



Gary M Nelson, PMP

Author - Project Manager - Speaker

Bio (Book focus)

Gary is passionate about sharing knowledge and making Project Management concepts more accessible, particularly to new and aspiring Project Managers (of all ages). Said another way, he likes to tell stories to help convey complex concepts in a way that helps the concepts "stick". Who says learning shouldn't be fun?

Gary is an IT Project Manager who has worked in the Telecom, Student Information Systems and Local Government sectors since graduating from Simon Fraser University (BC, Canada) in 1989. His international experience includes projects in New Zealand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the US and Canada.

His first book, *Gazza's Guide to Practical Project Management*, was published in 2012 and is designed for new or aspiring project managers. The practical story-based chapters are designed to take what many see as the highly complex field of project management, and break it down into readily digestible concepts. The book and the related *Gazza's Corner* Project Management blog have been successfully used to support project management education at the tertiary level in several countries, including New Zealand and the U.S.

At a conference in 2012, someone suggested that his next Project Management book should be targeted at children at the upper primary/lower intermediate levels (grades 4-6), as very little was available for that particular space.

A father of three boys, Gary tackled the challenge with the help of his youngest two children (age 9 & 10 at the time). As the first 'editors', his children made sure the story would be fun and engaging for children, while also weaving in key lessons and project management skills into the story. Gary also worked with their teachers to ensure that the language and concepts were at an appropriate reading age and conceptual level.

The result was *The Ultimate Tree House Project* - the first in the *Project Kids Adventures* series, published in 2013. It was followed up in 2014 by *The Scariest Haunted House Project - Ever!*

More books will follow, as the children in the story (four boys, four girls) develop experience, confidence and manage ever more complex and challenging projects - but at the 10-12 year age level.

Gary is a long-term volunteer with PMI, and has served as a Board member for the PMI West Coast B.C. Chapter and for the PMI New Zealand Chapter. He is currently the Northern Branch Chair for the PMI New Zealand Chapter (2014-2015).

Short Bio

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