



Collaborative tools, services and training

Meet smarter, not harder!

Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears. We subject all facts to a pre-fabricated set of interpretations. We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought... For the great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie: deliberate, contrived and dishonest. But the myth: persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic.

— John F Kennedy

training events coming up

Brisbane

Strategic Thinking & Planning

20–21 April 2010

Group Facilitation Methods

22–23 June 2010

Facilitation Expansion & Integration

20–21 July 2010

Strategic Thinking & Planning

18–19 August 2010

Working with Value Systems

14–15 September 2010

Group Facilitation Methods

19–20 October 2010

Understanding & Leading Change

9–10 November 2010

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Dead Horse Strategies

When you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount.

Sub-header

This fairly well known piece of humour, contrasts “Dakota tribal wisdom” with what supposedly happens in the corporate/government/non-profit world. Instead, one or more of the following strategies (I’ve only listed a sub-set) are tried:

- Appoint a committee to study the horse.
- Blame the rider and hire outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
- Buy a stronger whip.
- Declare that since the horse is dead, we must now ride smarter, not harder.
- Harness several dead horses together for increased speed.
- Kill all the other horses, so this one will look the same.
- Promote the horse to a supervisory position.
- Shorten the track.
- Threaten the horse with termination.



‡ Apologies to the original creator of this cartoon – I can’t find you credited anywhere.

So what is it with this flogging a dead horse? Why do we do this? What factors lead us to persist with an idea, a decision, a strategy beyond its use-by date? Two that occur to me are:

- Unwilling or unable to let go of what you’ve invested so far. This means you can’t step back and evaluate the situation objectively.
- Peer pressure. Other people seem to want to keep going. Either actively in what they say or do, or passively by being noncommittal.

So, what’s your experience of riding dead horses? Please, go online and post a comment.

Go well!

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