Narration and the Opening Scenes:

After the head titles, Stephen Curry’s Dale Kerrigan does a substantial - some would say heroic - amount of narration to camera and as voice over. (This transcript is taken from the Roadshow DVD release of “the poolroom edition”).

The opening begins with Dale to camera:
Dale: “My name is Dale Kerrigan, and this is my story . . .”

Dale then shifts to voice over:

Dale Kerrigan (as we see the house): “Our family lives at 3 Highview Crescent, Coolaroo . . . Dad bought this place 15 years ago for a steal . . . (as the images link the house to the airport next door) . . . As the real estate agent said, ‘Location, location, location!’
And we’re right next door to the airport! It will be very convenient if we ever have to fly one day . . . (plane flies over TV antenna, Darryl Kerrigan waters his lawn) . . . Dad still can’t work out how he got it so cheap. It’s worth almost as much today as when we bought it. Our crescent was gonna be the heart of a major housing development, but it never got up. They reckon the planes put people off. Them and the powerlines. Not Dad . . . (cut to powerline tower) . . . He reckons powerlines are a reminder of man’s ability to generate electricity. He’s always saying great things like that. That’s why we love him so much. Dad is the backbone of the Kerrigan family. He made our billiard table . . . (Dale’s ball tilts on the unbalanced table in the cramped poolroom and lands in a corner pocket) . . .

Darryl: “Shot, Dale.”

Dale (v/o): In fact, he’s built half this house (Darryl and Sal in front of an unfinished extension out the back) He’s always planning extensions.”

Darryl: “I reckon we need a patio.”
Sal: “Oh darl! How about we finish the back room first?”
Darryl: “Nup, I’m waiting on some cheap cladding. I reckon we give the patio another go.”

Dale (v/o, over Darryl and tow truck out front): “Dad is a tow truck driver, one of the best in the game. He takes great pride in his work. And he comes home with so many stories . . .”

(Darryl at the kitchen table with Steve and Dale Kerrigan)

Darryl: “…the car was wrapped around the pole. So I said, ‘Why not hook the chain on the back axle?’ See, no-one had thought of it.”

Dale (v/o): If Dad is the backbone, Mum is the other bones - all of them . . . (Sal bringing a sponge cake over to the kitchen table) . . . She keeps the family together. Dad adores Mum, and Mum adores him. They met at the greyhounds one night and it was love at first sight. Mum just loves craft. And she can pretty up just about anything.”
Darryl (looking at a Sal craft tray): “How’d you do that?”
Sal (holding the tray proudly): “Spray can and stencil darl - that’s all you need.”
Darryl: “You could sell that.”

Dale (v/o): “Dad always reckons Mum could open a shop. But she has a good part-time job in the office at Sunbeam. Dad reckons Mum is the greatest cook on earth.”

Darryl (as Sal sits to slice up the sponge): “What do you call that, darl?”
Sal: “Sponge cake.”
Darryl: “Beautiful! And what’s that stuff on top?”
Sal: “Icing sugar.”
Darryl: “How is it, kids? Now why would you want to go out to a restaurant when this keeps coming up night after night?”

Dale (v/o): “I have two brothers and a sister, all older than me … Steve is an apprentice mechanic, but he spends most of his time readin’ the ‘Trading Post’. He just loves buying and trading.

Steve (with the paper at the table): “Ergonomic chairs, four of ‘em.”
Darryl: “What’s he want?”
Steve: “180.”
Darryl: “He’s dreamin’…”

Dale (v/o): “Him and Dad really know bargains. Steve is also an ideas man (Steve and Darryl out in the shed) … That’s why Dad calls him the ‘ideas man’ - he has lots of ideas.”

Steve (holding up a helmet): “It’s a motorcycle helmet with a built-in brake light.”
Darryl (impressed): “YOU are an ideas man, Steve!!”

Dale (v/o): “Dad thinks all of us are tremendous, but I guess it’s no secret that Tracey is his favourite…”

(Darryl reading a TV Week in the lounge room as Tracey turns to pose)
Tracey: “How do I look Dad?”

Dale (v/o): “Dad just loves her!”

Darryl (looking at Tracey): “You look … beautiful!”
Tracey: (sighs) “Thanks Dad!”
Dale (v/o): Tracey is the only girl in the family, apart from Mum and Gran. Tracey constantly gave Dad proud moments (as Tracey hugs Darryl)... Once she was on ‘The Price is Right’...

(Tracey on The Price is Right, with the other Kerrigans in the audience, screaming and urging her on)

Dale (v/o): It was such an exciting afternoon for us.”

Tracey (gesturing to Larry Edmur): “Swap them around.”

Dale (v/o): “None of us could actually believe it was Tracey up there with Larry Edmur.”

Larry Edmur (gesturing at his board, with ‘luggage’ not priced): “45,000 dollars worth of prizes. The luggage needs to be more than $640, it needs to be less than $740.”

Dale (v/o): “She almost won the lot.”

Larry Edmur: “Go! “(buzzer sounds)

(Tracey is shattered, ‘ooohh’, and Larry consoling)

Dale (v/o): “If only she’d known the price of the luggage.”

Larry (giving her a hug): “I’m so sorry about that.”

