



# THE ART OF FUTURE THINKING

MAKE BETTER BIG DECISIONS



**The Art of Future Thinking** is a small group workshop for business leaders and key decision makers. Delivered in either a one day or two day format, participants will learn the mindsets, tools and techniques futurists use to think their way through uncertainty.

### WHO IS THIS FOR

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- Leaders facing complex challenges that keep them awake at night
- Decision makers struggling to know what to do next
- Teams hyper focused on the next quarter but with no plan for the next three years
- Boards developing long term strategies and making high value decisions

### WHAT IS INCLUDED

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- One or two days small group experiential learning
- Follow up webinar
- A copy of Simon's Scenario Planning Guide
- A deck of Future Signal Cards to inspire future forecasting projects

### BENEFITS & OUTCOMES

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- Enhance your strategic decision-making and problem solving capabilities.
- Anticipate change through a systematic approach to scanning the environment.
- Find novel solutions and new opportunities to address big business challenges.
- Leverage diverse thinking and build engagement with your team through collaborative processes.
- Improve cognitive flexibility, adapt to change faster and overcome the inertia of uncertainty.



Watch 'An Introduction to the The Art of Future Thinking'



## THE ART OF FUTURE THINKING FRAMEWORK

Futurists do not make their predictions by reading tea leaves or gazing into a crystal ball; they follow a systematic process. The Art of Future Thinking workshop teaches a framework that can be used to navigate uncertainty and make better big decisions. Each of the following four phases will be extensively explored during the workshop.

1. Scanning the environment to identify the drivers of change.
2. Exploring alternate futures to understand the impact these drivers might have.
3. Investigate risks, opportunities and develop strategic options.
4. Evaluate, prioritise and implement these options as the future unfolds.

## WORKSHOP DETAILS

In this hugely practical workshop, Simon shows you how futurists are trained to recognise trends, uncover risks and identify opportunities by thinking about the future differently. In-house workshops are customised to each clients requirements and allow for the in-depth exploration of a particular challenge or question. Below is a sample of what a one day and two day workshop covers.

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### DAY 1 (THINK)

80% theory, 20% application

#### MORNING

- Explore the dimensions of uncertainty.
- Understand the mindsets that hold our thinking back.
- Learn how to successfully frame your problem or question.
- Get introduced to the Art of Future Thinking framework.

#### AFTERNOON

- Explore the Cone of All Possible Futures.
- Understand the difference between 'signals' and 'drivers'.
- Learn how to use drivers to create future forecasts.
- Use a future forecast to identify strategic options.

### DAY 2 (DO)

20% theory, 80% application

#### MORNING

- Work in small groups to uncover the signals and drivers impacting your problem.
- Develop a future forecast to identify opportunities, challenges and strategic options.

#### AFTERNOON

- Understand how to prioritise your strategic options to create an action plan.
- Learn how to 'scale' your forecasts into rich scenarios of the future.

## ABOUT SIMON

15 years ago, Simon was one of the founding members of Rio Tinto Iron Ore's internal scenario planning team. The team was tasked with developing long-range scenarios to help the leadership team understand global iron ore demand over 10+ year time horizons. This information was used to guide billion-dollar investment decisions, including the construction of new mines, railroads and port facilities.

Over the last decade, Simon has applied his extensive real world experience in scenario planning and futures thinking to become one of Australia's leading futurists and a sought after conference speaker. Along the way, he has also worked with countless business leaders to address their significant business challenges and make better big decisions.

Simon also recently published his third book 'The Scenario Planning Guide: How scenario planning can be used to align thinking, stimulate ideas and overcome the inertia of uncertainty'.

## TESTIMONIAL

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Having been part of many strategic planning processes over the years, the approach Simon used resulted in one of the best outcomes I've experienced. Not only did we reach agreement across management and the Board, Simon's advice and 'deep thinking' approach realised a projected future for the business that none of us had ever really thought possible. THANK YOU! ”

**SHARON ROBERTSON**

CEO IBSA





## **SIMON WALLER**

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### **ENQUIRY PROCESS**

Get in touch to confirm Simon's availability  
and make a time to discuss your event.