

Geoffrey Lewis FRPSL

Geoffrey Lewis was born on 12 December 1948 in Sydney, Australia. He has lived all his life in the Sydney suburb of Randwick.

At school he always excelled at mathematics. In the 1965 High School examinations he got the top score in mathematics in the state of New South Wales, and second on aggregate marks over all subjects. In 1965, Geoffrey was selected by IBM to make the first public demonstration in Australia of the IBM system 360. Described in the newspapers as a genius, he was selected because of a sensational score of 150 out of 120 in a university test of mathematical aptitude. The 30 extra marks were awarded for exceptional problem-solving ability, and in the next 10 years nobody else ever got more than 75.

At the University of New South Wales he graduated with a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours and the University Medal, and then a Ph.D. in Pure Mathematics. He was a Lecturer in the Department of Economics at the University of Sydney from 1973 to 1978.

In 1975 he met and married Lolita, a graduate of the University of the Philippines who had migrated to Australia as a school-teacher. They have four children: Susannah, Vanessa, Mark and Jennifer. Susie now lives in London with her husband and five children.

Geoffrey retired from academia at the age of 29, so he could enter the computer industry to make better use of his problem-solving ability. After five years he set up his own company, Custom-Made Software Pty Ltd in 1983, at the start of the personal computing revolution. He soon developed Lewis PAY-PACK, famous in Australia as the country's longest-established payroll package for personal computers. This software helps thousands of Australian companies pay their employees, and do taxation and superannuation reporting. Lolita and Geoffrey run the business from an office in their home, by providing telephone support and development of PAY-PACK and some other accounting packages.

Philatelic Involvement

Geoff has participated in organised philately in many ways. He has won FIP Large Gold medals in Postal History with exhibits on subject matter of each of the three continental areas: Asia, Europe and Americas. He is qualified as a Postal History judge for International exhibitions.

He wrote a book "The Postal History of the Spanish Philippines, 1565 - 1898" together with Donald Peterson of the United States. This was published by the two authors in 2000. The prestigious Edition d'Or series includes his collection of "Stampless Mail entering Spain".

He is the NSW Representative of RPSL, and won the Tapling Medal in 2009. He is President of the Philatelic Society of New South Wales. He belongs to many societies including the Society of Postal Historians and the Real Academica Hispanica de Filatelia.

The APF (Australian Philatelic Federation) has established an Australian Philatelic Order of awards. He has an APF Research Award as part of this scheme.

Geoff was President of the Organising Committee of the National Philatelic Exhibitions held in Sydney in 2007 and 2011.

Other Interests

Among his other interests Geoffrey is an active member of the Randwick & District Historical Society. He wrote a book "La Pérouse. Why he came to the Pacific" about the famous French navigator La Pérouse who landed at Botany Bay near Sydney just days after the British First Fleet in 1788.

In the 1970s he was an accomplished bridge player and won Australian Junior and New South Wales Open bridge titles.

Each week he plays an hour of tennis singles at Cooper Park Tennis Courts. They are on land once owned by Sir Daniel Cooper, first President of RPSL, hence the name.

Later this month he will compete for the first time in a Powerlifting tournament.

