



GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER

of the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir



ISSUE 11:
August 2022

From the President

WAYNE NEWTON

Welcome to the second issue of *The Grapevine* for 2022—my second message to you as President of the choir.

As I write this, the choir has performed on three occasions this year. A big ‘Thank you’ to **David Foster** for organising these performances for us. Unfortunately, due to Covid, ‘flu and the cold weather, several of these have been cancelled at short notice. As stated before, we are a performing choir and therefore these opportunities matter—if only to maintain performance readiness!

At one rehearsal recently, we talked about performing at our best. I felt that we were singing quite well (with due praise to us all—especially Paul for keeping us up to scratch), but not performing quite as well as we could. We need to remember that a performance commences not with the first bar, but as soon as one audience member eyeballs us. It only ends when we leave the auditorium. Check out again the one-page article ‘Performing at your Best’. It outlines some simple rules to keep in mind.

Certainly, the last two performances showed a marked improvement in our performances. Keep up the good work and don’t be offended if someone reminds you that we are in ‘performance mode’ prior to actual performance.

I have made it a core aim as President to restore the choir to its former glory. Performing at our best is one part; the other part is... recruiting new choristers. I believe that we are currently below our critical mass to perform as well as we could and so keep the choir running. Can we think of men who might want to add to our number?

I was disappointed when we recently lost two potential choristers. Their reason for leaving was one we all experienced when we first joined the KMC. They thought that catching up to the choir was 'too hard' and that they would never be 'performance ready'. This is a normal, all-too-understandable, human reaction.

Here's a few thoughts on how we might be able to make life a little easier for new choristers.

UNDERSTANDING THE FOUR STAGES OF LEARNING

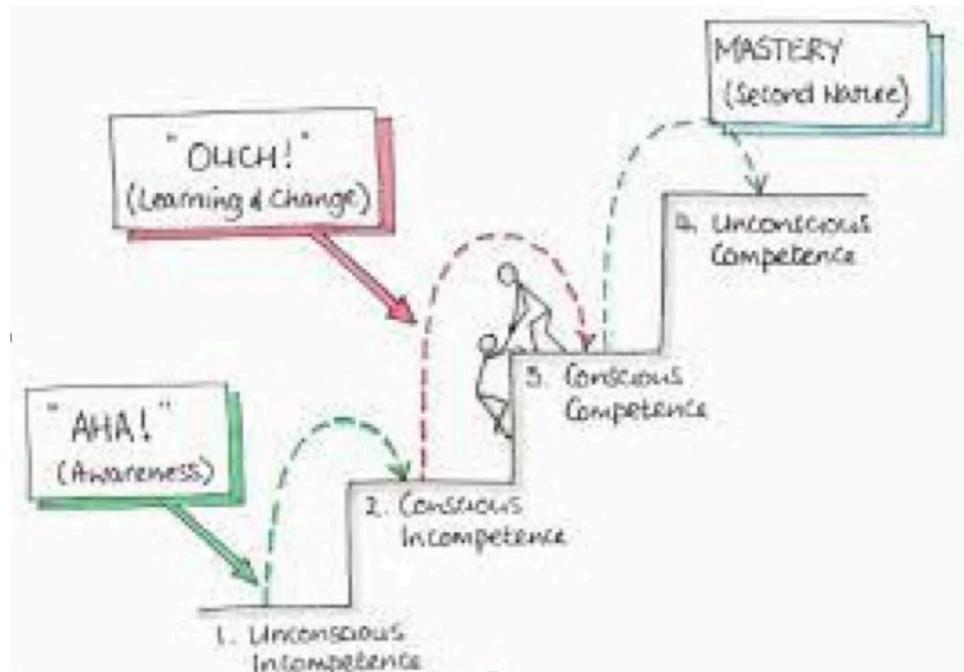
Do you remember before you had your first driving lesson? I remember thinking 'How hard can that be?' I was at Stage 1, 'Unconscious Incompetence', or—unlike Donald Rumsfeld's 'known unknowns'—I *didn't* know what I didn't know.

