

Mark Berry



Title...

Director and Responsible Manager

Organisation...

Berry Actuarial Planning

My favourite energetic pursuit...

Tennis with my son

My favourite meal...

Paella (haven't had time to cook it lately)

The sport I most like to watch...

Tennis

The last book I read (and when)...

Security Analysis by Graham and Dodd ("get a life!" I hear you say,) whilst accompanying my son on his band tour

My favourite CD...

James Morrison *Manner Dangerous*

My favourite film...

The Searchers (John Wayne)

My interesting / quirky hobbies...

Playing the church organ

My ideal weekend day...

Sleeping in, playing music at church with my son, antipasto and red wine for lunch, gardening, afternoon nap, swim in the pool with my kids, BBQ, ironing

If stranded on a desert island I'd take...

The Road Less Travelled by Scott Peck

The person I'd most like to meet...

Scott Peck

What gets my goat...

Critics who do not offer solutions, or those who do but don't take action

What I wanted to be when I grew up...

A missionary

Why I decided to become an actuary...

I thought it would be more challenging than accounting

Where I studied to become an actuary...

Macquarie University

Qualifications obtained...

BEC, FIAA, F Fin

My work history...

15 years at Zurich in life actuarial roles and later in product development/distribution. I have spent the past eight years building a financial planning business with a pure customer orientation, free of institutional/corporate influences

What's most interesting about my role...

Being able to apply my actuarial skills to navigate individuals/families through life's challenges

My role's greatest challenges...

Keeping the details understandable

Who has been the biggest influence on my career (and why)...

My grandmother – do in life what you believe in, don't be compromised by money, tell it as it is

My most important decision...

To abandon a traditional corporate career

My biggest regret...

Not starting Berry Actuarial Planning earlier

I'm most passionate about...

Truly honest dialogue with clients. It provides a great learning mechanism

I'd like to be brave enough to...

Never give up

My proudest moment...

My children Matthew (trumpet) and Louise (trombone) playing music together

The best party I've had...

My wedding. I even got to entertain guests by serenading my wife

The Olympic sport I'd like to be in...

Swimming

If I were a car, I would be an...

HT Holden (reliable)

My earliest memory...

Riding a dingy (3yrs?)

My most embarrassing moment...

My wife and I getting kicked out of a youth hostel in Brussels at midnight and then trying to retrieve my wife's toothbrush from the room

In my life I'm planning to change...

My eating habits in order to lose weight

The age I would like to stay...

I don't like to stagnate but to keep moving on

At least once in their life, every actuary should...

Play bridge

My next holiday destination is...

The Mediterranean (if we can pull it together in 2011)

My best advice for my children...

Go for what you believe in

Four words that sum me up...

Resilient, spiritual, easy-going, committed



Mark Berry

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