

# Rostrum Western Australia INFORMER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009 ISSUE 01/09

Official Publication of Rostrum Western Australia

## Amber wins the big one!

If you were there on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November at Perth's Ibis Hotel, you would have witnessed a wonderful night of speeches, awards and humour. Now if you were not there – make sure you put 2009's final in your diary now! *Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November* – again at the Ibis.

Four Rostrum speakers – Amber Anderson from Club 19, Graham Longworth and Joan Loud both from Club 11 and Don Duck from Club 4 each delivered a practised and entertaining 15 minute speech as they vied for the title of Rostrum Speaker of the Year 2008.

Freeman David Price was the evening's MC and – as you'd expect from David – he worked well at facilitating the evening, ensuring speakers were welcomed and that the busy agenda was adhered to.

The speeches were varied and interesting but the final speech from Amber ignited the audience and left the hour long segment of speeches on a high note. As the adjudicators met to assess the winner, the excitement at Amanda's speech was palpable. The enthusiasm was all the more since Amber has only joined Rostrum this year and is young girl in her 20's. Yes, the verdict of the 5 adjudicators - led by Tony Lightman (Director of Training), was that Amber Anderson won this year's event – a popular decision and one shared by most if not all of the audience.



Sp Amber Anderson (19) with her winners trophy

Congratulations to Amber for winning this prestigious award!

Congratulations are also extended to Graham Longworth, Joan Loud and Don Duck on their presentations for the evening.

But the evening held more than 4 competition speeches. We were treated, amused and intrigued by the bush poets Rod and Kerry Lee who acted out their unique brand of Aussie, amusing poetry. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we've had Rod and Kerry to perform at the Speaker of the Year and their act was again enthusiastically received.

So who else won awards?

Who won the raffle?

Did Freeman Gloria sing the National Anthem as the thrilling climax of the evening's entertainment?

Find out over the page...

## Diary of Events February/March/April '09

### SPEAKING UP AND SPEAKING OUT: A SHORT COURSE IN COMMUNICATION SKILLS

3 FEBRUARY/3 MARCH/7 APRIL 2009

- Want to get off to a flying start with your Rostrum membership?
- Need a refresher?
- Want to introduce a friend or work colleague to presentation skills and a confidence boost?

Answering "Yes" to any of these will take you to Rostrum's Short Course – Speaking Up and Speaking Out

WHEN: Tuesday 3 Feb/3 Mar/7 Apr 2009

WHERE: Rostrum Information Centre

44 Brisbane Street, Perth WA 6000

TIME: 6.30PM – 9.30PM

COST: Members FREE,

Non-Members \*\$60

Refreshments: tea, coffee & biscuits are provided  
Also provided: fun, encouragement, things to think about, and notes to take away.

\*Place numbers are limited so booking is essential

If you're an 'old hand' please pass this information on to someone who can use it. \*Note: If you join a Rostrum Club within one month from the date of this course you will receive a \$50 credit off the joining fee.

### Critics Training

WHEN: Saturday 18 April and Saturday 2 May 2009

Further details to be advised

### ANZAC Day Breakfast Meeting

WHEN: Saturday 25th April

WHERE: Metro Hotel on Canning,

61 Canning Hwy, South Perth

More details to follow

INFORMER EDITOR: Mat Lane

Articles and Queries to [rostruminformer@inet.net.au](mailto:rostruminformer@inet.net.au)  
or 0438 950 323

ROSTRUM INFORMATION CENTRE

36 Brisbane Street, Perth WA 6000

PO Box 8463, Perth Business Centre WA 6849

Tel—9427 0862 Fax—9427 0863

E-mail—[rostrumwa@bigpond.com.au](mailto:rostrumwa@bigpond.com.au)

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

*"In the beginning the Universe was created. This has made a lot of people very angry and has been widely regarded as a bad move."*

-Douglas Adams (1952-2001)



## President's Report - the final instalment!

now your President for the coming year. Our Director of Training, Speaker Tony Lightman (Club 34) was elected Vice-President. Speaker Adell Griffiths (Clubs 22 and 15) agreed to remain Dais Secretary -( I think I heard a sigh of relief from all representatives in attendance.) Speaker Michael Martion (Club 15) agreed to remain Dais Treasurer. Freeman David Price (Clubs 11 and 34) was elected Chairman of Freeman's Council by the Freemen of Rostrum at their meeting conducted on the 14<sup>th</sup> November. All other positions on Dais Executive are appointments by the President and I am pleased to inform you that these members are: Director of Training – Speaker Tony Lightman (Club 34) Organiser of the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year – Speaker Peter Humphries (Club 8) Rostrum Voice of Youth Co-ordinator is of course Speaker Juliet Park (Club 34) Editor of the Informer – Speaker Mathew Lane (Club 15) .

