Peter Halas

I was born in Budapest, Hungary in October 1939. WWII just started, but we were not really affected until March 1944 when the Germans occupied Hungary.

We were hiding to escape the fate of the Jews who were being shipped to Concentration Camps. There were constant raids on buildings suspected of hiding Jews and my Mother and Grandparents were caught in one of the raids. They were executed almost on the spot.

My Father survived the war in Bergen Belsen and once Budapest was liberated he managed to come home.

Once the war was over life slowly returned to normal. My Father remarried, I started school and we led a relatively normal life, until the communist takeover of the Country around 1949. Life became hard again. My Fathers business was taken away, food was short supply and it was forbidden to leave the Country.

In October 1956 the revolution broke out, instigated mainly by the students. This gave me an opportunity to escape to the West.

I arrived to Australia in June 1957.

First I found manual jobs until I learned to speak English. Once I mastered the language I started working as a salesman and eventually established my own business manufacturing and marketing swimwear. My wife Yvonne and I decided to call the business Seafolly. Our Son Anthony took over the day to day running of the business in the late 1990's, but I stayed on as a director and looked after various projects. We employ over 400 people in our office and over 60 shops. In 2015 we sold majority shares of Seafolly, but still retain a significant share and both Anthony and I remain on the Board.

After over 50 years of running the business I decided to retire from day to day activities, and I now enjoy working with Courage to Care.