

Testimonials for Graeme Bowman

MC, Facilitator, Hoax Speaker, Comedian, Creativity Expert, Writer

Events where Graeme had several roles:

"You proved to be a very big hit - from the hoax Frenchman, to the MC work, and to the AC-DC close. You had clearly researched our business well and gave the conference a huge dose of energy at the right moments."

Frucor Beverages

"When we were planning our National Conference, we had a number of requirements. We were looking for an MC who could engage the audience, keep things on track, and be entertaining. We were also looking for someone who could do some comedy at our opening night dinner, and then someone who could entertain the delegates at the Awards Dinner on the final night. We found them all, and his name is Graeme Bowman."

Elders Financial Planning

"Graeme joined us for a 3 day conference as our Master of Ceremonies. His style was a perfect mix of fun, comedy, creativity and seriousness, and his involvement was a big part in this year's event being labelled the 'best ever'. Graeme also brought a number of hilarious elements to our Awards Dinner, and his hoax speech had a room full of geologists staring bug eyed at the stage wondering what on earth was happening. I would recommend Graeme to any organisers of large and complex events like ours."

BHP

"A truly professional job as Hoax Speaker, MC and Comedian for our Industry Awards of Excellence."

Real Estate Institute of Queensland

"Thank you for an amazing performance. You certainly helped to pull a very challenging afternoon into a successful event, ensuring the message was well received. Your evening component was thoroughly enjoyed, with many commenting after the event on how entertaining your various acts were, and the professionalism of the MC'ing."

ANZ Rural Banking

"Graeme's appearance at our National Conference provided light relief during the day session. He appeared in several disguises ... these were received extremely well. That night, Graeme excelled in his role as MC. He combined the right balance of humour to entertain the audience, while at the same time handling the presentation of the awards with the dignity they deserved."

Elgas

"During 'Uncork Your Creative Genie', which combines a hoax speech with a creative thinking presentation, Graeme pretended to be a visiting American agribusiness expert. It was fascinating to see the expressions on people's faces as the hoax gradually unravelled - confusion, amazement and much laughter. Importantly, there were also valuable tips on how to think laterally, which was important to demonstrate that we don't have to be too complicated in our approach to business and customers. Graeme's comedy during the evening was heavily tailored towards the audience, and people loved to hear the names of their colleagues suddenly appearing in a wide variety of jokes and routines."

Commonwealth Bank Regional & Agribusiness Banking

"During our dinner Graeme acted as MC, bogus food waiter, Bruce Attenborough, Hoax Speaker and rock star. This range of characters is testimony to a natural talent which entertained guests and ensured the night's success. Expect the unexpected. 11 out of 10."

Construction Benefit Services

"Your performance as our MC combined with comedy and impersonations made sure our people enjoyed the evening."

ANZ Private Bank

"What a man - unassuming, funny, highly perceptive, truly convincing - a great professional. Your MC work and comedy stints helped break up the intensity of the conference. The hoax speech was fantastic and truly had the audience bewildered."

DaimlerChrysler

"As Master of Ceremonies, Graeme's ability to continually entertain and focus the audience was well received by the diverse audiences present in each state. He also performed a hoax speech during dinner and presented a thought provoking lateral thinking presentation at the conclusion of each conference."

PLAN Australia

"His dual role as MC and entertainer managed to retain the interest of hundreds of staff. He delivered five times in five weeks, without missing a beat."

Elders

"Quick ability at ad libbing ... comfortable rapport with delegates ... the conference is being hailed an outstanding success due, in no small measure, to your role as MC. In particular, your alter ego, Dr George Connor, is being hailed as one of the most popular speakers. We would have no hesitation in recommending your services as an MC and hoax performer."

Building Designers Association of Victoria

"The conference opening which featured Graeme's impersonation of naturalist Bruce Attenborough and members of the ALSA committee, tracing the evolution of the liquor store owner from the Jurassic Age to the present and into the future, was indeed memorable. His hoax speech had the audience totally engrossed for at least 20 minutes before things started to fall apart in the funniest possible way. Of equal importance Graeme's skills as a professional MC were invaluable."

