

= Anthony Field =

Anthony Donald Joseph Field , AM (born 8 May 1963) is an Australian musician and actor . He is best known as a member of the children 's group The Wiggles and the 1980s and 1990s pop band The Cockroaches . While still a teenager , he helped found The Cockroaches with his brothers , Paul and John . The Cockroaches recorded two albums and enjoyed moderate success , interrupted by Field 's service in Australia 's regular army , until they disbanded in the late 1980s .

Field attended Macquarie University to receive training in early childhood education , and founded The Wiggles with fellow students Murray Cook , Greg Page and former bandmate Jeff Fatt in 1991 . He worked as a preschool teacher for two years before the success of The Wiggles led him to focus on children 's music full @-@ time . Despite Field 's strong dislike of touring , The Wiggles became one of the most successful and active groups in Australia . Field , who wore blue while performing with the group , was responsible for the production aspects of their stage and television shows , CDs , and DVDs . His issues with chronic pain and depression , which almost forced him out of the group at the height of their success , are well @-@ documented .

= = Early life and education = =

Field was born in Kellyville , New South Wales . He is the youngest of seven children , and grew up in north western Sydney . He came from a long line of musicians , especially the women in his family . His great @-@ great aunt was " Queenie Paul " , known for performing at the Tivoli Theatre in Sydney , and his grandmother Kathleen accompanied silent movies in the mining town of Cobar . Field 's mother , Marie , made sure that all of her seven children learned how to play at least one musical instrument . He attended the all @-@ boys boarding school St. Joseph 's College , which his great @-@ grandfather Paddy Condon , an Italian immigrant and master stonemason , helped build . In 1979 , while they were students at St. Joseph 's , he and his brothers Paul and John formed the pop group The Cockroaches .

He was inspired by his sister Colleen to study Early Childhood Education , and became convinced that teaching preschool children " was my calling " . He was also attracted to the field 's freedom , artistic nature , and lack of discipline , which was different from his experience in boarding school . Field put off university when The Cockroaches became successful , but he was dissatisfied with touring and plagued by " perhaps irrational , but very real , feelings of inadequacy and depression " . By his mid @-@ twenties , he decided that he did not want to tour any longer , so he took two breaks . His first break was as an infantry soldier , medic , and rifleman in the 5th / 7th Battalion , Royal Australian Regiment , Australia 's regular army from 1982 to 1985 . He played the bagpipes in parades and on training missions , but ended his military service in July 1985 and suffered from a bad back as a result of his training . He also went backpacking in the U.K. , listening to roots music , to children 's music by artists like Raffi , and to recordings of children 's books .

When The Cockroaches disbanded in the early 1990s , Field enrolled at Macquarie University . While at university , he decided to record an album of children 's music , enlisting the assistance of fellow student and guitarist Murray Cook , former Cockroaches roadie and vocalist Greg Page , former bandmate and keyboardist Jeff Fatt , and Macquarie instructor and composer Phillip Wilcher , who later left the group .

= = The Wiggles = =

The Wiggles recorded their first CD in 1991 ; it sold 100 @,@ 000 copies . Field worked as a preschool teacher for two years before the success of The Wiggles and their extensive touring schedule , which he strongly disliked , forced him to quit . After the production of their second album , The Wiggles adopted colour @-@ coded skivvies to wear on stage . According to Field , he wore blue because Cook and Fatt already owned shirts in their colours of red and purple respectively , so he and Page " met in a Sydney department store and literally raced to see who got the blue shirt " . Page ended up wearing a yellow skivvy and Field originally wore a green polo shirt , but changed to

blue to avoid clashing with Dorothy the Dinosaur .

Each Wiggle developed a " schtick " based on their actual behaviours , which evolved into caricatures , and served the same purpose as the uniforms in differentiating their characters and making them memorable to young children ; Field 's was eating . Field created and played the original Captain Feathersword ; the role was taken over by Paul Paddick in 1993 . Field also played Wags the Dog .

By the mid @-@ 1990s , despite the success of The Wiggles , Field reported being suicidal and " frequently gripped by anxiety , sadness , and negativity " . By mid @-@ 2004 , shortly after his marriage and the birth of his first child , Field 's serious medical issues , worsened by their heavy tour schedule , caused him to consider quitting or re @-@ inventing The Wiggles , despite their great success in the U.K. and North America . After meeting chiropractor James Stoxen in Chicago in 2004 , Field improved his health to the point that he was able to continue . He began to hire teams of chiropractors for himself , his fellow bandmembers , and castmembers in every city they performed , which he credited with making it possible for them to fulfill their touring requirements . In early 2013 , Field became the only original member of the group to remain after Fatt , Cook , and Page retired . He remained in the group because he wanted to continue to educate children and as Wiggles manager Paul Field stated , " to placate American , British and Canadian business partners " .

Field 's musical influences include Lightning Hopkins , Elvis Presley , and the Rolling Stones . He plays several instruments , including the tin whistle , bagpipes , guitar , drums , trumpet , violin , percussion instruments and didgeridoo , and has been known to sing in a deep rich bass voice . Field , with input from the other members , produced most of the Wiggles ' music , DVDs , and live shows .

= = Personal life = =

In 1999 , Field was named " Bachelor of the Year " in Cleo Magazine . In 2003 , he married Michaela Patisteas , a former dancer whose family owned Griffiths Coffee in Melbourne . They have three children , who have joined the Field family business by appearing in several of The Wiggles ' TV shows and videos . Beginning in 2007 , Field , who is a registered breeder of Miniature Fox Terriers , did some voiceover work for the TV show " RSPCA Animal Rescue , " for Channel 7 in Australia .

Field , in describing his enthusiasm for competitive sports , has stated , " My love of cricket is abiding " , a sport that " instills the same loyalty and passions in me as I know baseball does for many in North America " . He is a fan of the Australian rugby league club the Wests Tigers . He is also a fan of singer Julio Iglesias . As Field 's fitness improved , to the point that his training regimen became comparable to that of an elite athlete , he gained an interest in gymnastics and acrobatics .

Field went public about his experience with clinical depression in mid @-@ 2007 to draw more attention to the condition . He has stated that " being on the road is a dangerous job for someone with depression , " but has dealt with it through diet , exercise , talking about it , and having a good support system (including his father before his death in 1998 , his wife , and his friend Murray Cook) . He chronicled his health struggles and how he overcame them in his 2012 book *How I Got My Wiggle Back* .

Field is a devout Catholic , something that he reported helped him deal with his chronic health issues and depression , especially the spiritual practices of prayer and devotion to the Virgin Mary as expressed by Our Lady of Guadalupe . He has two large tattoos on his arms : one is the Virgin Mary with the words " My life is in your hands " in Spanish ; the other is a heart with the words , " My love , my heart " in Spanish . The names of his wife and his three children are also tattooed on his arms . He admits that he got his tattoo of the Virgin , which he hid from fans for a long time , during a visit to Mexico while on tour in North America , in the middle of a bout with chronic pain and dental problems , as he put it , " in a moment of madness " .

Field was made a Member of the Order of Australia on 26 January 2010 " for service to the arts , particularly children 's entertainment , and to the community as a benefactor and supporter of a

range of charities " .