



ROSTRUM

# INFORMER

June 2018

Newsletter of Rostrum Western Australia

[www.rostrumwa.com.au](http://www.rostrumwa.com.au)



## From the President

Calling all Freemen and all past Presidents of Rostrum! As you will read elsewhere in this issue, Rostrum WA is celebrating its 70th anniversary on 28 July and we really hope you will attend. Wouldn't it make for some great photos – all past Presidents together? Every current Freeman of Rostrum?

As Rostrum moves towards what looks to be a bright new future, led by energetic younger people, the dinner is a chance to show what the first 70 years have been about. Some nostalgia for the past, yes, but also justifiable pride in what has been achieved. So many people who have benefited from Rostrum's training, so many successful careers launched, so many polished presentations given, so many great wedding speeches.

Along the way there has been enormous fun and fellowship. Bring along your stories and memorabilia and enjoy those of your Rostrum colleagues and friends. Learning better communication skills in Rostrum has always been a collaborative exercise within the supportive environment of a club, along with all the speaking competitions, social events and of course, the marvellous Autumn Conventions. Let's celebrate those memories.

Patricia Watts from Club 19 and her committee are working hard to ensure a successful evening so get in early and secure your place.

Meanwhile, Club 15's Comedy Night was a terrific success – congratulations to the club, the participants, the audience and the winners. [The full report and photos from the Comedy Night will be in the July issue—Ed.]

*Freeman Sue Hart, President, Rostrum WA*  
[suehart@iinet.net.au](mailto:suehart@iinet.net.au)



Saturday 30 June 2018  
The Boulevard Centre,  
(downstairs at the Library)  
99 The Boulevard,  
Floreat  
12 noon start



## Rostrum's 70th Celebration!

2018 is the 70th anniversary year of Rostrum in WA and we are marking the occasion with a gala dinner on Saturday 28 July at the beautiful West Australian Golf Club in Yokine!

Purchase your 70th Celebration tickets through your club – don't delay! Cost is only \$75 per ticket for a jam packed and fun filled evening celebrating with your Rostrum friends – your club may even subsidise some of the ticket cost.

Go to page 3 for information on how you can help make the 70th Celebration a memorable evening!

# Reinvention is in the air!



As Bob Dylan once said ‘the times they are a-changin’ and how right he was! Over the last few years Rostrum has been facing an increasing number of challenges, with member needs and expectations changing more rapidly than ever before. This changing environment has led to the decreasing relevance of our value proposition and in turn falling retention rates and member numbers. In fact, there is a growing concern that unless something is done we may cease to exist into the future at all.

But it’s not all doom and gloom as luckily there is no shortage of passionate, experienced and willing Rostrum members out there to ensure we are not only around but growing long into the future. But to do this, we need a plan, and that’s exactly what the Rostrum Reinvention team has set out to deliver.

Since the strategic workshop in February we have made significant progress in putting the resources in place, developing an approach and securing commitment from those involved to assist with the Reinvention process.

The Reinvention team is made up of 26 members representing 11 of the 15 clubs from across the state with one clear objective – to develop and implement a plan to ensure Rostrum is sustainable into the future.

The team kicked things off on Tuesday 15 May and from the get go it was clear the Reinvention team is an engaged and passionate bunch, all with a desire to make Rostrum great again! (Hats will be available for purchase soon).

Some key takeaways from the first session were:

- Rostrum membership is dwindling, clubs are struggling and the time is right to implement change to ensure Rostrum is sustainable moving forward.

- There is a great amount of passion, experience and insight within the team and the wider organisation. It will be our job to harness this energy and turn it into tangible initiatives with clear ownership and accountabilities.
- There is a great amount of opportunity within the organisation and there is genuine excitement as to the potential of Rostrum.

Moving forward, the team has committed to meeting fortnightly over the next 6 weeks to capitalise on the current momentum. The aim is to deliver some key focus areas and a high level strategy to circulate and test with the broader membership base within that time period. The team is very much focused on keeping all the things we love about Rostrum and simply looking to adapt with the times and improve our current model and its delivery to ensure we are around for years to come.

Personally, I am excited to undertake this journey with the team and the broader organisation and feel we are on the path to ensuring countless more people get to experience all that we know and love about Rostrum.

If you have any questions, would like more information or are keen to be involved please don’t hesitate to contact me. We are all in this together and getting everyone on board is a key enabler to ensuring we are successful moving forward.