Australian Liquor Stores Association

"At our national conference, which was themed around 'change', Graeme Bowman contributed to the outcome in a variety of ways. Apart from serving as Master of Ceremonies, facilitating discussion and injecting a good dose of humour, he also played a key role in three specific sessions: firstly, he delivered a comic hoax speech to open the conference, then opened up the delegate's minds with his presentation, 'How to Suck Great Ideas out of Your Head', then ran a 'team identity' session that fostered much interaction between delegates and helped identify what the Go Vita brand really meant to them. The feedback conducted was overwhelmingly "excellent" in the delegates comments, with quotes of what was said and what actions they were going to take as a result of Graeme's presentations."

Go Vita

"Graeme Bowman was Master of Ceremonies at the NSW Business Chamber Annual Awards Dinner. He took on the character of 'Elwood Jefferson', an American news reporter in Sydney preparing for a new show. This hoax worked fantastically well. Attendees were thoroughly captivated by this slightly quirky and off beat character."

NSW Business Chamber

"Your performance as Master of Ceremonies and your delivery of a hoax speech was superb and really made a difference to the Awards ceremony."

Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority

"Many thanks for your fantastic contribution to our recent product launch and roadshow. Your hoax speech as Dr Geoffrey Trescothick and interactive larger-than-life devil's advocate character, "Trev", really helped to bring each event to life and make it memorable for a very diverse audience. After seven presentations across Australia, attendee feedback has been the highest in any seminar we have run. This series of events has ensured that the Quantum messages are remembered above the myriad of all others that our clients are inundated with. In follow-up with attendees, it was clear that the core messages stuck, and this paved the way for the next step in our sales process. Because of the entertaining approach, customers were very receptive to what we have to offer. As we were launching a highly specialised and technical IT product, these events could have been very dry, but the humour and quirkiness you injected kept everyone fresh and focused, even at breakfast time! It was also valuable to have some of the genuine, serious material conveyed by Dr Trescothick, while Trev raised important issues that would have been on the audience's mind in a Q&A format with a difference."

Quantum

Events where Graeme was a Hoax Speaker:

"Your portrayal of a senior German business executive was very impressive. You had the audience wondering for quite some time and, as the hoax became more apparent, there was widespread hysterical laughter. We could not have wished for a better result."

Coca Cola

"Your hoax was so well researched you managed to bait, hook and land 60 of the most hardened professionals."

Australian Association of Pathology Practices

"The vast majority of our audience was totally fooled, with many comments such as: I have not laughed that much in years."

Australasian Soft Drink Association

"Your preparation was extremely thorough and your knowledge of the industry and the critical issues made you a credible 'expert'".

AMP

"Graeme tailored his material to this corporate audience, which gave his performance the edge we were looking for. He certainly delivered what he promised . . . a real asset to our function."

ANZ

"The audience were impressed with your ability to catch them unawares, and they were also delighted with the medical acronyms that you were able to string together. You continued to be the talking point in most conversations the following day."

Infection Control Association

"It was amazing to see how you managed to weave the key points from the briefing we provided into your material. We've had lots of great feedback. By the end of the day, everyone was ready to kick back, relax and enjoy a laugh together - and you helped set the scene wonderfully."

Coles

"It was a great evening and the feed back has been extremely positive ... the talk of the day was the German Professor at the dinner!"

Local Government Association of Tasmania

"Graeme was brilliant. At a function for an important client of the firm, Graeme's speech managed to break the ice and reduce the formality of the occasion."

Gadens Lawyers

"Absolutely hilarious and hit just the right note after a very heavy day of discussing future technologies."

Department of Primary Industries

"Your comedic skills had everyone in tears. The references you made to the Honda staff were clever and hilarious."

