



COMING MEETINGS
 10 April – Pride of Workmanship Awards
 17 April – Cindy Miller
 24 April – Nancy Groves - Lifegate Foodcare

Rotary Club of Cooma
Theme:
Maternal & Baby Health Month
3 April
Ron Daud – Cooma Little Theatre

Meeting statistics: 26 of 36 = 72.2%
Attendance:
Visiting Rotarians:
Guests:
 Ron Doud (Club)
Apologies: Brad, Kevin, Katrin Glenys, Jan, Penny, Elaine S, Alan
Leave: Mark C, Brenda
We also missed:

ROSTERS FOR April 2019

Attendance		Darrell
		Peter
Property		Dave Holgate
		Wolfgang
Fellowship		Ash
		Sue
Thought	10th	Glenys
	17th	Sandra
	24th	Jeannette
3 Minuter	10th	Neil Brown
	17th	Darrell
	24th	Kevin
Intro	10th	Elaine Schofield
	17th	Ash
	24th	Mark J.N
Thanks	10th	Richard H
	17th	Richard Brown
	24th	Geoff
Markets	21st April	[Happy Easter]
		Terry, Sue, John King? Alyson?
	Food Van	John Clarke + 1,
		Jeannette + 1, Katrin, Ash?
	Coffee Van	Mark J.N, Brian, ?

Please advise Darrell (Ph 0407 411 422, 64521159, dgcooma@bigpond.net.au) of apologies for the coming meeting, also if you are bringing a guest. Failure to advise of absence will incur a dinner cost.

Significant Dates:
Birthdays: April
 6th John Ch, 15th Des, 17th Geoff
Date Joined Rotary:
 Nil

Announcements

John K

The new bbq has been officially ordered, we expect it to arrive in about 12 weeks' time.

On Friday, the last of the formwork was laid for the cricket nets at Nijong Oval and the concrete will be poured on Monday.



Tony

Come down for lunch to Snowy's Place on Mondays and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Mark JN

We have a potential outbound student for next year's Youth Exchange Program. I have also presented to the Year 9 student's at Monaro High School to plant the seed for 2021.



Des

Rotary Bowel Cancer screening kits are currently available from Hooks Pharmacy



Thought of the Week – Des

The Cooks Motto – If you don't like my cooking, lower your standards.



Guest Speaker – Ron Daud – Cooma Little Theatre

In my introduction two amazing men were mentioned. John Wood was a bloke who would indulge in hijinks. If there was something you needed to use on stage, particularly in the final show, it would be tampered with for example if there was a mop to be used it was likely it would be full of talcum powder. As John would always check his own props, it was very hard to get him back. Finally, an opportunity arose, John was to use a hospital crutch, and he went on stage then came back off to get the crutch then returned to the stage to use it. He went to lean on it and dropped to his knees, which is how he finished the show, much to the amusement of the audience. This is why you could never get him back; he would play the joke to his advantage.

Ron Cox was another legend of the Cooma Little Theatre. If things went wrong, he would find a way out of it and take the rest of the cast with him. A memorable example of his talent was in the Pirates of Penzance with the Major General song, Ron rewrote it to reflect the Monaro. This was something encouraged by Gilbert and Sullivan so the tune reflected the locale where the play was being presented.

Both were greatly talented and put a lot of effort into the shows they were part of.

In the early days Canberra didn't have a lot of little theatre companies but had some repertory companies who had their own venues. Every other theatre group has to hire the venue where they want to present their show. There are now about 20 little theatre groups in Canberra and they do not have many men who are members of the groups, which makes casting shows difficult. Luckily in Cooma we have people who will step up to fill roles.

Canberra Theatre groups come to the Cooma Little Theatre to hire costumes. The productions of Tommy, which Ron was part of had over 300 costume changes, most of which came from Cooma.



Unlike the Cooma Little Theatre Company, Canberra theatre groups don't have permanent bases, rehearsals are done in high school halls or other venues, and they have to build sets in someone's garage.

Production week rehearsals are madness as the rehearsals move in to the show venues. More often than not the prebuilt sets don't fit and you encounter problem after problem. You have technical rehearsals, which produce more problems and then you have the dress rehearsals.

Opening night is generally well attended due to promotional tickets but the next night is not so well attended. Over the life of the show attendance usually improves through word-of-mouth advertising. Facebook has become a useful tool but word-of-mouth is still the best way for the promotion of a production.

The production of a theatre show is expensive. It costs about \$6,000 to \$7,000 this includes venue hire, costumes, props, sets, royalties etc. The Sound of Music cost \$15,000 fortunately every show sold out and actually made the theatre money but profits are reduced if you have to pay royalties.

In Cooma tickets cost about \$25 and in Canberra they cost \$55.

Ron's last production was Pink Floyd's 'The Wall'. The planning took 11 years from conception to production including a year of intense work once permission was given to use the music. Most of the 11 years was spent trying to track down the right Roger Waters as he held the copyright to the music. It was totally exhausting.

Following 'The Wall' it was suggested to Ron that his next production should be the Wars of the World. He said to Joe, "if you can get the rights then we will do it". Three days later they had the rights due to the persistent annoying nagging by Joe. It was an easy show to direct as there were eight cast members, an orchestra and a rock band. Each performer came on and sang one song within a one metre space. Once again it was an exhausting process but the show made a fortune. It cost \$125,000 to produce and made \$175,000. The critics hated it but the public loved it.

Due to the popularity of the Cooma Little Theatre as a venue for functions, when you put on a show it has to fit around other bookings. However, it is a wonderful place to use as you have a workshop on site, the lights and sound are in situ and the casts you get to work with are wonderful.

In amateur theatre no one is paid, everyone involved does it as a hobby.

Ron's next production is Gasping by Ben Elton, which will be on stage in August.

A giant artificial reef in the shape of a Rotary wheel restores marine life and protects the livelihood of several fishing villages in the Philippines.