To each of these members I extend my sincere appreciation for your willingness to accept the challenge of steering our wonderful organisation to what I hope will be bigger and better things. I use the word "challenge" because I recognise that like many organisations similar to ours you will have obstacles to overcome. I am however confident that working together as a team you will enjoy a measure of success.

I have been most fortunate to have a team who were dedicated to the position they held on the Executive. I have thanked them personally but I now also thank them publicly for the manner in which they have supported me as their President and in doing so making my task not only easier but also more enjoyable. I will miss the lively discussions and banter across the table. I now retreat into semi- oblivion as I commence re-honing my skills as a Critic in the company of members at Club 11.

I think we would all agree this time of the year, while busy, is also a time of fun and celebration. I consider myself to be extremely fortunate to be invited by a number of clubs to share with them their Christmas meeting when various members are presented with trophies for their achievements throughout the year.

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November I attended the Christmas meeting of Club 17 in Victoria Park. Present also were prominent past members in Speaker Tom Brazier, Speaker Tim Ellis and also past Mayor of Victoria Park Mick Lee. Also present was Freeman Osmund Perera accompanied by his wife Fleur. This meeting was in fact number 2192!! What an achievement that is! Speaker Tom Brazier gave three presentations – one – was the history of Club 17, the second was a tribute to a long time member who sadly passed away a short time ago , Speaker Bob Dugmore and the third was the honour of presenting the inaugural Tom Brazier trophy. The meeting was chaired by Speaker Alan Bourke who was perfectly relaxed, broke many Chairmanship rules and created a lot of mirth and merriment with some very clever wit. I will also be attending the Christmas meetings of Club 4 and Club 15 in the next couple of weeks – having done so in the past I know they will also be fun.

I will take this opportunity to wish all members of Rostrum and their families a wonderful, blessed Christmas and may the New Year bring to you all happiness, contentment and all the good things life has to offer.

My thanks to you all for your friendship and fellowship.

Freeman Gloria Hancock  
State President.

The Dais Reps. meeting held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November was well attended. There were only three clubs not represented but they did tender their apologies.

This Dais meeting was important because it was the Election of Office Bearers for 2009. As you are all aware, I was not seeking re-election and so our Vice-President, Speaker Chris Stone (Club 4) is

## Amber wins the big one!

Continued from the front page...

If you're asking what presentations were made – well Club 19 were again in the limelight when Freeman Gloria Hancock (Rostrum WA's President) awarded Dorothy Psaila-Savona with a Bronze Medallion. A Bronze Medallion was also presented to the Informer Editor, Mathew Lane, from Club 15.

Then, a surprise event for most there, Adrian Grant (Club 42) was elevated to Freeman which was good to see. Adrian has organised the last 5 Speaker of the Year events and this year was his last, so how good to go out on a high note with a well-deserved Freemanship! Congratulations Freeman Adrian!

No prizes for guessing who won the Club of Excellence Award – yes Club 15 AGAIN – I think this is the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year – and they're looking for a 6<sup>th</sup> in 2009. Come on Clubs – let's give them a run for their money next year and aim for at least 10 club submissions. Let's think of who could enter ... Clubs 30, 11, 34, 42, 19, 52, 50 and more. The submission is not onerous but a good time to start working on it is now!

The evening finished around 11pm with the traditional drawing of the raffle – and the top prize (a Coles \$100 voucher) was won by Karen Reid – so last week's shopping will have been easier!

This year's attendance was 107 – which was down on last year, but if the word of just how enjoyable it was – gets out to the clubs – I'm sure we'll be back to 130 – 140 in 2009. Yes it was a wonderful night and everyone seemed to be entertained, well fed and relaxed amongst a plethora of entertaining items.

See you next year.

*"Always back the horse called self-interest, son. It'll be the only one trying."*