Honda

"The audience were in rapturous laughter, transfixed on your routine."

Engineers Australia

"Graeme's performance at our recent black tie event during Cox Plate week was simply sensational. His portrayal of a leading American racing identity was riveting and hysterical. The general feeling was that Graeme's speech was one of the funniest things they had ever heard."

Moonee Valley Racing Club

"Magnificent job ... as Dr George Connor from the World Business Council on Sustainable Development, the audience was caught completely by surprise. The speech broke the ice for many attendees who seemed much more relaxed and enthusiastic about meeting people and exchanging views the following day."

National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality

"You had a large number of the audience spell bound right up to the end; eg. another of the keynote speakers in the audience was actually taking notes to include in future addresses."

Rotary District 9830

"Graeme managed to convince many of the fodder industry experts of his supposed knowledge and this was intermingled with some witty concepts ... and provided a nice soft sell message for Integrated Packaging. The audience was completely enthralled and in stitches with hearty belly laughs."

Integrated Packaging

"Many engineers in the audience were taking notes, believing your suggestions were the real deal. The mixture of technology and humour was an excellent fit."

Schneider Electric

"My colleagues were humoured and stunned at times with your apparent local knowledge and insights, laughing all the way to dessert."

Brambles Industrial Services

"The conference has been claimed as a great success and your presentation contributed to this with a rating of 10 out of 10."

Institute of Hospitality in Healthcare

"Fabulous performance for our staff Christmas party. Your act of being our new Deputy CEO was extremely successful."

Transact Communications

"Feedback from the attendees was very favourable . . . many were impressed at your mastery of the southern drawl of a Mississippi academic."

Insolvency Practitioners Association

"In the past our AGMs have been very formal and perhaps a little dull . . . the night was a tremendous success, with the feedback from doctors overwhelmingly positive."

John Flynn Private Hospital

"Graeme Bowman aka Dr Heinrich Bauer - a German Consultant in Innovative Safety Procedures - provided a hoax presentation like no other at our Awards evening. He was absolutely brilliant and had the audience in laughter throughout."

Safework SA

"Graeme performed as Dr. William Pembroke, an Integrated Healthcare Consultant from the United Kingdom discussing - International Insights on Liberating Healthcare. The VHA has received great feedback about this performance. Delegates were very positive about Graeme's ability to turn health jargon and acronyms into something funny, and the ability to lead people on from the start with terminology that reflected the current health system."

Victorian Healthcare Association

"A thoroughly enjoyable evening spent with a very professional and well prepared expert guest speaker."

Burgess Rawson

"Graeme delivered a great 'hoax' presentation at our recent Business Partner dinner. The whole audience really enjoyed his performance with some saying they had tears in their eyes from laughing so much."

IBM Retail Solutions

"I thought you were superb! Everyone I spoke to thought you were a rather eccentric German from head office, and didn't twig until the end."

Allianz

"A wonderful, enjoyable and very entertaining evening ... great positive feedback from the guests."

Stockland Retirement Living

"Our clients enjoyed your learned comments - even those who started taking notes, and then, to their embarrassment, closed their notepads!"

Mining 2007

"At a recent conference dinner for our leadership team, we engaged Graeme Bowman to impersonate the American chairman of the global accounting group to which we belong. It was fascinating to see the expressions on people's faces as the hoax gradually unravelled - confusion, wide-eyed amazement, hysterical laughter. In the current economic climate, we all need a good laugh, and our people certainly got that! And, days later, they are still talking about it."

William Buck

"In his speech he nailed that fine balance between delivering serious and inspiring messages to the audience, and keeping the laughs coming! Our audience was a truly international delegation, with representatives from the UK and Europe, Asia and Australasia, Africa, and the Americas. Graeme Bowman's humour was well tuned and appropriate to such an audience, consistently raising laughs throughout the delegation."