Within a few minutes of my first lesson, I was reeling from all the things I had to remember. I had rapidly gone to Stage 2: 'Conscious Incompetence'! I was saying to myself: 'I'll never get this! There is too much to learn.' It is a very short jump from Stage 1 to Stage 2—and a much longer jump to Stage 3.

I worked hard at my driving lessons. I got instruction and I practised—all the time being given advice and encouragement from other family members. (Note the helping hand given by the figure at Stage 3 in the diagram.) But... I eventually gained my Driver's Licence. I had reached Stage 3 'Conscious Competence'!

Yes, I could drive, but it required all my concentration—it was still hard work. I recall driving some school colleagues to a function. They were laughing and talking loudly. At one point I said: 'Would you all please be quiet! I am concentrating on my driving.' I was very much at Stage 3.

Years passed. During that time, I had gained plenty of experience (and practice). I had reached Stage 4: 'Unconscious Competence'. I had reached the point where, after pulling into my driveway from work one day, I had said to myself, 'I don't remember driving across the Gladesville Bridge!'



Had I been mentally preoccupied? Well, yes. I suddenly realised that I had worked out a lesson plan for the next course day, including detailed examples and exercises—all while driving home on automatic pilot. Very sobering indeed!

I am sure that you can all add your own stories here. Understand that this is a normal human process—and it happens frequently to all of us. Here is a recent instance.

We were handed out recently some new music, called ‘Non Nobis Domine’. Most of us thought that this would be fun. Of course, we were at Stage 1. It didn’t take us long to advance to Stage 2. I recall overhearing several choristers saying, ‘We’ll never get this!’ We had advanced to Stage 2.

With much mentoring from Paul and Gerry—and a lot of practices—I suggest that we are mostly at Stage 3. Being *consciously competent* means that we are still looking at our music while Paul gets a view of the tops of our heads. After we have attained Stage 3, it takes much more practice to approach Stage 4. When nearing Stage 4, we will be able to look at Paul sometimes and... sing it well.

Why am I telling you this?

We must acknowledge that new choristers will walk into their first rehearsal at Stage 1. They will rapidly move to Stage 2, probably at their first rehearsal. We must help them as much as possible to climb to Stage 3. To this end, I think that each new chorister should be assigned a ‘buddy’—a ‘go to’ mentor to help them through this trying, difficult period. The buddy does not have to be one of the part-leaders; it can be anyone of the same voice type.

I was fortunate that Tony Biviano appointed himself my buddy and helped me get up to speed. I am always grateful to Tony for his selfless mentoring and friendship. Mentoring does work. Let’s see if we can get some new members to stay with us. We are a great choir.

I will finish up with an amusing story I heard.

A fellow was in New York, rushing to attend a recital at Carnegie Hall. He soon realised that he was lost and so asked a man in the street: “Hey buddy, how do I get to Carnegie Hall?” The man replied: “Practise, my boy. Practise.”

There is something in that for all of us. Until next time, Happy singing!

EDITOR’S NOTE:

If members have some item to add to the next issue of *Grapevine*, please simply send it to me—my email address below. Closing date for all copy: **Saturday 24 September 2022**. I am away till Sunday 25 September. There will be just two more issues for 2022 after this!

JOHN WATERHOUSE

Email: jmwaterhouse@bigpond.com



From the Music Director

DR PAUL WHITING OAM

I thought I might remind choir members of some of the important elements we try to emphasise in our singing. Here are four:

FOUR ELEMENTS OF SINGING

1. Breathing

Air should be inhaled smoothly and easily. As we have noted many times, the head and shoulders are not really involved in this. The lungs are designed to fill naturally and, as they fill, the diaphragm (the muscle dividing the thorax from the abdomen) is lowered so the lungs can expand downward. As this air is expelled, the diaphragm rises and so ‘supports’ the column of air that activates the vocal cords and carries the sound into the head and out to the listener.

