

GIOVANNI LESNA-MARANETTO

AI & Automation Consultant | Intelligent Automation & Digital Transformation | Certified Management Consultant
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Australian Permanent Resident (Skilled Independent visa, subclass 189) · Skills assessed by VETASSESS (Management Consultant) · Full work rights · Own transport · Open to hybrid, on-site or remote

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

AI & Automation Consultant with 12+ years across management consulting, fintech and emerging technology, now specialising in AI-powered workflow automation, business process automation (BPA) and intelligent automation. I bridge strategy and execution — translating frontier technology into scalable, automation-first operating models with clear ROI. Hands-on builder of AI agents, self-hosted automation infrastructure and human-in-the-loop (HITL) systems, combined with the consulting judgement to map processes, manage senior stakeholders and drive measurable change. I work AI-augmented — architecting, reviewing and shipping production systems faster by pairing deep solution judgement and op-sec with modern AI tooling. Certified Management Consultant (CMC) and AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner, with early Australian academic ties (University of Western Australia) and established Melbourne residency.

CORE COMPETENCIES

AI Automation · Intelligent Automation · Workflow Automation · Business Process Automation (BPA) · AI Agents & Agentic Automation · LLM Integration (Claude / OpenAI / GLM) · Human-in-the-Loop (HITL) Design · AI Governance & Responsible AI · Robotic Process Automation (RPA) · Digital Transformation · Process Optimisation · Systems & API Integration · Solution Architecture · Proof of Concept (PoC) Delivery · Requirements Gathering & Business Requirement Specifications (BRS) · Current-/Future-State Analysis · System Scoping & Readiness · UAT & Production Delivery (SDLC) · Regulatory & Compliance Delivery (FATCA / AEOI) · Stakeholder & Executive Engagement · Change Management · Go-to-Market & Technical Sales · ROI & Business Case Development · Data Analysis

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES

Automation & AI: n8n (self-hosted, Level 2 Certified), Zapier, Make (Integromat), RPA, LLM APIs, AI agents, prompt engineering, RAG, HITL workflows

Cloud & Infrastructure: AWS (Cloud Practitioner; AI Practitioner in progress), Docker, Coolify, Hetzner Cloud, Cloudflare (DNS/SSL), Bitwarden (secrets), infrastructure-as-code

Programming & Data (AI-augmented): Python, SQL, PowerShell, REST APIs / JSON, HTML/CSS, Git (multi-remote) — architecting, reviewing and shipping production code and scripts with modern AI tooling; data analysis & dashboarding

Process & Delivery: Lucidchart (certified), Microsoft Visio, JIRA, Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe 4.0), process mapping, Microsoft Suite & Advanced Excel

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AI & Automation Consultant (Founder)

Jun 2025 – Present

[RA1 Labs](#) · Melbourne, VIC · Hybrid

- Design and implement AI-powered workflow automation and business process automation (BPA) using n8n, Zapier and Make, helping organisations move from manual, fragmented processes to scalable, automation-first operating models.
- Build and prototype AI agents and intelligent automation systems, including human-in-the-loop (HITL) approval workflows that keep a human in control of high-stakes decisions.
- Engineered a single-configuration infrastructure-as-code deployment tool that provisions a full self-hosted automation stack (servers, DNS/SSL, secrets management, monitoring and n8n) end-to-end via custom Docker templates.
- Apply AI governance, op-sec and data-flow design so AI systems are constrained, auditable and secure by design.
- Integrate APIs, data systems and no-code/low-code tools to deliver end-to-end systems integration, and translate technical capability into clear business outcomes and ROI for stakeholders.
- Support clients with technical sales, go-to-market strategy and solution positioning.

Program Assessor & Subject Matter Expert (AI)

Aug 2025 – Present

[GetSmarter \(2U\)](#) · Remote

- Deliver and support executive education on AI for the MIT Sloan + CSAIL: Artificial Intelligence for Business Strategy program.

- Act as a subject-matter expert on AI applications, business strategy and emerging technology; assess participant work and provide structured feedback on AI use cases and implementation approaches.
- Translate complex AI concepts into clear, practical insights for senior business professionals.

Australian Market Integration & AI / Automation Upskilling

Jul 2024 – Jun 2025

Melbourne, VIC · *A deliberate transition on relocating from South Africa: established local credentials and experience while pivoting my consulting practice toward AI and intelligent automation.*

- **Australian client-facing experience** — [VicProp](#) (Agent's Representative, Oct 2024 – Apr 2025): completed the **CPP41419 Certificate IV in Real Estate Practice** (Consumer Affairs Victoria) and an **auctioneer course**, and worked a client-facing sales role — building local on-the-ground experience, references and rapid professional credentialing in a new market.
- **Continued remote advisory** — ongoing consulting through Mental Block Consulting (clients incl. API3, 2U / GetSmarter) alongside the transition.
- **Intensive AI/automation upskilling** — earned AWS Cloud Practitioner, n8n (Level 2) and Lucidchart certifications; built AI agents, self-hosted automation infrastructure and dashboards — the work that became RA1 Labs. Self-directed R&D that converted directly into shipped capability.

