



Who are Black Swans?

Black Swans are strategists & planners

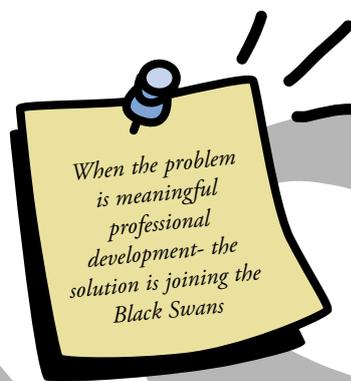
They are part of a member-based organisation that provides players exclusively for **Torquepoint** business war games. **Black Swans** provide the 'market elements' of the games in roles ranging from competitors to customers and media to government agencies.

In **Torquepoint** business war games, **Black Swans** explore and test our clients' strategies for an organisations fitness and resilience to withstand 'Black Swan' rare and unpredictable events.



Why join Black Swans?

It's where strategy meets professional development



Can you think of someone in your organisation who has done it all in terms of qualifications, courses and experience? Perhaps you are that person? What on earth do you do to develop them and where do self-employed specialists go to further their professional skills? Often, the answer is simply to spend the annual training budget on a conference.

Black Swans are these people. They range from retired or semi-retired directors and

senior executives through to self-employed experts in every imagineable field. They all have a few things in common. They have vast general knowledge and they're great at quickly adapting to new industries, organisations and challenges.

Potential **Black Swans** apply (or sometimes we shoulder-tap them) then undertake an induction '**ELP** (Experiential Learning Programme) to introduce them to swanning around. When they've signed a confidentiality agreement they are ready to fly.



Black Swans Co-Founders
Heather Roy & Simon Ewing-Jarvie

BLACK SWANS

Black Swans - the best professional development available for people who have 'done it all' in terms of courses

What are the benefits?

The benefits of joining **Black Swans**

- ✔ Learn about other industries and businesses by participating in business war games.
- ✔ Develop your knowledge of disruptive strategy and disruptive innovation techniques.
- ✔ Participate in peer-to-peer coaching and a professional mentoring network.
- ✔ Act as a specialist in our experiential learning programmes ('ELPs').
- ✔ Join a great social network (both virtually and in person).
- ✔ Develop future earning opportunities through facilitating our programmes.
- ✔ Enjoy generous discounts on all of *Torquepoint's* programmes.
- ✔ Research and publish industry, product and service profiles.

How is it structured?

Just as all swans are not white, all **Black Swans** are not the same either. They are graded by experience and aptitude. When you join, you'll have a white tail feather. Through acquiring participation points, that will change from white to yellow, blue, green, brown and finally you will become a fully black swan.

Each time you go up a grade, your membership fee reduces by \$25

per annum. **Black Swans** are grouped into local clusters to make keeping in touch easy. There's also an online forum in development. Information is sent out regularly by email regarding upcoming activities.

In addition, we have a category known as 'Celebrity Swans' - well known people who love helping to mentor others and agree to make cameo appearances at our war games and 'ELPs'.



CONTACT US: office@blackswans.co.nz
http://blackswans.co.nz
++64 21 887 674

FAQs

If it isn't answered here, please get in touch with us...

Who started Black Swans?

Hon Heather Roy and Dr Simon Ewing-Jarvie. Resumes are on our website or see LinkedIn for more detail.

Where are the groups based?

The larger centres have the most members but we have Black Swans throughout the country and overseas.

What does induction involve?

Induction involves coming along for a half-day (usually a Saturday morning) to participate in a training business war game.

Does it cost anything?

Yes. There is an annual membership fee of \$250 (excl) which reduces as you get more experienced. This is easily offset by the value of member benefits.

Is it fun?

Yeah-definitely! It's serious fun at its best!