2. Volume

The vocal cords require very little air to vibrate. The volume produced depends not on forcing the air through the larynx, but on the amount of resonance produced in the head. The muscles should always be allowed to work naturally and not be tightened or strained.

3. Vowels

These are the important element in singing: they create the quality of the sound we produce. It is the consonants that define the words. These introduce the note we are singing and define its end. Fundamental in singing, however, is the *quality* of the vowels. They determine whether the sound we produce is pleasant or unpleasant, rounded or strident to the listener.

4. Resonance (*vibrations in the mouth and nasal passages*)

Resonance grows as the space in which music takes place is larger and able to reflect and amplify sound. The mouth, the nose and the sinus cavities are the chambers that allow the voice to be resonant. You will recall how difficult it is to speak or sing with resonance when you have a head cold and those cavities are partially blocked.

When we sing, therefore, we need the air from the lungs, that carries the sound from the vocal cords, to fill those cavities and not just be forced out through the lips. Ideally, you should feel the notes vibrating in your head. The French call it *chanter dans le masque*—‘to sing in the face’.

FOUR TYPICAL VOCAL RANGES

Here are our typical vocal ranges:

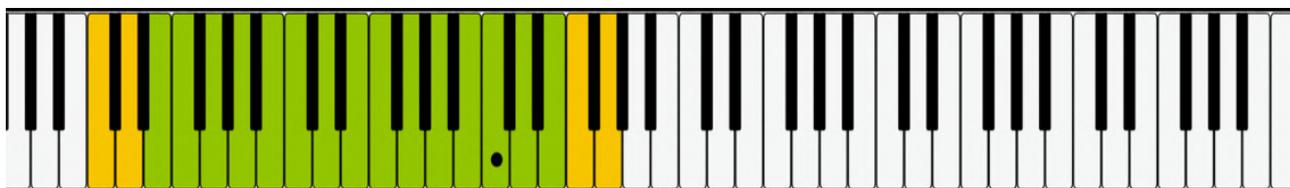
1. The First Tenors sing the highest part and sometimes lead the melody. The typical tenor range extends roughly from the C below middle C on the piano to the C one octave above middle C—although we would never ask our tenors to sing that high. I try to keep the range to A at the most. ‘When the Saints’ goes up to B flat (unfortunately). Some of the great operatic tenors could go beyond high C, but not by much (Gigli and Bjorling for example).

2. The Second Tenors fill the sound between the top tenors and the baritones, lending support to both sections. They can sing almost as high as the top tenors, but can also reach down to the B an octave below—notes normally sung by the First Basses. We would not normally expect our Second Tenors to sing above G (two above middle C).

3. The First Bass (or baritone) vocal range falls somewhere between the Bottom Bass and Second Tenor, typically from around the A below middle C to the F above—though F is pretty high for our first basses. It is considered the natural voice for most men. They carry the melody in many male choir arrangements.

4. The Second Bass is the support section of the choir and, because most of the time they are singing the root of the chord, they provide the base note for the harmonies the other parts sing. Their vocal range extends from around the second E below middle C to the E above middle C. Some can get down to C (two below middle C). The Don Cossack choir is said to go way below this low C.

Here is a keyboard for those who do not have such a thing and are curious to know where the notes that I mention above are heard. Middle C is marked with a dot:





Close-up of an F35A Joint Strike Fighter

Eighty Years Celebration

THE RAAF'S 75 FIGHTER SQUADRON AT TINDAL, NT:
Defending Australia's North Coast for eighty years



Last June, my wife, Robin, and I were privileged guests at the celebrations marking eighty years since the formation of the RAAF's 75 Squadron. The Squadron was founded in March 1942. This was before the US Navy arrived in the Coral Sea and after Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese Airforce on the 7 December 1941, a turning point in the war in Europe and the beginning of war in the Pacific.