Computational Fluid Dynamics Conference

"Congratulations on your tremendous performance, which was the primary reason for the many claims by long term attendees that this year's event was easily the best and most enjoyable the Club had hosted. Your hoax character of Dr Geoffrey Pembroke had many in the audience completely hooked that you were some psychologically impaired, drunken, obnoxious English aristocrat who just happened to be a whiz at boat design and lateral thinking."

Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club

Events where Graeme was Master of Ceremonies or Facilitator:

"From the moment you stepped onto stage, you captivated the audience and your professional approach and capability was evident. The skits were brilliant and resonated with the delegates. Your background work paid off and hit the mark without offence – an art in itself."

Australian Society of Association Executives

"It was terribly important that we had an MC that could carry the evening, with such a diverse range of industries represented. You did brilliantly."

Australian Institute of Project Management

"One of our Directors said that your ability to link the whole day together was the best she has ever seen an MC do."

Business Improvement in Government (Qld)

"A very big thank you for the superb job you undertook as MC of our Gala Dinner. It is the first time for many years the night has run according to the agenda, and the entertainment you provided was priceless."

Facilities Management Association

"Graeme helped set the scene and facilitated a couple of relevant themed activities during a Strategy Alignment day for the Dulux business. As a way of getting people's attention up front, Graeme assumed the character of a Trade Painter and proceeded to 'tell it like it is', focused around our theme of the Consumer needing to be at the heart of everything we do. The activities were tailored to our business, and promoted significant interaction and discussion, not the least of which was the activity around team behaviours, which was something we'll remember for a while to come! Graeme played a large part of keeping the day stimulating and fun, ensuring that people remained fresh, creative and focused on the task at hand. At the end of the day people walked away feeling fresh, rather than drained, and we had achieved what we came to do."

Dulux Group

"As those in attendance represented the cream of the Meetings Industry, it was not going to be easy to impress them. But impress them you did. Your hilarious opening, which saw naturalist Bruce Attenborough poke fun at our industry, before bursting into a high powered rock song complete with manic dancing, really came out of left field."

Meetings Industry Association of Australia

"The variety of characters, which ranged from Austen Powers and a truckie through to a sales rep and a shareholder, added considerable value to the business presentations by highlighting key messages in a humorous but relevant fashion."

Nortel Networks

"You brought out the best in the senior executives you interviewed on stage. The interview with our new Managing Director was particularly important, and added a great deal of value, as it was the first time many of the audience had seen him."

Lucent Technologies

"Graeme made people relax by having fun up on stage, rather than the usual strict straight down the line type MC."

Property Council of Australia (Vic)

"Project Meridian recently finished a large-scale systems implementation. The project team wanted a facilitator to host an entertaining debrief that would give the project team members time to reflect and unwind. Graeme opened the event pretending to be an international guest and tricked the audience into thinking there was a new project they'd all need to be involved in. It was a hilarious ice breaker that had everyone talking for days. Graeme then facilitated the event by using interesting and humorous activities which by the end of the event had everyone sharing their experiences. Graeme had not been given a lot of information to work with and we were very impressed at how he still managed to understand the needs of the group and apply his facilitation skills to achieve our objectives."

Housing NSW

Events where Graeme was a Corporate Comedian:

"The doctors loved the David Attenborough script."

Merck, Sharp & Dohme

"Your flawless impersonation of the late Sir Joh Bjelke Petersen was a highlight of the evening, nothing but rave reviews."

Tasmanian Export Awards

"Thank you for doing such a superb job of Bruce Attenborough, long lost brother of David, at our Management Summit. I am amazed with how you were able to captivate our audience, who, in the past, have been quite a challenging bunch to entertain or impress."

Thiess

"Thank you very much for your contribution to the recent anniversary dinner for the Victorian Government. This was a very prestigious event, with high profile politicians and industry leaders as far as the eye could see. The Premier made special mention of your contribution."

Australian Business Theatre

"The 700 Retravision delegates were very impressed. The Don (Burke) Dirt character mixing humour, impressions, singing and industry knowledge went over very well to the extent that most delegates voted it the 'Best Presentation' of the Conference."

