

BRIAN BENGER

Brian Benger's career spanned a number of industries and organisations, with a background in human resources and subsequently management and leadership. In addition to being a confidant with The Confidere Group he holds a number of Board seats across the government, commercial and not for profit sectors.

Brian led the most significant growth phase of The Guild Group when they charged him with the responsibility and vision to build "a truly great company". Under his leadership staff numbers more than tripled, group value increased 17 times, and customer satisfaction reached 99%+. Talent and people practices introduced by Brian saw staff rate the company as one of the best in the world (Towers Perrin-ISR surveys). This role followed a successful career at Ford, National Mutual (now AXA) and GIO.

A background in human resources has given Brian considerable insight into staff management and employee engagement. His strong commitment to people and development arises from a deeply held belief that staff engagement is the key to customer engagement, the key to satisfactory returns for all stakeholders. His presentations on talent practices that engage staff to deliver outstanding results are always well received.

Brian has the ability to take systems, patterns and processes from disparate and unrelated fields and apply them to the challenges at hand. His childhood experience of contracting and overcoming the paralyzing effects of polio gave him a deep sense that problems are simply opportunities looking for solutions. He readily grasps the range of solutions for difficult problems, recognising that there are often many solutions to the same problem, most of which may be correct. His questioning mind enables clients to canvas the strengths and weaknesses of each solution. He looks at individuals *and* the systems in which they operate, bringing unique strategic and organisational capability to clients.

Delivering outstanding results while enhancing his personal life has always been important to Brian. He has considerable practical experience in balancing the competing demands of high pressure CEO roles with raising a family and looking after one's own health and development. This flows from significant leadership, trust and delegation skills that have enabled him to use time effectively and empower those around him.

Brian travels extensively, enabling him to see the world through a number of lenses. He brings a unique skill set to clients, helping them achieve desired commercial outcomes while building a great life and finding their point of contribution to society.

"Confidere": Latin. Etymology: From "con" (with, together) + "fidere" (to trust; to rely upon).

ANTHONY HOWARD

Anthony Howard is CEO of The Confidere Group, which supports influential leaders working in complex environments to optimise their personal life, their enterprise, and their impact on systemic challenges. He is an accomplished mentor to leaders in large multifaceted roles, having supervised mentoring engagements for CEOs in many of Australia's largest public companies and personally mentored the most senior leaders in 5 of Australia's top 20. He has been described as an entrepreneur, a visionary, and a social and corporate oracle, helping people, enterprises and institutions make sense of the world around them and to find their place in it.

Anthony works with influential leaders from industry, government, academia and not for profits. Using the insights gained from a lifetime of management, leadership, and learning, he helps people grasp the impact they can have on the world through their personal vision. Aligning this vision with leading a successful enterprise creates a powerful platform from which leaders can transform society and create an enduring legacy.

Anthony actively cultivates and cross fertilises a global network of contacts. His files include meetings with academics, politicians, business leaders and commentators, always searching for new insights and emerging trends that will touch people, business and society tomorrow. These are distilled into conversation and communication with clients and associates to broaden their thinking and ensure they remain relevant.

An eclectic career spanning the merchant navy, business, international trade, and professional services to the upper echelon of leaders has given him a deep understanding of humanity and relationships as key drivers of business and social change in complex global environments. In his most recent role he established the Australian arm of Merryck & Co., a global CEO mentoring firm, and built it into the most successful regional business in the global organisation. Prior to that he managed the Sydney office of The American Chamber of Commerce.

Anthony constantly monitors, writes on, and speaks about 'weak signals' from the future, the emerging emotional economy, sense-making, leadership development, coaching and mentoring, work/life integration, and managing technology so it doesn't manage you. He blogs at thewhitespaceproject.com

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SVERRE STOJE

Sverre Stojé has an entrepreneurial way of looking at businesses and is recognized for his engaging and dynamic style. He possesses a diverse and deep skill set gained over more than 20 years of mentoring and consulting.

He enjoys helping organisations that span more than one culture and specialises in finding practical solutions to improve external and internal relationships of an organisation. He has a special talent to create alternative ways to proceed.

In his work Sverre focuses on the client's strengths as a way to stimulate personal and group excellence. He is inspired by the future, and likes to inspire others with a vision of the future, in combination with being quite down to earth and action oriented.

In his capacity as senior advisor he has worked with global top management groups in their development of the company's short and long term strategies. He has also a special competency in aligning people with strategies by documentation of business potential and possibilities through such an alignment. This is implemented through customer driven coaching and mentoring in cross cultural leadership and team work.

Sverre has a background as a lawyer, diplomat, HR Group Executive and Global Commercial Director of an international shipping company. He has been associated with the Foresight Group for 20 years as director of entrepreneurship programs. He has been an advisor and mentor for major companies within industries as diverse as oil & gas, shipping, mining, pharmaceuticals, banks, insurance, electronics, hotels and IT. In his recent role he was the CEO for South East Asia of Merryck & Co, a global mentoring firm.

Sverre was also instrumental in starting a network of business executives from various industries and companies in Malaysia to address the diversity between Western and Asian cultural dimensions.

He believes that sometimes the most important thing in a conversation is to listen to what is not said and that sometimes you have to close your eyes to see better. He is focused on having a balance between work, family, friends, personal development, body and soul. Together with his Norwegian wife he enjoys sport and music as well as playing the piano and the guitar. His credo is: "Dream, implement and enjoy!"

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