Management Consultant — Emerging Technology & Solutions

Apr 2018 – Jun 2025

Mental Block Consulting (MB Consulting) · *Remote* · *Selected clients: [Redflank](#), [API3](#), [2U / GetSmarter](#)*

- Led business process improvement, business analysis and technology streamlining across core business functions for 20+ start-ups and technology ventures.
- Conducted requirements gathering and current-state / future-state assessments to build transformation roadmaps, business cases and cost-benefit analyses for technology investments.
- Implemented automation using RPA, n8n, Zapier and Make; built and prototyped workflow systems and emerging-technology solutions.
- Designed process workflows and flow diagrams using Lucidchart and Microsoft Visio; facilitated stakeholder workshops, change management and adoption of new operating models.
- Drove go-to-market strategy, technical sales and sales-pipeline design; translated technical capability into business outcomes and ROI for senior stakeholders.
- **Public-sector strategy & research (Redflank):** delivered a Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) readiness assessment across multiple government bodies — SETAs and state/national departments — during COVID, plus feasibility studies for large government initiatives, large-scale questionnaire/survey design and executive-grade research reports and stakeholder engagement.

Senior Business Consultant / Analyst

May 2015 – Jun 2018

Monocle Solutions · *On-site* · *Client: large retail & commercial bank*

- Delivered data-driven transformation and process optimisation across 10+ banking business units; led operating-model redesign and streamlined core bank functions with cross-functional teams.
- Consolidated three derivative trading systems (Murex, Front Arena) into a single platform to increase efficiency and reduce cost; ran system scoping and readiness assessments and produced Business Requirement Specifications (BRS), technical and interface-design documentation.
- Migrated and replicated a Basel II data mart into SAP HANA as part of a cross-country (UK | SA) delivery team, working toward a unified financial architecture and liaising between developers and senior business/finance stakeholders.
- Delivered FATCA / AEOI regulatory-reporting automation and standardisation across 5 business units — vendor scoping and implementation, current-state/future-state analysis, gap analysis, data mapping and data-dictionary artefacts.
- Ran delivery through full SDLC — requirements, build, UAT, production cutover and stakeholder training — in Scaled Agile (SAFe 4.0) using Kanban and JIRA; conducted EXCO planning with IT, Finance and Business leaders.

Investment Consultant

Jun 2014 – May 2015

Allan Gray · *On-site*

- Managed client relationships and investment product engagement across unit trusts, retirement and offshore products; simplified complex financial concepts for clients and stakeholders.
- Recognised with **Innovation Idea of the Month (2014)** for a process-improvement contribution.

SELECTED TECHNICAL PROJECTS (RA1 LABS)

- **Infrastructure-as-Code Deployment Tool** — single-YAML provisioning of a full self-hosted stack (Hetzner, Coolify, Cloudflare DNS/SSL, Bitwarden secrets, monitoring, self-hosted n8n) via custom Docker templates; demonstrates deployment automation, security and end-to-end systems thinking.
- **AI Agents (OpenClaw, Hermes) & Local LLM** — designed and ran AI agents and a locally hosted LLM (GLM 5.2) to explore agent orchestration, automation and data-sovereignty / privacy-aware deployment.
- **Analytics Dashboard** — built a tested, single-page data dashboard (clean modular architecture, JSON data layer, automated test suite) for quantitative tracking and decision support.

EDUCATION

- **Master in Digital Business (MBA) — Digital Transformation** — University of Barcelona (dual degree with Zigurat Institute of Technology), 2021
- **BEC, International Business & Banking** — [University of Western Australia](#), 2014 (studied in Australia)
- **BCom (Honours), Economics** — University of South Africa, 2016
- **BCom, Economics (Cum Laude)** — University of South Africa, 2012

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional: Certified Management Consultant (CMC, IMC / CMC-Global) · AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner · AWS Certified AI Practitioner (in progress) · n8n Level 2 Certified · Lucidchart Certified · Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe 4.0) · Blockchain for Business (Hyperledger / Linux Foundation) · CPP41419 Certificate IV in Real Estate Practice (VIC) + Auctioneer course

Risk & Finance: GARP — Financial Risk & Regulation (FRR) · GARP — Foundations of Banking Risk (FBR) · SAIFM Required Persons Exams (Financial Markets & Ethics)

Executive Programs: MIT — AI in Business Strategy · LSE — AI and Ethics · IMD — Leading Digital Innovation · Harvard — Tertiary Teaching · The Economist — Future of Finance

Professional Networks: Expert Network Member — GLG, AlphaSights, Guidepoint

References available on request (including Australian referees).