

# Breaking the Learning Glass Ceiling

What deep diving expeditions taught me about staying in learning — even when I was already supposed to know.

### When Did We Stop Being Learners?

The Quiet Trap of Expertise

At some point, we stop being the eager learner.

We become the one who knows — the expert.

The safe pair of hands.

But what happens when we stop learning... because we're supposed to already know?



# In Deep Diving, You Never Stop Learning

Expertise doesn't protect you from change

In deep diving, there's no pretending.

You don't get points for "already knowing."

Every dive is different.

Every day brings something new.

You learn — or you don't dive.



# Performance only works if you keep learning

Real depth is a team skill

Getting one diver to 221m takes a team of 6- working together and independently.

#### They have to

- learn fast.
- Adapt faster.
- Be honest about what they don't know.

That's the blend: performance + learning.



### The learning glass ceiling is real

And it's made of our own identity

The paradox?

The more expert you become, the harder it gets to stay in learning.

Your identity gets wrapped in competence.

- You stop asking.
- You stop adjusting.
- You stop growing.

### Corporate is also Exploration

This ceiling shows up everywhere

You don't need to dive to 221 metres to feel it.

It happens in

- teams
- leadership meetings
- as a senior,
- as the SME
- as the expert

Anywhere people stop learning because they think they're *supposed to already know*.

We lose the blend!





### In corporate, the blend disappears

We shift roles. But not mindset.

#### You shift from:

- Doing → to leading
- Learning → to teaching
- Making → to enabling

#### We forget:

- We still need to learn
- To be wrong
- To figure it out



### **High Performance = Learning**

Not knowing is strength. It's required.

High performance isn't about knowing everything. It's about

- learning faster.
- Integrating faster.
- Adapting faster.

The more pressure to perform, the more we need space to explore.

# There can be no learning without agency

This is what I have had to relearrn

This is what I instinctively knew but have had to consciously remember

Agency starts when learning begins.

Even — especially — when you're no longer new.



# This is Exploration - empowerment in action -

Agency isn't given.

It's built and it is built on the choice to learn

If this resonated — and you're ready to rebuild your learner's edge

Start with the Spark Quiz.

It's one of the ways I learn about my blindspots so I can build my explorer self.

https://tally.so/r/nPPVAQ