Dale (v/o): “But she still managed to come home with a tumble-dryer and drill set... (As Tracey walks off the game)... She is the only member of the Kerrigan family who’d had a tertiary education ... (Darryl looks at Tracey’s framed hairdressing certificate hanging in pride of place on the wall) ... Dad reckons the day Trace told him she’d been accepted into Sunshine TAFE Hairdressing was about the proudest day of his life. I knew he thought about that - a lot. There were only two places he did his thinkin’ - in the poolroom, and out the back, looking up at the powerlines. (Darryl out the back, looking up) ...Yep, Dad’s a real thinker. But the proudest day was the day she got married ... (Tracey and Con Petropoulous at their wedding) ... to this nice guy called Con ...He is an accountant, but also a fanatical kickboxer ... (the wedding cake has a kickboxer figure on it posing with a kick next to the bride) ... now Trace has taken up kickboxing too ...Dad could not get the smile off his face ...and he gave a speech that brought the house down ...”

(Darryl at the wedding with mike in hand)
Darryl: “Now as the bride’s parents, I don’t mind payin’ for the wedding …but could you please stop bustin’ all them plates? That being a Greek custom and all.” (Steve and Dale cracking up, a shot of bemused Mr and Mrs Petropoulos) “I suppose as a father, you’d like your daughter to marry one of your own. And let’s not beat around the bush - the Greeks have a reputation …”

Dale (v/o): “At first, the Petropoulouses thought he was having a go at ‘em, but Dad was just saying how much he thought of Con.”

Darryl (mike in hand): “I never thought anyone could love our Trace as much as me, Sal and the boys. But there is another person - Con. Smart, polite, fit as a fiddle …and anyone who loves our Trace as much as us, deserves our love. So, we love you, Con …(Con looking a tad embarrassed)… we love ya … thank you and, uh … kalispera … that’s ‘good evening’…”(Mr and Mrs Petropoulous applaud, Trace applauds and wipes a tear)

Dale (v/o): “We’d had many top nights but this was the most top. Pity my oldest brother couldn’t be there…His name’s Wayne …(on Wayne in a Pentridge cell and visiting area, Dale with him) … He’s in jail … eight years for armed robbery … many people would call him the black sheep of the family. But not Mum and Dad. He got caught up with the wrong crowd. He didn’t mean to rob the petrol station. Now he’s sorry. With good behaviour he’ll be out in a couple of years. I visit him every Friday …”

(played as a single side-on two shot with pauses)

Wayne: “How’s Mum?”
Dale: “Good.”
Wayne: “How’s Dad?”
Dale: “Good.”
Wayne: “How’s Trace?”
Dale: “Good.”
Wayne: “How are you?”
Dale: “Good.”
Wayne: “How’s Steve?”
Dale: “He’s alright.”
Wayne: “Good.”

Dale (v/o): “Even though he’s the oldest and I’m the youngest, we get on great! We can just chat for hours.”

Wayne: “Thanks for coming Dale.”
Dale: “You want some chewie?”
Wayne: “Nuh.”
Dale (v/o): “So as you can see our family is very close-knit. We also have pets - four greyhounds ...(shots of the greyhounds) ...Banshee ...Starflash ...Traiblazer ... and Coco ...Coco is the best, most successful Dad has ever had ...She picked up two firsts in the country and a third in town ...Dad feeds ‘em every morning in big bowls that Steve made out of tractor hub caps (over Dad feeding the dogs) ...they are good dogs, good to Dad, and Dad is good to them ...all of them are descended from his first dog - Red Rocket ...(a light plane cruises past, then on Dad holding a greyhound in noble pose) ...Dad never stops marvelling at the beauty of the greyhound ... in fact, he doesn’t even race ‘em for the money ...He reckons they are noble animals, skinny and sleek and have a beautiful snout ...Another thing Dad loves is his boat - ‘Sealady’ (Dad and Dale washing the boat) He cleans it every Saturday with something else Steve built ...it’s a brush with a hose in it ... (Dad shows the hose gushing water through the broom head) ...Dad never stops marvelling at Steve’s ideas ...”

Darryl: “He’s an ideas man, Steve.’

Dale (v/o): “Steve gave it to Dad for Father’s Day ...That’s something our family prides itself on - presents...(on Darryl, surrounded by family, unwrapping a present, a fishing rod pressie already in hand) even though none of us have a real lot of money, we love giving each other presents... (Darryl: “oooh” as he unwraps a reel) ...he got a rod and reel from Trace ...”

Darryl: “A rod and reel!”

Dale (v/o): “I gave him a new muzzle.”

Darryl (looking at a metal greyhound muzzle): “A muzzle!”

Dale (v/o): “Wayne sent him an ashtray he’d made in prison shop.”

Darryl (looking at the ashtray): “An ashtray?! But I don’t smoke.” (They all laugh).

Dale (v/o): “And Mum ... well, Mum got him a big German beer mug from Franklin Mint.”

(Darryl unwraps his beer mug and looks astonished).

Dale (v/o): “Dad couldn’t believe his eyes! It was too good to even drink beer out of.”

Sal. “I’d like to do pottery.”
Darryl: “Oh, you should, you’d be good at it ...This is going straight to the poolroom!”

Dale (v/o): “All Dad’s most prized possessions are in the poolroom ...all his mementos (shots of Dad’s poolroom treasures) ...and things that remind him of something special ...so by him saying it was ‘going straight to the poolroom’ ...meant (that) he thought it was special ...”

Darryl (gazing in awe at the beer mug): “That is a collector’s item! This has been the best Father’s Day ever!!”

Dale (v/o): “Of course, there were ups and downs ...Wayne being in jail was an example of a down ...but all in all, 3 Highview Crescent was a happy home ...Dad called it his castle ...but one day in June ...a knock on the door was to change all that ...(as a hand knocks on the glass panel of the front door) ...

John Clifton from the local council then introduces himself, and the narration takes a short break as the story begins ...