

## Paul Adnett CEO, MCP, MS SBS, MSSD



Paul is a senior consultant with 40 years' experience. A small business manager himself, and a systems consultant to many small businesses. He is the founding director and CEO of two small businesses. Adnett Corp Pty Ltd and Bella Isora Pty Ltd. Paul is a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP), Microsoft Small Business Specialist (MS SBS), and Microsoft System Developer (MSSD). But his expertise does not stop with just Microsoft certifications. He is an experienced programmer, web designer, and database specialist. In 2012 Paul was ranked the 8<sup>th</sup> most qualified Cloud Specialist in Australia and the 1008<sup>th</sup> in the world on the Microsoft Training Academy rankings. He regularly provides advice to businesses both nationally and globally. His knowledge is widely respected and sort. He was recently invited to evaluate and report on a new server manufacturing startup, setting up in Sydney as part of the true data sovereignty initiative of the federal government. Under the umbrella of the AUKUS alliance with the US and UK.

Paul has lived in Tamworth in country NSW for 47 years. So he's almost a local. He finished high school in Tamworth. Studied small business, and accounting at Tamworth TAFE while working as a department manager in the first Big W in Australia. He did his first computer course 'Introduction to Computers' in October 1983 at the University of New England and later studied for his degree in Information Technology there while holding the management position of Administration Manager for a local paint distributor. During his professional career, he has completed many sales and small business courses. He has obtained many Microsoft and IT qualifications, completing many courses through the online Microsoft Training Academy and obtaining a high ranking in Cloud Technologies.

His achievements include.

- Microsoft Certified Professional – Small Business Server (MCP)
- Microsoft Small Business Specialist (MS SBS)
- Programming and Software Design (UNE),
- Computer Engineering (UNE),
- Australian Business Management (NSW TAFE),
- Economics (UNE),
- Accounting (NSW TAFE),
- Australian Business Law (NSW TAFE),
- Insurance & Risk Assessment (NMLA),
- Psychology in the Workplace (NSW TAFE),
- Financial Investment (IRIS),

He has also completed the following sales courses.

- Microsoft Small Business Sales & Marketing Skills
- Tony Robbins Get the Edge Sales Training
- Pick up Your Phone & Sell
- Tom Hopkins Sales Training

Paul is currently,

- A Microsoft Registered Partner,
- A member of the Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN),
- A member of the Microsoft Partner Research Panel,
- Paul has also written a number of whitepapers on technology and cyber security issues.

Paul has held several senior management positions in both small and medium business during his management career. He held the position of plan-o-gram manager with the first Big W store in Australia in the late 70's after managing the largest department at the young age of 18.

He started his first business in January 1982 at the age of 20. A home delivery business, which went well until a serious car accident in November 1982 put him in hospital for 3 months. He helped run the administration of his parents' business while recuperating, building his first computer in March 1983 while still recovering from his injuries. At 21 he took up a position of store manager at a small regional business in Tamworth while still on crutches. In his spare time, he wrote his first program for the family business and was hooked on computers. He started his own IT business a few years later. Northern Regional Computers, which built and sold home computers. It continued to grow until it was incorporated as Adnett Corp Pty Ltd in 2008. Adnett Corp now trades under two business names. Adcorp Computers & Adcorp Communications. The programming side of the business was split off in 2010 and was incorporated separately as Bella Isora Pty Ltd. It initially developed OpenOffice.net a small business software suite, but now also trades under a number of other trading entities. It has evolved in to a research and development company, developing iTrekSafe a hiking mobile app, IT Equip finances IT procurements, and the latest project, is PowerMe Plus, which involves research and development of a range of high-tech Fitness machines.

Paul comes from a family of small business owners with his parents owning a variety of small businesses in both Sydney and Tamworth. Paul's passion for business never stops. He is always working on something new.

Over the years his skillset has diversified and expanded. Paul continues to study, increasing his knowledge and skillset. His many years of experience and his understanding of the needs and issues small businesses face is his biggest asset.

Born into an English family, Paul immigrated to Australia with his parent in 1967 at the age of 5. He grew up in western Sydney and moved with his family to Tamworth in 1976. Paul has been happily married for 37 years. He and his wife Alda have three grown-up daughters and one grandson, and he is very proud of them all. His wife Alda is a Registered Nurse at the local hospital. Paul and Alda met when Paul was hospitalised after his accident in 1982. They were married four years later. He has a very close relationship with his family, calling in on his aging parents twice a week, seeing the girls regularly and he loves spending time with his 11y.o. grandson.

Paul loves adventure; extreme fishing, rock climbing, scuba diving just to name a few interests. He has become a very keen landscape gardener and loves working in the garden. He digs the holes. Alda picks the plants. They both share a love for travel, history, and ancient civilisations. So, travel is at the top of their to-do list. They have a small vineyard (10 vines) in their garden and Paul has produced some pretty good wine in recent years.

Not one to be idle, Paul used the extra time during the COVID lockdowns to complete some of the many projects in the garden. Retaining walls, paving, pergolas, and cementing. There wasn't time to get bored. Of course, Alda (as a nurse) had to work.

Paul likes hiking and taking the path less trodden, usually to collect rocks. Every trip he comes back with more. He loves natural geology, and the beauty nature creates. He loves the bush and bush walking. Getting lost is just part of the adventure.

While his busy schedule doesn't allow much time for the arts, painting, pottery and sculpture all interest Paul. Maybe when he retires, he'll have time to 'play'.