In 1942, Australia's air force was minimal, with a squadron of Wirraways in Rabaul decimated by Japan's vastly superior Zeros. Australia's only defence was just one division of Australian 'chocolate soldiers'—a dismissive term of the day

used to describe untrained conscripted militia, only committed to the defence of Australia and its immediate territories. Based in Port Moresby, these men thought they were not destined for the front.

Almost all of Australia's forces were located in the Middle East and, for forty-four days (February-March 1942), Australia was *alone*, fighting desperately to contain the Japanese invader on its border. The war in Papua New Guinea—the Kokoda Track, Milne Bay, Lae, Wewak and all the other names familiar to us in the annual Anzac Day March—had begun.

In February 1942, a stroke of good fortune for Australia resulted in 75 Kittyhawk fighters being diverted to Australia. These were gifted by the USA after their intended destination was over-run by Japan. These American-built planes were delivered in crates to Bankstown Airport here in Sydney and a frantic assembly took place, facilitating the formation of '75 Squadron' in Townsville soon afterwards.

MY FAMILY CONNECTION

Naturally, I have a personal interest! My father, Dr Bill Deane-Butcher, volunteered to become the new fighter squadron's first medical officer. He was on the front line with the Squadron for about a year, significantly throughout the Battle over Port Moresby and later at the Battle of Milne Bay. The air-battle over Port Moresby saw twelve pilots killed, including the CO, John Jackson. Only one Kittyhawk returned to Australia—flown by John's brother, Les Jackson, who succeeded his brother John as CO.



'Magpie' Congratulations sign

The Squadron was re-equipped and refreshed with pilots who had returned home from the UK and the Middle East, before being deployed to Milne Bay. My father told me that there were six occasions during this period when he had not expected to survive. Five of his six best friends didn't make it home, including his best-man, his brother-in-law and another young doctor and friend—training with him to become a surgeon at The Coast Hospital when war was declared.

The battles in 1942 in PNG established extraordinary traditions of duty and service within the Squadron—and these are alive and well today. John Jackson's son Arthur and his daughter Patricia, as well as Les Jackson's son 'Horse', were all present at the recent 'Eighty Years' Celebrations.

My father became known as the 'Fighter Squadron Doctor' and wrote a book by that name that has become a sought-after classic. It is a truly accurate account of this traumatic period—recently digitised and now readily accessible on Kindle. Everyone involved was changed forever, with the survivors of WWII determined to care for the thousands of widows and orphans left by the war through Legacy, the RSL and other such organisations. They strove to re-build Australia and ensure that the sacrifices they had witnessed were not in vain.



Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld

The 75 Squadron has distinguished itself on many occasions since WWII, including in Malaysia (Butterworth) and, almost thirty years ago, in Iraq when the Commanding Officer was Mel Hupfeld—recently retired as Chief of Air Force. The Squadron has been based in Tindal near Katherine in the Northern Territory since 1989. Until recently, it was equipped with Hornet fighters (F/A18s). The RAAF has replaced its F111 bombers and F/A18 Hornets with state-of-the-art, Lockheed Martin Lightning F35A's. This fifth generation plane is a stealthy, multi-role, joint-strike fighter.

The RAAF has ordered seventy-two of these incredible aircraft and has already taken delivery of over fifty. *All* are expected to be operational by 2023. Progressively, RAAF pilots are converting to the F35A, with 75 Squadron being the last RAAF Squadron to receive the new aircraft. Sometimes described as a 'flying computer', the F35A is an outstanding aircraft, with a top speed of Mach 1.6, a range of 2,220 kms, the ability to operate up to 50,000 feet and an acceleration rate that far exceeds its predecessors. Armaments include a high-performance cannon, air-to-air missiles and guided bombing capabilities that are deadly accurate and effective.

Reports indicate that in addition to 1,763 F35A's ordered so far by the US Air Force, numerous other countries have also ordered or are considering ordering the F35A including the UK (138), Canada (88), Australia (72), Japan (147), South Korea (13), Denmark (27), the Netherlands (52), Italy (22), Norway (16), Poland (32) and Singapore (12). Over 800 F35A's have been manufactured so far.