*Riley Burkett, Vice President, Rostrum WA*

# Purchase your gala event tickets through your club!



As 2018 is the **70th** anniversary year of Rostrum in WA we are marking the occasion with a gala dinner on Saturday 28 July at our beautiful new venue, The Western Australian Golf Club in Yokine!

We would like every club to be involved in the celebration, including yours, and here's how:

**FIRSTLY** we'd like to create a really special raffle with quality prizes. Please speak to your Club reps if you are able to donate quality prizes.

**SECONDLY** we are on the lookout for photos, special memories and material memorabilia that we can share with everyone on the night. Clubs are busily searching through their archives and dusty cupboards for items; if you have any photos, mementos and memorabilia at home that you would like to share, along with the story behind the item, please let your club know, or alternatively email us at [rostrumwaevents@gmail.com](mailto:rostrumwaevents@gmail.com) and let us know!

**THIRDLY** as the evening is a celebration of the past 70 years, as well as a look forward, if you are in contact with former members who you think would like to attend please get in touch with them and invite them along – they will be able to purchase a ticket through any club.

## THE 70<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION WILL BE THE GALA DINNER EVENT FOR 2018!

The Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year competition will be held this year as usual in November, in a different format to usual. The 70th celebration will be the premier gala dinner event for the year.

Our gala evening includes keynote speakers, a nostalgic look back at 70 years of Rostrum WA as well as a look toward the next 70! Expect an entertaining, fun evening with your Rostrum friends, both old and new.

Rostrum members are welcome to bring guests to the event, just purchase their ticket through your club and register your guest's details through the online registration platform. All tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance through a club and will not be available for sale at the door.

**Any questions ? Raffle prizes to donate ? Memorabilia to share ?**

Please speak to your club reps or send an email to the Rostrum WA Events address

[rostrumwaevents@gmail.com](mailto:rostrumwaevents@gmail.com)

## VALE

### Brian Burns

12 May 1939 to 11 April 2018

Southern Star Speaking Club 63 was saddened to receive news of the passing of Speaker Brian Burns on 11 April with his funeral taking place in Albany on 21 April.

Speaker Brian was one of the club stalwarts and could always be relied upon to present a forthright point of view on any subject; he was one of those speakers who would always make us listen and stirred the emotions by epitomizing the Rostrum promise i.e. "I promise not to be silent when I ought to speak". He will be sadly missed.

*Freeman Chris Walker, President, Southern Star Speaking Club 63*

## VALE

### Freeman Laurie O'Keefe

It is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of one of our longest serving members and Freeman, Laurie O'Keefe, on Tuesday 12 June.

Some of you will recall Laurie joined Rostrum Club 27 as a Foundation member on 22 November 1965.

Laurie is remembered particularly as the printer of the Rostrum materials and books when he ran O'Keefe Printing in Subiaco, which he did until the late 1980s.

*Freeman Susan L'Herpiniere*

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*'All I have is a voice  
To undo the folded lie'*

WH Auden (1907-1973) from *September 1, 1939*  
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## Coming up in ...

### JUNE

- 30 Rostrum Voice of Youth State Final**  
12 noon  
The Boulevard Centre  
99 The Boulevard, Floreat

### JULY

- 12 Dais Exec Meeting**  
6.30 pm  
David Price's office, Floreat
- 27 ARC Conference**  
Details in July issue
- 27 Club 19 demo meeting**  
Details in July issue
- 28 Rostrum Voice of Youth National Final**  
12 noon  
The Boulevard Centre  
99 The Boulevard, Floreat
- 28 Rostrum WA 70th Anniversary Dinner**  
6.30 for 7 pm  
West Australian Golf Club, Yokine  
☺ Details on page 3

### Information and course registration:

Rostrum Information Centre (RIC)

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Thank you for all your contributions. Please send your notices, articles and photos for the July issue to me at the email below.

Freeman Rose Fogliani (Editor)

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

## ARTHUR GARVEY SPEAKER OF THE YEAR 2018

The AGSOY competition will open for entries in July, with the heats scheduled for August and the semi-finals in September.

Topics for the heats and semis will be released soon.

The final will be held in November.

**MAKE THIS THE YEAR YOU STEP UP  
TO THE CHALLENGE**

## Australian Rostrum Council 2018 Conference

The ARC 2018 Conference this year is hosted by Rostrum WA with seminars and workshops planned for Friday 27 July.

We would like to open the seminars and workshops for Rostrum members to attend and we will provide further details on the conference programme for 27 July in due course. It will be great to see delegates from clubs attend and contribute to the discussions, take away information and learnings to share with their clubs – your club reps will have further information in the coming weeks!