Sunbeam/Victa

"Thank you for all your help filming our 'David Attenborough' themed conference training videos. Your creative ideas, work ethic, patience and commitment to filming overnight, appearing in the most outrageous places, made a huge contribution to the project. Your ability to transform into character was a great experience to watch and you are a true one take wonder."

Woolworths Liquor Group

"Graeme's quick wit made a lasting impression on the Premier and was definitely one of the highlights of his day. The reaction from our guests was fantastic."

Carlton & United Breweries

"Your David Attenborough opener was instrumental in setting the mood for the evening and was a wonderful icebreaker with our staff."

Westpac

"As always you are a calm and consummate professional. Last year was a brilliant success which very much hinged upon your delivery. This year you again shone with amazing writing, support and drive."

Hancock Events

"Your stand-up comedy routine was excellent. But the crowning glory was the 'This Is Your Life' segment which made us laugh and cry simultaneously."

Australia Post

"The 'tailored' content of your presentation was so well done, that everyone thought you were 'one of us'."

National Association of Forest Industries

"Your comedy act 'Stuck in the Middle' during the conference dinner was well received from your very first word, and helped create a convivial mood that contributed to making the evening an undoubted success."

National Industry Association for Disability Services

"Judging by the amount of laughing by those around, I am sure the doctors thoroughly enjoyed your entertainment."

John Flynn Private Hospital

Events where Graeme presented his creativity keynote, 'How to Suck Great Ideas out of Your Head' or facilitated a Lateral Thinking Workshop:

"A lively, humorous, interesting session . . . very well received."

CSIRO Molecular Science

"Our audience was very diverse, being a mix of scientists and administrative people, but your highly entertaining and informative address easily held their attention, and gave them insights into how to think more creatively."

CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences

"You had the team captivated right from the start, and have found that great balance between entertainment and dealing with the serious issues at hand. I would not hesitate to recommend you to other organisations that are looking for a guest presenter to cut through the 'sameness' of a conference and deliver a strong but entertaining message."

Agfa-Gevaert

"The combination of a one-hour keynote followed by a one-hour workshop hit the mark . . . participants had a great opportunity to hear the principles of creative thinking and were then able to put the tools into practice."

AUSTAR

"With little preparation time, Graeme was able to tailor his presentation to our complex industry, and facilitate a worthwhile two hour workshop. The response from my management team was very good. They enjoyed the session and saw value in the creative thinking tools."

Computershare

"Your ability to mix humour and facilitate a workshop with realistic outcomes is a testament to your versatility. The "How to Suck Great Ideas out of Your Head" segment was well accepted and the delegates used the insights to work through the issue we agreed to address. Peppering the day with your different characters, stringing together industry jargon and issues then finishing with the tailored rock song kept our delegates engaged and entertained while still getting the job done!"

Sanitarium

"You will be pleased to know your session was one of only two awarded a five star rating by delegates."

Australian Sales & Marketing Institute

"Graeme was engaged to deliver a half-day presentation and workshop to Dunlop Foam sales, marketing and operations people. We were keen to get our team thinking creatively about some important issues, so Graeme kicked off with his keynote address, 'How to Suck Great Ideas out of Your Head'. This led into a workshop where Graeme facilitated discussion and idea generation around the topics of:

- Handling sales objections
- Increasing effectiveness between the Sales and Operations divisions.

Graeme perfectly reflected our brief in delivering a workshop that compelled our group to "buy in" to the true concept of creativity."

Dunlop Foam

"The presentation you gave on Lateral Thinking was most useful and highly entertaining."

Waste Management Association of Australia

"The creativity keynote was excellent - based on valid De Bono theory. It gave generic solutions that could be adapted to our work. The audience just loved it - plenty of humour with some side-splitting moments - very clever content."