The Celebrations at RAAF Tindal were an eye-opener. Some areas were off-limits for security reasons. However, the superb facilities were generally visible and are custom-built for the Squadron's community and operations. Facilities include excellent accommodation for families, an Olympic swimming pool, an oval, gymnasiums and two mess areas—one for officers and one for other ranks. This is in addition to new hangars and maintenance facilities for the aircraft based at Tindal and a world-class command centre. Tindal is indeed an oasis in a harsh land. There is a close association with the US Air Force on the Base. Combined exercises are held regularly, sometimes including participants from Singapore and elsewhere.

On Celebration Day (Friday 24 June 2022), we attended an immaculate parade of the entire Squadron of about 200 men and women to accept new Colours—a new ceremonial flag that preserves the Squadron's history, but brings it up-to-date. This parade was a superb affair, with precise drill and music provided by the magnificent RAAF Brass Band of about fifty musicians. This was followed by a demonstration of the F35A's capabilities, with a flying display that was truly amazing: strafing runs, barrel rolls and acceleration that is difficult to describe. We were all given ear-plugs—and we certainly needed them!



Robin Deane-Butcher and others watching a flying demonstration

The pilot was a true ‘top gun’, typical of the profile we witnessed during social encounters with the pilots—young Australians in their mid-twenties, super-fit, smart, articulate and courteous, with short back and sides. Many have university degrees behind them in aeronautical or electrical engineering, computer science or similar—or some other tertiary education. One has a major in history (I could identify with that!). So the pilots, and many of the support staff as well, are an elite collection of young people—dedicated to excellence—who stand ready to respond if needed for Australia’s defence requirements.

In the evening, we attended a formal dinner ‘under the stars’ next to one of the hangars, with full ‘formal mess-kit’ for serving members and ‘black tie’ for guests. The evening was a *wonderful* event, with dance music provided by the RAAF Band, superb food and service, and speeches from a range of participants. This included the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Martin Parker, and ninety-eight-years-old veteran, Joe McGrath. Two young doctors who live on the base introduced themselves to me, as well as the Engineering Officer. (The original Engineering Officer in WWII was my godfather. These people certainly do their homework!)

Over the last eighty years, the 75 Squadron has flown various types of aircraft, starting with the legendary P-40 Kittyhawk in WWII, then Sabres, Mirages (known as ‘The French Lady’) and the F/A18 Hornet—and now finally the Lightning F35A.



A Lightning F35A, ready for action

I had the experience when younger of meeting many of the original pilots and a few ground staff who survived WWII. These were a band of brothers who kept in touch with each other through thick and thin. My father was always available for medical advice and he organised an annual reunion for about sixty years.

I recall many incidents when he helped his old mates as the years took their toll. Remarkably, nine of the pilots who survived the Battle of Milne Bay attended my father's ninetieth birthday party in 2004 that was held at our home in Lindfield. When my father died two years later, I was persuaded to march in his shoes with the Squadron on Anzac Day and I have done so every year since that time.

I *knew* many of those involved, as I had assisted my father organise numerous re-unions in his latter years. Ironically, my father who specialised in ophthalmology after WWII—and pioneered corneal grafting in Australia—had severely compromised eye-sight in his latter years, due to macular degeneration. This was a disability he kept well-hidden without complaint: he managed to live independently with peripheral vision in just one eye for several years.



More than 350,000 Australians have served with the RAAF since its formation in 1921; 11,000 have given their lives for our land.

What a privilege to have known some of the men who founded this iconic Squadron, nicknamed *The Magpies*. 'Once a Magpie always a Magpie' is a call often heard within the Squadron. Many of those who have served with 75 Squadron remain loyal to the Squadron all their lives, treasuring the Squadron's history and values.

What a privilege to participate in such a celebration!

Richard Deane-Butcher



Getting to know... Terry Barrett

'THE SINGING PRINT-MAKER'

I only met Terry Barrett formally at the first choir rehearsal in August 2022. Terry generously gave me of his time on Friday 5 August. This is a summary of that conversation.

