



ROSTRUM

# INFORMER

May 2017

Newsletter of Rostrum Western Australia

[www.rostrum.com.au/wa](http://www.rostrum.com.au/wa)



## From the President

I have been seeing quite a few of you – at Club 15's terrific Comedy Night and at the heats for the Sidney Wicks competition, and hope to see more at the semi-finals of the Voice of Youth competition.

Next Saturday is the final of the Sidney Wicks at the Metro Inn in South Perth and with six finalists competing for the chance to represent WA in Brisbane in July, including one from Albany Club 63, it promises to be a good night.

Thanks to Patricia Watts from Club 19 who has managed the entire process of the Sidney Wicks, from initial advertising, organising the competitors into heats, finding clubs to host the heats, arranging with Freeman Ruurd Speelman to find adjudicators – not the simple task it used to be – and a whole lot more.

On top of that, she is running next Saturday's event, which again has been a tremendous amount of work. Finding a suitable venue that delivers pleasant accommodation and quality food, at a price that members are prepared to pay, is not easy.

Importantly, Patricia has done all of this in a calm and friendly way which I know has been appreciated by the competitors as well as the Dais executive.

*Thank you Patricia.*

The new bank account is running smoothly and it is so much simpler to be able to pay all our bills online instead of two of us having to sign cheques – two people are still required to authorise payments, but not in person. *Thanks to Freeman Terry Walker.*

There were nearly 100 competitors in the Voice of Youth competition this year and again Freeman Juliet Park has been very busy managing the process of heats, the semi-final and the final which is scheduled for the

end of June. In our quest to bring about a closer connection between Rostrum and VOY we have put together a flyer advertising Rostrum which will be given out at the final.

Every chance we get to advertise Rostrum, we will.

On that, River's Edge Club 21 was successful in their application for a local government grant which they will use in a bid to gain new members. Well done to all, especially Jan Teasdale of Club 21.

Also on the question of advertising Rostrum, we have scaled back on our commitment to MeetUp. We had hoped it would be a valuable marketing tool but our marketing/website manager, Dom Lake from Club 19, has analysed the return on our investment in the medium and found that it is not delivering the results we had hoped for. A few clubs are very active with it and we will continue to pay their subscription for a time and continue to monitor results.

With all the ideas we have used over the years to publicise Rostrum our statistics show that the website and good old word of mouth/personal recommendation remain the key. Dom has some good ideas about how to build on these and will be putting them into effect in the coming months. More on that anon, Sue.

*Freeman Sue Hart*  
**President**  
**Rostrum WA**

**DON'T FORGET**

**2017 Sydney Wicks WA  
Speaking Competition &  
Dinner**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
6.30 for 7pm start  
Metro Hotel, South Perth**

## What's on in ...

### MAY

- 24 South of the River Speaking Competition**  
Cancelled – will be run later in year
- 27 State final of the Sidney Wicks Competition**  
See details in this newsletter

### JUNE

- 13 Speak Up Speak Out short course**  
6.30 pm to 9.30 pm  
Wembley Community Centre  
40 Alexander St, Wembley  
RSVP required to Rostrum Information Centre
- 15 Dais Exec Meeting**  
6.30 pm  
Wembley Community Centre  
40 Alexander St, Wembley
- 16 Cambridge Speaking Club's 2000th meeting**  
See details on the back page
- 17 Critics Training Course Part 1**  
Details TBA
- 24 Final of Rostrum Voice of Youth Speaking Competition**  
12.30 pm  
The Boulevard Centre (downstairs at Library)  
99 The Boulevard, Floreat
- 23 Dais Reps Meeting and AGM**  
6.30 pm  
Wembley Community Centre  
40 Alexander St, Wembley

### Information and course registration:

**Rostrum Information Centre (RIC)**  
PO Box 5547  
Canning Vale South  
WA 6155  
Phone 08 9463 6433  
Fax 08 9455 1215  
Email [ric@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:ric@rostrumwa.com.au)  
Web [www.rostrumwa.com.au](http://www.rostrumwa.com.au)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/rostrumwa](http://www.facebook.com/rostrumwa)

## Acknowledgement

Thank you for your contributions to this issue.

Rose is currently in Europe – firstly in Scotland (midges – ‘her word’) then attending a ‘fly’ conference in Vienna.

As a result, she recruited a past Rostrum WA President (me!) to be your Guest Editor

Rose will be returning in the near future, so thanks for the material you sent in but please send any material for the next issue to her at

[informer@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:informer@rostrumwa.com.au)

**Freeman Tony Lightman, Guest Editor**

## About the Sydney Wicks Competition

The Sidney Wicks Trophy is awarded to the winner of the National Speaking Competition which is held every 6 to 8 years.

Prior National winners who hail from WA are David Mead (dec'd) from Club 15 (won in 1980), Bill Smith, Club 11 (won 1988) and Brian Gillespie, ex WA Club 49 (won 1994).

Who will be WA's 2017 representative for the National final? And who will take home the Sidney Wicks trophy at the National final in July?

Thanks go to **West Perth Club 19**, **Cambridge Speaking Club 34** and **River's Edge Club 21** for hosting heats for the Sidney Wicks speaking competition.

