QA QUIZZING AUSTRALIA

Director Profile

Christian Kelly

How did you first get involved in running trivia?
I was a regular player at the Burleigh Heads Bowls Club trivia for many years and when the elderly who ran it "retired" in 2006 I thought I'd give it a go.

What makes a good question?
The best questions are ones people can relate to, even if they don't get it right. Experiencing a "that's right" feeling when the correct answer is read out can be just as satisfying as getting it right when it brings back fond memories.

Participants should be given every opportunity to get a question right, so I try to add little clues like the year of a book or film or even something more cryptic.

It's also important to set questions upon a very wide range of topics and not just pander to one's own interests. Otherwise all my questions would be about cricket or The Simpsons!

The very best questions cut across genres, drawing on knowledge from a number of areas. That gives people numerous ways to come up with the right answer.

What makes a good quiz event?
A well run event in a good venue that keeps to time. There should be no trick questions and while the occasional joke is OK trivia hosts should mostly keep their egos out of it.

The abiding consideration is that everyone has fun, which means each team scoring at least 50% and every person correctly answering some questions on topics dear to them.

What sources do you use to set questions?
Anything and everything. I have plenty of quiz books and there are some great online quizzes too. I tend not to just copy someone else's questions though- I'll always look to re-word them, add extra clues or maybe reverse them entirely.

Newspapers and magazines and also great fir current affairs questions and to get ideas for related questions.

What are your favourite TV quiz shows?
I love the format of Eggheads where everyone has a chance, even against world champions like Kevin Ashman and Pat Gibson. For the range and quality of the questions I also like the BBC's University Challenge.