CHOIR INVOLVEMENT:

Grapevine: 'How long have you been in the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir?'

Terry: 'Since 2002 (twenty years). Jim Ferguson, a mate of mine who I used to play rugby with, introduced me.'

Grapevine: 'And what was the trigger?'

Terry: 'I had two aims on retirement:

- *Go to art school.* (I had done an Arts Certificate at Hornsby Tech, resulting in me having a good portfolio. I then completed four years at the Sydney College of the Arts.)
- *Join a choir.* Clearly my membership of the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir has fulfilled the latter! In 2004, on the sixtieth anniversary, I became the secretary and wrote up the official history of the Choir.'

Grapevine: 'And how long were you at Sydney College of the Arts?'

Terry: ‘Four years full-time. When I was there, the college was at the beautiful old sandstone building, Kirkbride, by the Parramatta River. It has now been re-located to the campus of Sydney University.’

Grapevine: ‘What did you study exactly at Sydney College of the Arts?’

Terry: ‘In the first year, we were exposed to all aspects of visual arts—from painting to sculpture, photography to printmaking . I specialised in print-making, in particular the mezzotint technique, working with copper plates. I mainly printed black and white images. For colour images, I used a four-plate, colour-separation process. In some cases, I have also used watercolour over a straight, black image.’

Grapevine: ‘And *how* do you go about that? We all have some idea of printing with copperplate. How do you do mezzotint with copper?’

Terry: ‘Well, you have to rough up the surface with a special tool. The surface should feel like sandpaper: it will print a dense, black image when inked up. Then you burnish back the surface to produce a range of tones required for the image. Over twenty years ago, I joined the Miniature Arts Society. They have been happy to accept my smaller works!’



Covid 19 Mealtime Compromise: an example of a mezzotint print, created in 2020

Grapevine: ‘What has been the benefit of the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir to you personally?’

Terry: ‘The key value has been the joy of singing. It is good for my soul (I am now eighty-five) and good for my health. I think I can still sing a tune! I have sung in a combined churches’ choir (200 voices) for Handel’s *Messiah* at the Waitara Catholic Church.’

WORK OR PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

Grapevine: ‘What was your first job?’

Terry: ‘I began work as a school-boy, doing a Christmas job at Benjamin’s in Chatswood. After school, I commenced as a cadet surveyor-draftsman in the Survey branch of the Registrar General’s Department. I was there 1954–1966. I then moved into the computing section and soon was involved in developing systems for recording Land Title transactions.

‘I also led the team that developed a computer-based, registration system for Birth, Deaths and Marriages. I moved to the Public Service Board in 1975 as an inspector—then to the Health Commission as an analyst.’

Grapevine: ‘And what then?’

Terry: ‘The Department of Health was restructured in 1988 under a new Liberal Government. The work of half the staff was outsourced. I stayed on and became Director of the Data Centre for the Department. A key task was collecting morbidity data of all hospital patients in the state (1990-1997). I retired in May 1997.’

PERSONAL FAMILY HISTORY

Grapevine: ‘Tell us about your family of origin.’

Terry: ‘I was born in Crows Nest, Sydney. My father opened an American-style soda fountain and confectionary shop at the top of the stairs to the North Sydney Station in March 1932, just as the Harbour Bridge opened.



Entrance to North Sydney Station: April 1932. Ern’s shop is the first on the left of the entrance

‘My earliest memory was growing up in Lakemba in a small, brick-fronted, fibro cottage. In 1941, my parents decided to move the family to Roseville to be closer to Dad’s business.’

Grapevine: ‘And education?’

Terry: ‘I attended Roseville Public school from 1941 until 1947. Between 1948 and 1951, I attended North Sydney Technical High School, moving to Sydney Technical High in 1952 to complete my Leaving Certificate in 1953. My younger brother, Noel James (known as Bill), was selected to attend the Artarmon Opportunity School in Third Grade and went on to complete his Leaving Certificate at North Sydney Boys High. My older brother, Alan, left school early to do an apprenticeship. He died in 2020, aged nearly eighty-six.’

