

Ahn Do was born in Vietnam and arrived in Australia in 1980 as a refugee. His journey to Australia was in a nine-metre fishing boat crammed with 40 Vietnamese people. They lost most of their food and water after a storm on the second day.

The boat was attacked by pirates twice and there was an incident where a pirate dangled a child over the side of the boat but eventually spared the boy's life. That boy was Ahn Do's little brother Khoa Do, who in 2005 was awarded Young Australian of the Year.

Although Do was only a toddler at the time, he grew up hearing stories of the escape and says it has strongly influenced his approach to life.

Ahn and his family spent several months in a Malaysian refugee camp, but he was determined to help lift his family from poverty.

Ahn says, "From an early age, all I wanted to do was earn money to buy my mum a house," They had very little money and struggled to afford textbooks or uniforms.

Over the years Ahn Do worked and saved and studied.

Just six months from finishing his five-year Law degree, Ahn turned down law firm job offers to focus on stand-up comedy, figuring that was a faster way to earn money.

He took every gig he was offered, including spruiking fruit and vegetables in shopping malls and hosting boxing tournaments, until he'd saved a \$40,000 deposit, and for Christmas 2000, he bought his mum a house.

Today, despite his difficult, poor beginnings as a refugee, Ahn Do is a successful comedian, an actor, a painter and an author.

Some of his books are the Weirdo Series, Hot Dog Series, and The Littlest Refugee, which are all in our Kingswood Library.

His Personal philosophy is his father's favourite Vietnamese saying: *There are only two times in life - now and too late.*

Ahn Do really is, The Happiest Refugee.