

Bio

One foot in the boardroom, one foot in the creative world.

Simon Banks is a creative, dynamic and energetic facilitator who has a passion for enabling people to achieve great things. As the Director of **Visualfunk**, Simon works with individuals and teams within organisations to, take a fresh approach to old ways of working, deliver on potential and develop a culture of innovation.

Simon brings a very unique skill set to any organisation he works with and practices what he preaches. Simon has combined a corporate career in learning and development with a career in the arts and being a professional artist.

Simon says “It’s simple. I believe that if you are going to teach creativity and innovation, then you have to practice creativity and innovation. My career as an artist has given me a unique way of looking at the world and a great platform to approach problems with totally fresh perspective. My aim is to bring something different to the table. Something not from the usual text books. My facilitation style is not only based on theories, but real-life experiences that I have immersed myself in and have implemented both for individuals, teams and my own creative practice.”

Simon started his training career over 10 years ago with one of the UK’s leading training and development companies **Oxygen Learning**, working for 6 years as a facilitator and account manager in both a full time and consultancy capacity. Simon specialised in facilitating personal and team development programs and used his arts background to develop a unique business focused, creative visual facilitation style. This was focused on making learning fun, engaging every learning style in any group and ensuring quality results and actions post event. During this time that Simon saw organisations desperately wanting to innovate but with not any idea of how to make it happen. There was a distinct lack of people who could truly understand creativity and how to enable others to fulfil their creative potential. Thus the advent of Visualfunk – real life experience in the creative and corporate world.

Simon believes that creativity naturally occurs in everyone. All children are born creative. Our brain is designed to be creative. Its normal. It is both a life and business tool that drives competitive advantage, yet often creativity is put in the ‘too hard basket’ and is actually stifled in organisations. Simon believes companies that tap into the creative potential of all of their people and develop a culture of innovation will be leaders in their field, rather than followers.

Simon knows that tangible benefits come from taking action and changing behaviours outside the training room. Simon works with clients to turn theory into practice and create a road

map to ensure action and tangible, real results with ongoing follow up and support. What is happening in 6 and 12 months time is the key to ongoing success.

With his involvement in the creative sector, Simon has appeared on both television and radio, developed and delivered programs for the **Museum of Contemporary Art** in Sydney and worked as a lecturer at the **National Gallery of England** and at a university level. Simon has been exhibiting his own art work for 15 years with a number of group and solo shows in Australia and the United Kingdom and has works in collections in both countries.

Simon’s creative and energetic approach to life and the belief that ‘the quality of your creative output is directly related to the stimulus you put in’ has seen him travel the globe and taking on as many new experiences as possible. This has included hiking in the Andes, being a life guard in New York, learning Spanish, surfing in the Canary Islands, trekking the Amazon, camping in the Sahara, appearing in production of Cabaret in London and creating children’s television shows.

Simon is also a member of the **Creative Skills Training Council** on-line community of creative practitioners involved in advancing the practice of creative skills and capabilities development in business, organizations and government.



Testimonials

I wanted to say a big thank-you for your facilitation and workshops at our conference last week. Your facilitation at the conference helped keep the “energy” in the room – something which is hard to achieve – especially in the “grave-yard” shift directly after lunch. Thank-you for also “stretching our staff” so that they can learn to think creatively. It will be interesting to watch them put the things that they have learnt from your workshops into practice.

Sanitarium Development and Innovation

How do you pull a team with diverse backgrounds and skill sets together to capture a shared vision of a business plan.....simple answer for us was our Visualfunk session with Simon. The exercise quickly broke down expression barriers and encouraged all participants to nudge out of their comfort zones for the day. The challenge was thought provoking but above all fun. As a reward for our efforts our team masterpiece hangs in our boardroom to remind us everyday of what we need to stay focused on. If your objective is to focus your team for the challenges ahead, I thoroughly recommend you consider a session with Visualfunk.

Logistics Manager QLD, BlueScope Steel – Logistics

This is the second time that we have worked with Simon of Visualfunk and once again it was a great success. Simon was the main facilitator at our recent Planning Conference and he was excellent. He was very professional, with the perfect blend of knowledge, experience and humour. Our Team Building exercise “Promises, Promises” was thought provoking, energetic and fun and was the perfect link to bring together the key objectives of the Conference. I believe that many organisations would benefit from working with Visualfunk and I am confident that Maunsell AECOM will do so again”

Maunsell AECOM

Simon joined in on the laughs and his communication skills were excellent. Instead of just explaining the activities we were doing he actually showed us what to do. I thought he was excellent at getting everyone involved and ensuring that everyone felt comfortable with the activity they were doing. The fact that he had a laugh with the group eased him into facilitating with us.

Marketing and Communications, Bovis Lend Lease Retail

Hi Simon, I would like to say that everyone at the workshop thought it was great. In fact I can almost guarantee that you will be getting more work from us in the future. You did a great job. Your attitude and approach was perfect. Thank you for your efforts.

National Sales Manager, Hagemeyer Lifestyle Brands

Wow! What an impact our 2 days with Visualfunk has had on our team. The team are constantly thinking outside the square for business improvement ideas. Innovation is now part of our team. This is an absolute strength to this team and Sanitarium and we are already seeing the business results. Well done Simon and we can't wait for our next session in April.

National Sales Manager, Sanitarium

A huge thank you to Visualfunk for a creative, productive and above all FUN day! The team enjoyed the process immensely. I thought that Simon broke down everyone's creative barriers really well and everyone got involved and totally forgot they originally thought they weren't creative. I would highly recommend Visualfunk to anyone looking for a fun, creative and effective teambuilding session.

Consumer Insights & Strategy Manager, Pacific Magazines

Hi Simon, I have just chatted with the team and they said you were fantastic and the session was a huge success! You “were the right mix of fun while still delivering key messages”. You “adapted your personality and style well to the group” and it overall they were “extremely pleased!”

Telco in a Box

Simon, many thanks again for a great morning. We all got lots out of it and feel much better equipped to be facilitators who connect visually with our participants. Thanks again. I am looking forward to practicing my new graphics facilitation skills and to our paths crossing again.

Vivente

Really enjoyed the session - thought Simon did a great job as a facilitator to bring people along the journey. I felt very supported even though we ended up doing something which would normally make a lot of people feel very nervous. I think the ‘building’ of the activities helped with this too – i.e. from a little piece of creativity on your name label through to a big painting piece but in a large group format was fantastic.

National Australia Bank Online Learning Team

Clients include: Sanitarium, NAB, Maunsell AECOM, Suncorp, Citibank, CBA, Bovis Lend Lease, Campbell Arnott's, Salmat, LGR Communications, PMP Limited, Fuji Xerox, Deloitte and Optus.

**training
facilitation
keynotes
creative team building
conferences**

visualFUNK

want to know more?

www.visualfunk.com.au

www.creativeteambuilding.com.au

enquires@visualfunk.com.au

1300 227215