

Rotary Club of Cooma Inc

Meeting - 30 April 2014

Jim Brindle - My Life in Theatre



Jim was born in England and he started his theatre career early appearing in Snow White while still at Kinder. He then progressed to junior school concerts followed by grammar school concerts and also acted in pantomimes and plays.

Following school from the age of 15 until 22 he appeared in scout concerts, helped to direct and the produce Christmas shows and participated in the Youth Club shows. A company called Iron Curtin advertising gave him access to several years of professional productions and performers including Harry Secombe, Charlie Drake, Gracie Fields and Max Bygraves to name a few.

In 1964 he immigrated to Australia and had 2 or 3 quite years. He settled in Griffith, NSW and got back into the scouting and directing and acting in their annual concerts. He also had a weekly 15 minute stint on local TV which promoted scouting. He also helped backstage with the Griffith Amateur Group.

In the early '70's he moved to Cooma where he saw the Cooma Little Theatre (CLT) production of Dimboola – The Country Wedding Show. He liked it and decided to join the CLT. His first role with the CLT was as Flash Harry in One for the Pot. To date he has played many parts mostly in farces directed by Joyce. He had produced and directed pantomimes. He has won awards at Canberra, Wagga and Orange for his direction. He has added to his skills by learning lighting, sound rigging and control. He has acted in many different parts but the one that had the most impact was when he played Reverend Paris in Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' where he condemned his own daughter to death at the stake. He was actually reviled in the main street of Cooma and a few people would not speak to him for a while.

In the early '80's he moved to Gosford and joined the Gosford Musical Society and the Woy Woy Little Theatre. He worked backstage in Gosford making props and sets, doing lighting and sound rigging and control. Performances included the Gilbert & Sullivan shows Pirates of Penzance, the Mikado and HMS Pinafore. Memorable moments from this time include doing both lighting and sound for One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest and creating a stigma (having hands bleed) at the right moments for Agnes of God. And playing co-lead in Noises Off by Michael Frayn. When they left Woy Woy both Joyce and himself were made life members of the theatre group.

In about 1991 there was a move to Canberra and became a founding member of the Southern Cross Theatre Group. He directed their first play 'There goes the Bride' followed by many others, plus he also acted in others. He joined the Tempo Theatre and toured the clubs in Canberra, Wollongong and southern coastal towns.

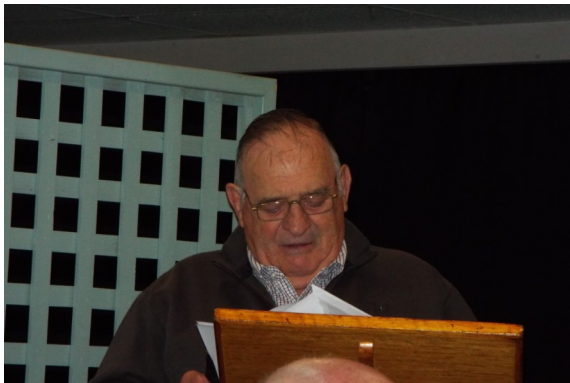
1998 saw him retire and return to Cooma where he directed and produced 3 pantomimes and many plays. He has won a few more awards, has done a lot of stage and set building. He and Joyce are hoping to get at least a mention in the Canberra Area Theatre Awards for the current production 'Caught in the Net'.

A short note about the CLT – it has about 40 paid up members but the membership is smaller than usual. If you are interested there is plenty to do. They are a very friendly group, they all are happy to be there and happy to help one another. This year Jim was made a life member of the CLT.



