

Cooma Rotary Club Inc

Theme: Youth Service Month

**19 May – Mark Salvestro
Theatre and One Man Shows**



Coming Meetings and Social Events:

26 May – Social Evening

2 June – Dugald Mitchell – What the Progress Association is doing in Cooma

9 June – Social Evening

16 June – TBC

23 June – Social Evening

30 June – Changeover Dinner



BIRTHDAYS in May – 2nd Sandra, 7th John K, 19th Alyson HJ - Best wishes

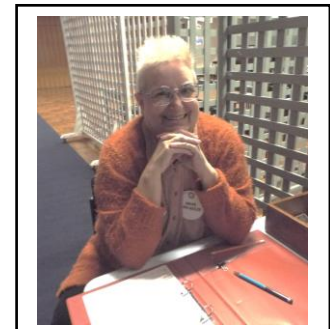
This week's points of interest

Guests – Mark Salvestro (Club), Gustavo and Mariana (Phil), Hazel and Glynn (Peter D)

Judy – This week's Wednesday Night social evening will be at the Royal Hotel from 6.30pm. Let Judy know if you will be attending on 0401 174 666 or j_n_lucas@hotmail.com
If you have any suggestions for upcoming venues, please let Judy know.

Janine JN – I am now looking after the bookings for our meetings. Contact me **only** if you are an **apology** or are **bringing guests** by the Monday evening of the meeting week. I prefer text or email – 0401 164 280 or janffa@bigpond.com

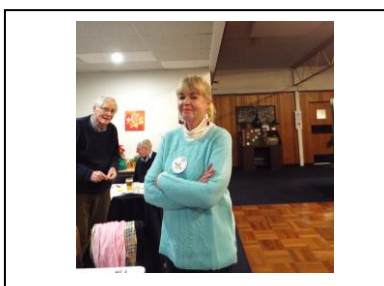
Terry – The market this month was good, there were 37 stalls and earnings were about \$1,800 from the stalls and the food van. The coffee van earned \$546.



NOTE: The Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal is on until the end of May. Donations can be made online at <https://digitaldoorknock.salvationarmy.org.au/members-of-cooma-rotary>



PLEASE ADVISE JANINE IF YOU ARE A MEETING APOLOGY OR IF YOU ARE BRINGING A GUEST, BY MONDAY EVENING BEFORE THE MEETING: 0401 164 280 or janffa@bigpond.com



Guest Speaker – Mark Salvestro – Theatre and the One Man Show

Mark was born and bred in Cooma, was schooled at St Pat’s and Monaro High before taking a job at the Monaro Post. He then took himself off to the big smoke, Sydney, to follow his dream of becoming an Actor. He spent two years auditioning to get into a



drama school, places like the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAPA) and the Victorian Collage of the Arts. Even after all his effort he did not get into any of them, but this turned out to be a good thing. He eventually secured a place at the Howard Fine Acting Studio in Melbourne, which is an intensive one year program. He graduated in 2014 and then started writing. His desire was

to create his own works, particularly One Man shows, this is where there is only one person on stage providing a narrative.

He spent nine months developing his first production called ‘Buried at Sea’ which was performed at the Cooma Little Theatre in 2017. It is a story based on his Great, Great Uncle George Edward Bradford. The idea was conceived from a painting of George. Mark’s Nanna always said he looked so much like George. In the family no-one really knew who George was other than he was married and died in WWI. Mark decided to discover everything he could about this man. It required a lot of research including at the War Memorial and the National Archives and there was a trip to Forbes where George grew up.

The end result was the production 'Buried at Sea' in which Mark acted, co-ordinated locations and venues along with the other things it takes to get a show on stage. He performed the show various places in Australia including Brisbane, Melbourne, Cooma, and the Adelaide Fringe Festival

Creating and performing shows takes a lot of financial investment. A one week's season of a one man show, without any personal income costs approximately \$8,000. Once you get established you can also apply for grants to supplement other income.



Following the closing of this show he developed a Theatre Collective which consisted of 12 people working together on six or seven shows over a period of three years in different venues around Melbourne. Sadly COVID brought an end to this venture. He also worked with a couple of other independent theatre companies and also with the Australian Shakespeare Company. They had a program called Graduate Players Program in which you learnt about Shakespeare and do some acting training. You rehearse a Shakespeare play, Mark's was the Comedy of Errors. The best thing about this experience was performing in the Athenaeum Theatre in Melbourne and then they took the production to regional areas in Australia and ended up in Prague Fringe Festival in the Czech Republic.

Shortly after this experience he felt the need to write another one man show. He decided this one would be Shakespeare based. So he undertook to learn all he could about the way Shakespeare worked. He decided as interesting as it was, it was not for him. He wanted to be unique and to tell his own story. There was a light bulb moment when Mark realised his own life would provide a good basis for a story. He had 'come out' as homosexual but realised he was not living his best true life. He undertook another research journey this



time into the history of homosexuality to expand his understanding of Queer history, other than what he already knew, which was it used to be illegal to be a male homosexual. Once the research was complete, he decided to situate the story in the 1960's and blend it with a Shakespearean base. Thus the 'Will to Be' was born. The lead character is a 1960's University Lecturer who is dismissed from his job for having a relationship with a

male student.

The Will to Be explores Australia's queer history and societal shame and is a defiant cry to speak truth to power. Tickets are still available for sale now at www.marksalvestro.com or at Cooma Visitors Centre. Showing at the Cooma Little Theatre **May 29 - 2pm & 7:30pm**

Reviews include: **Winner of a Best Theatre Weekly Award at the 2020 Adelaide Fringe**, 'A masterful performance' - **Stage Whispers**, 'Compelling and must-see theatre' – **Melbourne Observer**.

MEETING ROSTER

If your name appears on the roster and you are unable to be there, please organize an alternative for your role

Tasks	2 June	16 June
Meet & Greet	Hass	Kevin
Fines or Did You Know	Peter D	Charlee (3 Minuter)
Wine Raffle	Liz	Peter D
Jiggle the Joker	Trica	Liz
Property	Dave H	Dave H
Banners	Hass	Dugald
Toll Collector	Janine	Janine
Meal Service	Charlee Neil	Mark JN Jeanette
Vote of Thanks		
Pastoral Care	Elaine M	Elaine

MARKET ROSTER

Tasks	20 June
Towing - Food Van - BBQ - Coffee Van	Terry Peter D Mark JN
BBQ Cooks	
Food Order Taker	
Van Operators	
Photographer & PR	
Meet & Greet	Glenys
COVID 19 "Policeman"	Glenys
Coffee Van	Mark JN John Ch
Entertainment	