



“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning to dance in the rain,”

Derek Miles

INSIGHT

*with Derek Miles
Accountant & Finance Broker*

Derek reminisces about his humble childhood, growing up in rural Fiji with no TV, no electricity, and no windows.

“Life in Fiji was wonderful with the freedom of space, time and culture. Our entertainment was listening to the radio, playing cards, music, sport and long walks.”

“We grew up on wonderful tropical fruits and spicy Indian food and we didn’t have TV until we moved to Australia in 1971.”

A love of tennis inherited from his Father, also kept Derek entertained.

“In Fiji we only played on grass and grass is so much better to play on than modern courts of today. I never became a great player myself, but I played a lot during my youth.

“This photo (above) is one of few taken of me when I was 3 or so. My Father was a good tennis player at the time and the photo was actually considered by Slazenger for promotion.”

Now a long way from life in Fiji, Derek is an experienced Accountant and Finance Broker with a Bachelor of Business and years of experience under his belt.

Derek founded his company, Financial Milestones, in 1995 and knows the benefits of running your own business.

“It allows me to take control of my own destiny and to gain and reap the rewards of my successes. I am able to implement my own value systems in the business which in turn attracts the clients and alliances who share the same value systems.”

Most would agree that running a business is no easy task, but Derek makes it seem manageable, attributing his upbringing in Fiji to his ability to strike the right balance between work life, family and leisure.

“Owning your own business gives you the flexibility to juggle family, social and work life. I have always been able to participate in all the school and sporting activities with our children. I manage my working hours around these family activities.

Derek also makes room for his personal time, “I very much enjoy sailing and all of my children share this passion. We often compete against each other on the water.”

Derek has advice for those considering starting up their own business, “You need to be certain about your reasons for entering business. Analyse and understand the pitfalls of business and stick to your value systems. You also have to plan your business realistically,” he said.

As for the current economic crisis, Derek remains realistic, yet optimistic. “There is no doubt that we are in a recession of some sort, but the economy will eventually recover and I think the recovery will start in 2010.”

Derek believes that businesses will have to adapt to these financial times and abides by the saying, “Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

