

Alice Jakins, facilitator at Work Smarter

 By [Evan-Lee Courie](#)

4 May 2022

This week we go behind the selfie of Alice Jakins, consultant, facilitator and business coach at Work Smarter.



■ ***Could you briefly explain what your role entails?***

I equip next-generation leaders with tips and techniques to master smarter ways of working so they can meet project deadlines, be more efficient, and experience joy in the work they do. I do this through interactive group learning sessions and workshops.

■ ***What's really behind your selfie?***

Do you mean what is it like living next door to me? Who is Alice?!

It's funny, I get told all the time how good I am at order and structure in the workplace but my brain is a bit quirky. I'm calm on the surface, but I have a super busy curious mind beneath the coolness. Oh and I do love some good humour!

■ ***Growing up, what did you want to be?***

Honestly, I had no idea what I wanted to be when I was growing up.

■ ***How did you end up doing what you do now?***

It's a combination of all the years of work experience spanning publishing, digital media and digital project management. I took the plunge and went solo initially working as a freelance project manager. This later grew into practical ways of working workshops, the People & Process programme and group learning/facilitation.

■ ***When you founded your business... , what did you hope to achieve?***

I wanted to continuously learn and grow in my career and experience a better work-life balance. I also wanted to earn the same money working for myself. I succeeded on the continuously learning and growing part and on the work-life balance, but only in year four did I earn what I would've in a corporate.

▣ ***What has the journey been like?***

Super bumpy with potholes along the way. I'd describe it as colourful and challenging, forever moving forward with a guiding push from family, clients and work collaborations.

▣ ***What excites you most about your career?***

That after four years I finally have a clearer vision, mission and business goals. That I continue to learn and grow by helping others learn and grow. That I'm not in this alone. That there will always be a market for working smarter.

▣ ***What has been the highlight of your career?***

Collaborating with Belinda Murray of The Bill Murray, a company that helps businesses all over the world improve their way of working. The Covid-19 pandemic got the two of us on a daily Zoom call sharing our business ambitions and unpacking our different products and services. We co-created our People & Process Program which has been a great commercial success but also has made work incredibly "joyful" for me.

▣ ***When you're not busy working, what do you do? How do you socialise these days?***

Our Boston Terrier is taking up a lot of my attention these days. I get my fix too with these regular beach and mountain walks. Other than that I enjoy spending time with family, friends and my cactus plants side-gig.

▣ ***What are you watching/reading/listening to at the moment?***

I love a good crime documentary. I'm reading *Emotional Agility* by Susan David and I enjoy listening to anything Latino-like on Apple Music.

▣ ***What does 2022 have in store for you?***

On the work front it is to grow partnerships and commercials, also experimenting with smart tech to accelerate better work experiences. On the personal front, it is to plan a few weekends away, play guitar and get back into my jogging.

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