Grapevine: ‘Your parents?’

Terry: ‘My father (born in 1892) was named Frederick Ernest Barrett (Ern) and my mother (born in 1892), Mary Catherine (nee Mangan)—known as Kit or Kitty. My mother was one of eleven children and her father, a wild Irishman —as Irish as Paddy’s pigs! Sadly, both died in 1971, just months apart.’

Grapevine: ‘And your early adult life?’

Terry: ‘Denise and I were married in March 1961. Initially, like so many young couples today, we lived in a flat. Later, we bought a block of land at Normanhurst and built a small, modern, timber house. After Kerrie and Tim had arrived, with Peter was on the way, we decided that we needed a larger home and built our house at Wahroonga, near Pearce’s Corner. We have lived at Wahroonga for nearly fifty-five years.’

Grapevine: ‘And your own family?’

Terry: ‘We have three children. Our eldest child, Kerrie Lynne, has lived a fairly interesting life, doing her own thing in her own way. With a daughter now living in Melbourne, a son unable to find work and health problems of her own, she has had a difficult life. However, she has since completed a degree in Psychology at the University of Newcastle. She lives on a one-acre property 200 metres from the old Town Hall in Maitland and grows her own vegetables!’

[We are all proud of our children who succeed in life. Terry and Denise can be particularly proud of their two sons, who have made it ‘big’ in the USA!](#)

‘My eldest son, Timothy Alan, has two adult girls. After graduating from Macquarie University in Psychology, he undertook some contract technical writing projects. He eventually joined the electronics and communication company, Alcatel, working across a range of technologies to do with digital video and its delivery over broadband networks.

‘In 2005, he was called to Ottawa to assist in the presentation of the latest Alcatel network services to Microsoft. These services and infrastructure were needed for their implementation of *Internet Protocol Television* (IPTV). It so happened that Microsoft’s system was being developed by a team in California... led by his brother, Peter!

‘After the successful implementation of IPTV (now called *Mediaroom*), Tim worked for a time with Technicolour and Telstra. Over the years, he has been granted more than a dozen patents.

‘Denise, Peter and I recently attended Tim’s second marriage at Mount Wilson in the Blue Mountains. My photo above was taken at that event. That’s why I look so happy!’

Grapevine: ‘Who else in your immediate family?’

Terry: ‘I could write a book about our youngest son Peter!’

‘Peter was fortunate to be selected to attend James Ruse Agricultural High School. While he was in Year 10, we purchased an Atari computer/games machine for him. The Atari had sophisticated games loaded on a cartridge.

‘It was not long before he found a way to copy these games on to floppy disks to share with his school mates. No royalty fee! In 1984, we acquired one of the first Apple Macintosh PCs. By the time he completed his Leaving Certificate in 1984, he was writing software and upgrading the computer.

‘Peter then did one year at Sydney University, studying Science. In January 1986, he attended a MacWorld Show in the US and was offered work there developing software for *SuperMac*. He developed a number of file-security and disk-operating systems while at SuperMac. (His data-compression system for CDs became an industry standard. During this period, he was granted numerous patents.)

‘In early 1993, he launched his own company, *Rocket Science Games*. One early programmer and employee was... Elon Musk!’

Editor’s Note: Elon, of course, is the owner and CEO of Tesla cars and SpaceX—and would-be purchaser of the social network company, Twitter. Based on a huge surge in listed share prices, investors world-wide all betting on the future unquantifiable growth of these companies, Elon is now reputed to be the wealthiest man in the world (at US\$265 billion, twice the net worth of Amazon-founder Jeff Bezos at a mere US\$132 billion). South African-born, Elon is undoubtedly a massive ‘immigrant success’ story.