Box Hill Institute

"I really enjoyed your presentation on Creative Thinking. Although I recognised it as based on de Bono's work, the message had never really sunk in before until you demonstrated the Post Its example. As some feedback, my team was stuck last night coming up for a solution on a logistical problem - we could sense a better way, but kept coming up with an old solution. However, after applying the clustering exercise and consciously biting my tongue and avoiding a straight line solution, we are now exploring new options. Not only that but the guys are fully engaged and are building a model out the back as we speak!"

Boral Construction Materials

"Your presentation really kick started the theme for the day and made every one of the delegates enjoy the concept of lateral thinking."

Golf Management Australia

"Your presentation on creative thinking is being hailed as one of the highlights of the conference."

Building Designers Association of Victoria

"Your entertaining presentation has enabled us to look beyond our usual vision and imagine more great ideas for our respective schools."

Professional Development Network, Education Queensland

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Events where Graeme presented 'Uncork Your Creative Genie' (unique blend of Hoax Speech and genuine keynote on Creative Thinking)

"Your combination of humour and substance delivered the message very well. The feedback I have received has all been very positive."

KPMG

"The session you delivered was tremendous. Conference feedback scored it at 93% . . . the best ever result from any conference we have participated in."

Vero

"The way you blended a hoax speech with a real presentation on creative thinking was very entertaining, informative and thought provoking. Looking at the audience, there was a mixture of laughter, puzzled expressions and genuine appreciation for what you were doing. A great boost to our conference, with excellent feedback from delegates."

LG

"Not only were you consistently labeled as one of the most entertaining and useful speakers, people thought your style and content were "fantastic" and "brilliant"! Many people thought that you were indeed the highlight of the event and found real value from your workshops."

Association & Communications Events

"Whilst the humour was a part of what we were trying to achieve as the last session of the conference, the crucial element was how you assisted the team through your creative thinking hints and tools. Later that night, many were debating which was most important – the joy of humour or the lessons learnt."

National Transport Insurance

"Outstanding! Our guests loved Graeme and he received rousing applause. He did his research well and had our audience convinced till the end of his character's involvement in the industry. Although he was a comedian he also delivered a real and thought provoking talk on innovation. Guests were taking notes."

Cormack Packaging

"Uncork your Creative Genie was not only very entertaining, but also carried with it an informative message . . . an extremely positive response from our delegates."

Aged Care Association of Victoria

"The session was extremely well researched and put together by Graeme, and his ability to deceive a somewhat cynical audience was testament to his talent."

Victoria Police

Speech-writing and Script-writing Projects

"The scripts and speeches were all excellent."

Beaurepaires

"You did brilliantly, providing us with a script that was both flexible enough to accommodate all the different personalities speaking, and homogenous enough to make us all sound wildly intelligent and meaningful!"

Samsung

"Thank you very much for the words you put into my mouth for the VANA conference. You managed once again, not only to capture the message our clients wanted to deliver, but you were able to put it into words which suited me perfectly. You have the ability to understand the individual speech-maker and write accordingly."

Michael Schildberger

"Your scripting and speaker support material accurately reflected the input you gained through interviews with our senior management, and whilst it encapsulated several important but complicated concepts, you sympathetically pitched these to an appropriate level of sophistication for our audience."

BP

"Your speeches were spot-on, and I marvelled at your immediate grasp of all those technical things."

Telstra

"Graeme's creative inspiration enabled each of the three divisions to communicate their specific plans in an entertaining and memorable fashion. Well before the National Sales Conference, he participated in an intensive briefing session at which he helped us to explore the business issues that needed addressing, and how they may best be presented. He assisted ten presenters with the writing of their speeches, helping each one to convey important messages in a manner that was clear, concise and motivational."

Carter Holt Harvey

"There was a need for us to give some very complex, and possibly unsettling information about the future of our industry to the sales teams. How could we expect someone from outside the business to get it right when many insiders had trouble with the changes? Well you did get it right. Your script hit all the important issues and set the tone for the whole week."

SmithKline Beecham