

On the 23rd of September, 1954, I was born at 13 Greenhill Close, Dosthill a suburb of the market town of Tamworth, England. Greenhill Close was named after my maternal Grandmother,



Florence, who as a midwife "delivered babies as the bombs were falling"

during World War II.



This is a wedding picture of my mother showing my grandfather. My



paternal grandparents lived in Scotland. My grandfather drove the first allied ambulance across the Rhine in WWII.

I attended two primary schools in England Winlecote and Hockley and have vague memories of a teacher, a Mr Brown who seemed huge to me then and impressed me as being a very fair man. On visiting the town years later, I was struck by how rural the surrounds are and must have been more so then. My father and mother met - she a nurse and he in the Royal Air Force, when he broke his

leg playing soccer. There are only a few pictures of me as a child here is one with my father



My family emigrated to Australia in 1965, my father having joined the Royal Australian Air Force in England and immediately posted to South Australia. We moved into the migrant hostel and when my father was transferred to Laverton Victoria we moved into another there. They were horrible places, like prison camps without guards. As soon as we could, we moved into a flat and then a house. Dad was transferred again shortly after to Amberley Queensland and I entered Grade 8 at Bremer State High School in Ipswich. I did not do well in school, I was lazy and uncooperative. I spent most of my time in the library. When I left I had a low level pass but fortunately, there was full employment at the time so almost immediately I got a job as Pupil Surveyor. Where my principle duties were chopping down trees, hacking through rainforest and hammering pegs in the ground. While on my way to work in April 1973 I met my first wife Rell. We were young, foolish and fell instantly in love. Later that year I quit my job and the two of us hitch hiked to Tasmania and back. On our return we set up house in a caravan (Americans: That is a trailer to you) in the rural town of Toowoomba. She studied and I worked first at a motel as a handyman, (my job description gave my mother no end of pleasure.... How could I be handy at anything?) Then I worked at a textile mill as a jaquard card handler, I became senior card handler later that year and then due to a downturn in the Australian textile industry, I was made redundant. Rell was pregnant by this time with David and we moved back to Brisbane where I secured a job as photographer for a football newspaper. This was a turning point in my career which led to several photographic positions after a long stretch in the woollen mills at Redbank as a mechanic. My marriage broke up in late 1979 when our second child Kate, was three months old. I took care of the two children and Rell after a short period, moved to Sydney. I was a single parent for a few months working as a photographer for a local newspaper. I then commenced a relationship with Janet Struan



and we lived together for over a year. It was at this time the second great turning point in my career came about. I was working at a fast photo lab and leant over a vat of stabiliser I was mixing and some formaldehyde condensed on the cornea of my eye. I staggered to a doctor in agony. She wouldn't treat me - I was a man. From that point on I was unable to work with colour chemicals. I had to do something, so I went back to high school. I did well and that year, broke up with Janet and commenced a law degree at the University of Queensland. I



financed myself through the single parent's pension and the Army Reserves. I kept at it, although not doing very well, for eighteen months when I fell mysteriously ill. I began to get headaches and could not read. These headaches persist today, and now are full blown migraines although with various drugs I manage to control the worst of them. I have been hospitalised several times and have had MRIs CAT scans, EEGs and had and tests with no cure available. I abandoned all hope of becoming a lawyer and returned to University eighteen months later to complete an Arts degree. I majored in English and Industrial relations and graduated in 1985 and got a job as State Organiser for Actor's Equity. After a year or so I secured a job with the ABC staff union in Sydney. During my time at Equity I had a part time position with a barrister (now judge) Michael Forde doing some research for him and creating a database for a big case he was

briefed on. While working for Michael I had an idea for a product that was to change my life and that of many other people. I saw that there was a need for a tool for lawyers to facilitate cross referencing of case law. I got a few initial subscribers to my service, The Legal Notator and then got



the ABC job in Sydney. As I looked then

I approached Debra Fallon to be my partner in this venture she agreed. I moved to Sydney and flew up every month to get the next issue out. The business prospered and when the ABC was not fun any more so I quit to work for myself full time. I met my second wife Bernie at the house of a distant relative in 1989. We went out together for a year or so and then I moved into her house at Woody



Point. While there I stood for election for the council ward of Kalinga. I

lost, but did better than almost anyone expected. The ward was reshaped later and my opponent resigned. Bernie and I married at home in 1993 and after commencing extensive renovations to my house in Clayfield. Bernie and I moved in to the house and renovations continued as funds permitted culminating in 1998 when we sold Pink Ribbon to Butterworths, the largest legal publishing company in the world. We didn't like the neighbours so we bought their house, moved it onto a friend's block of land on Lamb Island and extended the house built a large garage, a pool and a terrific workshop. Since selling the business I have done various volunteer work mostly for Front Row Theatre as President and set builder. I enjoy woodwork, travel, diving and of course writing and theatre.