

Vanessa Bluen | MD of The Consultant Powerhouse

With a curiosity and passion for people, development, and new experiences, Vanessa Bluen, Managing Director of The Consultant Powerhouse, leads a talented team who design and implement customised learning solutions that shift individuals, teams and organisations to get where they want to be. Vanessa has managed to integrate what she loves doing, with her business focus – working with individuals in organisations at all levels to challenge their work and personal paradigms, build critical skills and play to their strengths. The Consultant Powerhouse approach challenges traditional training and development methodologies, where learning is not about teaching but about creating the context to explore solutions to impact results.



My Definition Of Success | Over the years, my feeling and mindset has changed from a single minded focus to achieving a balanced view of success. A priority for me is great friendships and being able to be there for important people in my life.

Creating a work environment that people want to be a part of is also important to me and aligns with the trend that we need to combine multiple things into one life.

For me, work and success is about currency – not only the currency of money – it's the currency of people, relationships and opportunity.

I Am Driven By | Living in SA I have an increasing sense of the lack of social justice and what drives me is the need and desire to contribute personally and professionally to make a significant difference where I can.

The Difference Between Good And Great | The critical difference is the ability to “stay the distance”. The saying “when your wishbone is bigger than your backbone” epitomizes this and it's about having a bigger vision and staying strong even when times are tough.

A Key Talent | I focus on my strengths and have had to recognize and create my work life around what is enjoyable and what I am good at. I have a healthy acknowledgement that I am good at some things and not at others – I then truly value the skills in others that I do not have.

Dealing With Doubt | I know for sure that most of us, myself no exception, suffer from the “Imposter Syndrome” where we believe that we get lucky and do not attribute success to our own abilities.

I enjoy the concept of the “Imposter syndrome” as it makes me realise that people who seem infallible and successful also suffer from the same type of self-doubt.

Don't be limited by the pursuit of perfection as it can immobilize you.

Performing At My Peak | When you allow your brain to get overloaded, you lose clarity of thought and then lose perspective.

So what I do is a lot of “time out”. There is a Greek term “Ataraxia” which I love and is defined as a “state of robust clarity” which is the only state we should make decisions from

I have seen a lot of people who are trapped in their current space.

The learning I have had and advice I give is to prepare for the next step.... how are your networks, your relationships, your connections and skills so that you are ready to create the next opportunity.



The Best Advice I've Received | To find a “both and” rather than an “either or” mentality and mind set.

How does one have a career and a broader life?

How does one be an incredible mother and have a great career?

How do I combine multiple perspectives into one life?

On Inspiring Others | Being in an entrepreneurial business, what I have recognized is that there are many talented people who want to work in many different ways.

So I ask the question – how do I create different scenarios and spaces for people? And what is the value proposition that I can create for people in ways that work for them individually?

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