the social interaction within your team, how well forged the relationships or how effectively you communicate, you can be sure that existing members of your team will not remain indefinitely. Some people will resign, retire or become ill. Some may decide to work from home. Others may move to different "teams" within your organisation or to another organisation altogether.....

The same is often true in nature. At around 3 years of age, a male lion will either leave its pride and live a fairly nomadic life – never truly settling down – or team up with another bachelor and form a very strong bond or "coalition". Leopard cubs generally stay with their mothers up to 18 months whereafter the young adults will eventually leave and go out on their own. Male cheetahs leave their mother with young brothers often staying together and reinforcing their social ties through grooming and head-rubbing – not to mention hunting.

Although changing team members might initially unsettle the well-oiled machine that is your team, you must accept that teams are constantly changing and evolving – and so they should! A team that works well today will not necessarily work well in the future. If your team is to be effective in the long term, it needs new ideas and new faces. And as hard as it may be to accept, sometimes it is necessary to empty out the old and usher in the new.



This male lion had left his pride to establish his own territory – the pride took a while to replace him.



2 cheetah brothers left the safety of their mother to start fending for themselves – the winning formula they had with their mother being around to teach them the ropes was now severely tested! To their benefit, their earlier teachings enabled them to operate very successfully as a new team!

Part of your long term strategy must involve planning for succession. Nature provides us with enough compelling evidence to suggest that the issue of succession cannot be avoided.

BOOK VERNON CRESSWELL TODAY! ♦

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EXCITING BOOK ♦

NATURAL TEAMWORK

ATTAIN BUSINESS SUCCESS

using lessons from nature



Vernon is the author of a truly remarkable book entitled "Natural Teamwork" which contains many wonderful examples of teamwork in nature – supported with beautiful colour pictures to illustrate each example. The book is an ideal corporate gift or handout at his talk or workshop

BUY NOW

Only **R199**



DID YOU KNOW?

Dung beetles are fascinating little creatures to watch – especially when rolling a ball of dung along the ground! But what's the *whole* story....?

Dung beetles locate dung using a very keen sense of smell. Once found, the dung is compacted and rolled to a safe (usually moist) place, covered with soil, and the female will then lay her eggs inside this "brood ball". The moist environment is a great place for the larvae to grow until ready for flight. So much we all know....

But the *ecological* role of a dung beetle is often not fully appreciated. This small creature occupies a vital position within the ecosystem and is responsible for the reintroduction of essential nutrients (such as nitrogen) into the soil. In doing so, the dung beetle helps to ensure the survival of trees, grasses and plants – and by extension the herbivores, the carnivores that prey on the herbivores, and the scavengers that finish off the carcass.

We sometimes don't appreciate the fact that everyone in our "team" has a rather important role to play. Some jobs may appear mundane and unimportant when in fact they are not!



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