Rotary Theme of the Month: International Convention Month

For his three minuter, Des spoke about the Spirit of Optimism. Remember the hit song of years ago which started “When you’re smiling, the whole world smiles with you” , if only it were consistently true. Some people do smile back, but other appear to be overwhelmed by an unconscious urge to ‘wipe that cheerful look of your face’. When you do smile your thoughts tend to be clearer and your ideas more useful, progressive and constructive. Furthermore, the thoughts that make you smile generally can keep you smiling a lot longer. It’s often said the few things are completely impossible but many things are very difficult. The spirit of optimism must always be present. Without that ray of light your imagination can falter, your commitment may slow and the results will not be as impressive and effective as you had hoped. Remember these four words - ‘It can be done’ - and then go full steam ahead. It is often surprising what can result from planning and a little extra effort. This applied to your personal life, your workplace and your club. Step up and accept challenges and just repeat to yourself ‘It can be done’.

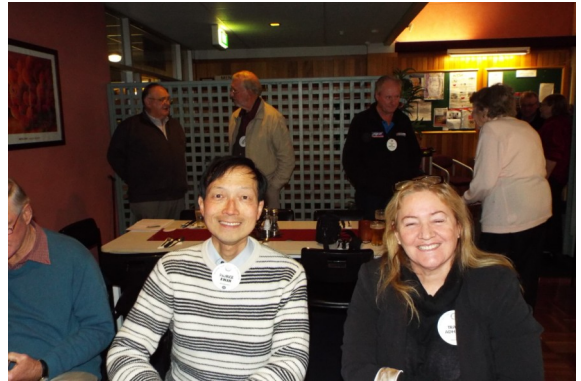


Thought of the Week - Neil B

If you do good - you will feel good.

Projects being supported by Cooma Rotary include:

- End Polio Now
- ROMAC
- Shelter Box
- Monaro Early Intervention Service (MEIS)
- New public seating in Cooma
- More trees at Rotary Oval
- Outdoor workout equipment
- Rotary Youth Exchange Program



Lou M feels it gets a little steamy camping with Ashley & Brenda

Club Assembly - If there are any matters you wish to have discussed please let Pres Margaret know ASAP.

Many thanks to Margaret E for her great effort in organising 5 cars to transport residents of Sir William Hudson MC to the Duntroon concert.

Cooma Little Theatre's production is on for one more weekend don't miss out on a fabulous time.

There is an Elvis Night at the Bowling Club on 10th May, see Kate (at the bar) to book tickets.

The club has been approached by the Bowling Club to see if we can provide some financial assistance to purchase a defibrillator machine - the Board will consider this request.

May Rosters	
Attendance	Dugald M
	Ken D
Property	Des T
	Claire N
Fellowship	Margaret E
	Claire N
Market	John K - Co-ord
	David B - BBQ
	Jim H
	Dave H
	Patrick K
	Margaret E
	Tracey A
	Joe V
3 Minute Talk	
7 May	Club Assembly
14 May	Neil B
21 May	David B
Thought of the week	
7 May	Club Assembly
14 May	Kevin D
21 May	Margaret E
Introduction	
7 May	Club A
14 May	Les S
21 May	Marco R
Thank you	
7 May	Club A
14 May	John K
21 May	Patrick K

Upcoming Speakers
7th May - Club Assembly
14th May - Judy Ford District Membership Committee
21st May - Craig Chilcott About Monbeef

MEMBER HAPPENINGS May

BIRTHDAYS

John K - 7 May

Alyson HJ - 19 May

Hans N spouse of Claire 1 May

JOINING DATE

Peter A - 12 May

Margaret E - 24 May

Les S - 26 May

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Sonja V - 12 May

Patrick & Joo Siew K - 15 May

This Weeks Attendance: 79.4%

Visiting Rotarians:

Guests: Jim Brindle, Rebecca (Club)

Apologies: Tom B, David B, Brenda CB, Elaine M, Brian J, Dave L, Claire N.

Leave: Peter D, John V, Alyson HJ

Make-ups:

We Also Missed:

**The contact for making apologies and for notifications of guests for dinner meetings is
Les Sutcliffe on 6452 7442 during business hours or e-mail leecooma@bigpond.com**