‘Rocket Science Games produced a number of games, but Peter and his co-founder fell out over which direction the company should take and Peter resigned.

‘However, the games developed at Rocket Science featured both animation and compressed, live film. Peter realised that, if the internet could increase its band width, *distributed Internet Protocol Television* would be possible. A colleague, Bruce Leak, had a similar idea. He’d made some progress, but needed a search engine that could be made available free to users. Peter had developed a prototype search engine and offered it to Leak.

‘Bruce Leak said he did not have any cash to pay Peter, but offered shares in his company, *WebTV*. Some months later Microsoft bought WebTV for \$300 million and Leak moved on into other areas of interest. Because of Peter’s knowledge and involvement in the

software, Microsoft hired Peter and he eventually became the chief technical officer of the product which became *Mediaroom* (since sold to Swedish company, Erikson, with thirteen million viewers in Europe).

‘Denise and I are still proud and amazed that our two sons, working for two separate companies on opposite sides of the USA, could have such direct involvement in what turned out to be one of the most successful implementations of web-based TV.’



Our sons Peter (left) and Tim (right) at Mount Wilson in May 2022

Grapevine: ‘What is your second son up to now?’

Terry: ‘Peter still lives and works in Silicon Valley, outside of San Francisco. Peter is married to Molly and is now a dual Australian/US citizen. Their two children start college next month: in Portland Oregon and New York. His career since then has been meteoric. In 1997, he joined *CloudCar* to provide integrated digital services to cars.

‘In 2015, Peter—together with his old colleague, Bruce Leak, and two others—established a venture capital and technical support company called *Playground Global*. Since then they have raised close to \$1 billion from various individuals, companies and wealth funds.’

Getting lost? Here’s a list of some of the start-up companies that this company has provided seed-funding for and continuing support to (through board membership):

- *PsiQuantum*: developing a million-qubit, quantum computer
- *Relativity Rockets*: built in months rather than years, using 3D printing with metals
- *Agility Robotics*: robots designed to replace humans undertaking mundane processes
- *Universal Hydrogen*: a logistics system for the delivery of hydrogen to customers, including as fuel for planes
- *Lacuna*: a traffic-monitoring and optimising system for large cities

- *Farmwise*: sustainable farming with intelligent robots. *And many more...*

Peter now has over 100 patents to his name.

CURRENT LIFE AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:

Grapevine: ‘We all need a breather! Tell us about your life today.’

Terry: ‘Denise and I enjoyed cruising before Covid arrived. Perhaps we might try it again sometime in the future. Denise loves her garden and I sometimes provide labouring assistance. However, she prefers that I limit my responsibilities to lawn maintenance.

‘I still like to do a bit of artwork using copper as a platform to express various ideas. I have been a finalist in the Blake Prize [*the main religious art prize in Australia*] on two occasions, both times with black-and-white mezzotints. I am still a member of the Miniature Art Society. (They currently have an exhibition touring four regional galleries in NSW.) Life is full!’

Grapevine: ‘Anything else in the art field?’

Terry: ‘Well, I have exhibited in the Queenscliff Gallery and the Geelong Art Gallery—and have entered the Mornington Art Prize. For the last ten years or so, I have sent numerous prints to the Annual Pack-saddle Art Sale at the New England Regional Art Gallery, Armidale, to raise money for the gallery. Fortunately, most have sold!’

CURRENT LIFE AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:

Grapevine: ‘Any major challenges?’

Terry: ‘No major challenge. Just making sure that Denise and I stay healthy and that we continue to support our daughter in Maitland. Despite the widespread floods to the north, the flood mitigation program in Maitland has been largely successful.’

Grapevine: ‘And what gives you hope for the future?’

Terry: ‘Basically, I think most people are decent. All they want is the best for their family and reasonable health so they can continue to live in a safe and secure environment. People’s inherent decency and honesty—and their concern for others—shone through in the way people responded to their neighbours caught in the recent fires and floods.

‘I always look on the bright side!’

We all wish Terry and Denise all the best for their future.