The six finalists are competing to represent WA in the National Competition. The best speaker will travel to Brisbane to represent WA and compete to take home the Sidney Wicks trophy at the National Speaking Competition Final at the Australian Rostrum Council Conference in Brisbane.

The Six Finalists are:

**Sp. Rachel Ashton** Southern Star Speaking Club 63

**Fmn Susan L'Herpinere** Canning Speakers Club 50

**Sp. Frank Marshall** Cambridge Speaking Club 34

**Sp. Luke Matthews** Northern Suburbs Club 2230

**Sp. Madlen Kratz** West Perth Club 19

**Sp. Derek Sparkes** The Constitutional Club 33

## Who was Sydney Wicks & why is there a trophy named after him?

He was the founder of Rostrum in the United Kingdom in 1923. He was an author, public relations practitioner and journalist with the Manchester Guardian. Interestingly, he didn't so much want to people to overcome nerves in speaking, which tends to be the focus today, as to train them to think for themselves, to research a topic and use their oratory skills to persuade others to their point of view.

The first club begun by Sidney Wicks was an offshoot of the Manchester YMCA Businessmen's Speaking Class – of course its benefits were at first only for men. The first meeting was held under a yew tree at Greendale Farm near Manchester on 21 July 1923, and thereafter were held there on Wednesday evenings.

In 1924 Alan Crook, an Australian engineer training in Manchester, joined the club and eventually imported the idea to Australia. The first Rostrum meeting in Australia was held on 21 July 1930 under an Angophora tree at Middle Harbour in Sydney.

Rostrum was never as popular in the UK as in Australia and currently has only one club, 'Rochdale Rostrum', formed in 1978 and still in the Manchester area.

Rostrum is the longest running public speaking organisation in the world.

## Club 15's Comedy Night

Rostrum Club 15's Comedy night held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Perth Hockey Stadium, was a roaring success. The first announcement was that the 60 Rostrum tragics who attended fell into two groups – the young, who were there because they have self esteem issues, and the old, who were there because they have nothing else to do. We had a delicious roast dinner, dessert & coffee and the entertainment was priceless.

Club 2230, the 2016 Great Debate champions were there to defend their title. The team consisting of Angela McGuinness, Dave Rainey, (bearing a striking resemblance to Sean Connery), and Luke Matthews, (bearing a striking resemblance to Jack Nicholson), claimed to be the champions of verbal embellishment and persuaded us passionately 'that the truth should not get in the way of a good story.' The challengers from Club 5, made up of Andrew Sutton, (aka the worm), Tristan Seymour, (aka the malnourished bird), and Alex McGlure, (aka giant garden gnome),

spared no one with their politically incorrect jibes and baffled us with their legal jargon which earned them the title of new Great Debate champions. They are already meeting with a QC to plan their defence in 2018.



**The new Club 5 Great Debate champions**

The five contestants in the comedy speech contest inspired us with their very different approaches to comedy. Wayne Passmore, (Club 15), was buzzing to give us serious information about Apis Mellifera while trying to dress two 'queen bees' in bee suits, bee wings and B-cup bras, (Ryan Whiddett and Martin Michael), and then train them to dance in a figure 8. David McAndrew from Club 2230, put his best foot forward and took his life in his hands to enlighten us about how we are drowning in a sea of cliches. Patsy Somogyi, (Club 11), as the elegant and beautifully spoken 'Edwina', presented some gut wrenching highlights from around the world. Love the hat Edwina. Tshung Chang, (Club 15), shared some of his experiences working in banking. During the GFC, his bank was 'right sizing' and he was given the choice of working in Dubai, Mumbai, Shanghai or Bye Bye. Some of his material was 'Lost in Translation'. Tristan Cockman (Club 2230), confessed to being a lawyer, a politician and a nymphomaniac, all by the age of 32. (Now, there's the start of a new joke – a lawyer, a politician and a nymphomaniac walk into a bar. You can work out the rest.) Congratulations to Tristan who was declared the winner and Wayne, who was runner-up.



**Anna Piscicelli, Club 15 & winner Tristan Cockman**

There were many unforgettable moments during the evening, some of which are difficult to erase from our minds. I should know – I am attending therapy to get over them.

**Ellita De Nardi  
Club 15**

# The Cambridge Speaking Club

invites you to

# Meeting #2000

Rostrum Club #34, or “The Cambridge Speaking Club”, has been operating weekly meetings continuously in Perth’s western suburbs since 1973, and Friday June 16<sup>th</sup> marks our 2000<sup>th</sup> club meeting.

Members, past and present, their partners, and other Rostrum WA members are cordially invited to attend. It will be a social occasion, with special guest speakers, audience participation activities, some of our club’s finest speakers, and include some food and drink.

So please come and join us for an entertaining, humorous, and thought-provoking night of oratory offerings to celebrate 2000 meetings of our vibrant community club!



Friday, June 16, 6:30pm – 9pm



Joan Watters Community Centre,  
40 Alexander Street, Wembley



Cost of \$20 per person



For catering purposes, an RSVP to Frank Marshall at 0417 997 507 or [drshaw2@amnet.net.au](mailto:drshaw2@amnet.net.au) by 31/5/2017 is appreciated. Partners are welcome!