

Peter Busch

In our parents' generation, you followed a well-trodden, unswerving path towards middle-age spread and a gold watch. The next generation, Baby Boomers, tended to have three distinct careers, however for Gen Z or *Zoomers* and beyond, who knows!



Peter falls squarely into the Boomers category.

Raised in regional Queensland, he attended 5 different primary schools – the consequence of parents with itchy feet – then boarded at Brisbane Grammar for 2 years, which he hated, before the family finally moved to Brisbane. One of Peter's fondest childhood memories was the family playing music together. With father Reg on the piano accordion, brother David on the piano, sister Robin on guitar and Peter on drums, they played old time stuff. Mother Erica was their audience of one – she would say that all she could play was the stereogram!

Following high school, Peter started work at a large, chartered accountancy firm and took on a Business Degree part-time. He also played drums in the rock band *Draggin*, which were in a *Battle of the Bands* competition, at Festival Hall in Brisbane.

But it's a long way to the top. Instead of rock'n'roll stardom, Peter graduated and opted for work at a prestigious accountancy firm, which was not for him either. Everything he owned fitted easily into his Mazda hatchback so, with no job prospects, a healthy Bankcard debt and the bold optimism of youth, he quit and headed north.

While working as an Accountant in various country towns, Peter found himself drawn to computers, teaching himself computer programming and specialising in IT for small, regional accounting practices.

You have to remember that this was well before *MYOB* or *Quickbooks* and a lifetime before *Google*. In the 1980's, you had to get off the lounge to change the TV station, of which there were only 5. You looked up facts in dusty tomes of *Encyclopedia Britannica*. People wore watches, drank tap water and mostly tolerated gluten.

The cheek of it all really.

So Peter was well ahead of his time. Eventually he settled in Sydney in 1989, where alongside part-time accountancy work, he ran a niche but successful IT consultancy. When chicken pox laid him up at home in 1992, he seized the opportunity to write a small business accounting software package. Peter also had the talent to pen *Starting and Running a Small Business in Australia*. This was published by *McGraw Hill* in 1997, becoming their 2nd biggest seller in its division in its first year.

With such vision and innovation, business was booming for Peter, allowing him to fulfill a life ambition to learn to fly. He will always remember the sweaty rush of adrenalin and pride of his first solo flight.

After 6 years, Peter decided to move back to Queensland to be closer to family. He sold his accounting software business to his business partner, which is still in operation today, 30 years later, something else of which Peter is rightly proud.

Since his father Reg was a Titan in the world of Bridge, Peter had always wondered what Bridge was like. Consequently, once settled on the Sunshine Coast, he completed bridge lessons and loved it so much he went on to become a Bridge Director. He presently holds National 2 Director accreditation honours and runs local congresses, in addition to scoring at national events.

Around this time, Peter was diagnosed with a brain tumour, It turned out to be benign – a 2% chance! He is indeed a very fortunate man.

In 2008, Peter used his computer savvy to supercharge his mentor Joan McPheat's Compscore Bridge program, currently on its third incarnation. It is used in over 300 Bridge clubs and in many congresses around Australia and New Zealand. Furthermore, about 100 clubs have adopted Peter's web sites designs, another fine achievement.

Indeed Peter has many accomplishments of which to be proud. He now favours a quieter life, but with such energy and intellect, who knows!