-Jack Lang (1876-1975), NSW Premier

## **VALE: Bob Dugmore**

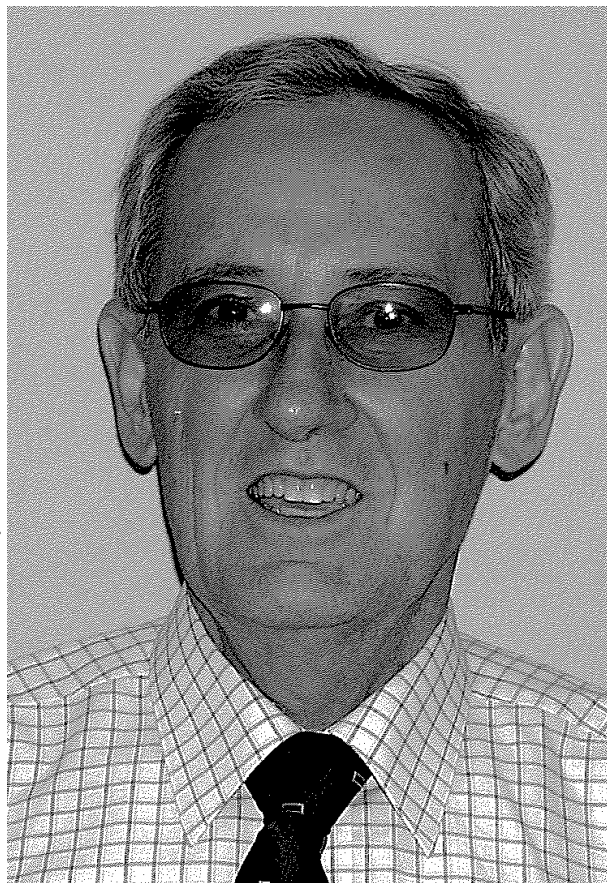
Rostrum Club 17 (Victoria Park) is in mourning at the passing of Robert (Bob) Dugmore.

Bob was a highly respected member of the club and the art he will always be remembered by was his ability to maintain a straight and sometime very solemn face whilst describing the funniest and most outrageous of stories with the persona of a true raconteur.

It is our understanding that he attended with the intention of learning a few hints to get by with his speech at his daughter's wedding and as they say...the rest is history...

Bob filled various executive positions during his membership and became a caring encourager to all speakers. Bob was a champion of speakers, a great mate and an inspiration to all of those around him. He was always willing to help and always had a wry smile on his face whilst scheming up one of his stories. He also made the study of military history a fascinating pastime and we learned so much from his short stories that were both ancient and modern. He will be sadly missed but his legend will live on."

President Diana Marr and members of Rostrum Club 17 (Victoria Park) extend our condolences to Bob's mother, wife and family.



# **ROSTRUM ANZAC DAY BREAKFAST MEETING 2009**

Our 14<sup>th</sup> Anzac Special promises to be a shining star on the 2009 Calendar.

Enjoy breakfast, pay homage to the Anzac Spirit, witness the 2009 Great Debate and above all see and be part of the wonderful Rostrum Camaraderie.

Full details will be available shortly but mark Saturday 25 April in your diary now. Appoint a Club Co-ordinator and organise your Club table.

**Don't miss this very special event.**

# PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

Need some ideas to spice up your Club's meetings? Well check these out...

## The Bag and the Biscuit Tin

Impromptu and short-notice exercises are an important feature of Rostrum programming. Sometimes they are written into the agenda, and at other times they are needed to fill unexpected gaps in the program. For this reason one of the Program Director's most important duties is to make sure that there is a stock of topics for impromptu and short notice exercises written on individual slips of paper and ready to be drawn on at any time. I sometimes think of these as "biscuit tin exercises", because that is where they are often kept. Make sure they are numerous and constantly refreshed - do not return a topic to the tin once it has been used. If, as Program Director, you are stuck for fresh topics (either for the biscuit tin, or for exercises on notice), and you have a liking for popular music, an excellent source of inspiration may be found in your CD collection. Have a look at the song titles.

So, for instance, from Crowded House there is "One Step Ahead," "It's Only Natural," and "Don't Dream It's Over"; U2 has given us "Bullet In The Blue Sky," "All That You Can't Leave Behind," and "Even Better Than The Real Thing;" Midnight Oil supplies "When The Generals Talk," "Power and Passion," and "Earth and Sun and Moon." And so on...

Another kind of impromptu speaking is sometimes called "Out of the Bag", in which participants draw an object from a box or bag and use it as the starting point for a short speech. A good variation on this is for the Program Director to collect a selection of magazine pictures (Women's Weekly is ideal). Speakers then take a picture from the pile and speak about it for a minute.

Newer speakers may benefit from simply describing the picture they see, using as much detail as possible: "There is a large cream house in the centre of the picture, with two windows on either side...". The Speaker then shows the picture to the audience which can compare the description with the image. This exercise

can work in much the same way as a Reading Aloud because the Speaker has a prop to fall back on, rather than having to remember a speech.

More experienced speakers may use the picture as a launching pad for a more imaginative speech. "This picture of a sexy red car takes me back to my very first purchase after I started work...". The practice of free association can be a useful reminder to more experienced speakers to let simple images or ideas open up their creativity when preparing their exercises.

## Rhetoric

Do you sometimes think it's a bit ordinary just presenting plain old *speeches*? Well, fret no more, because here, courtesy of the wonderful discipline of Rhetoric, the ancient Greek, and later Roman, "art of impressive or persuasive speaking..." is a whole range of *special kinds of speech*.

Why not try a **Panegyric**, which is a composition designed to praise an individual, item or event? Or else a **Valediction**, which says goodbye. Or a **Eulogy**: a speech in loving memory of someone now departed. A **Threnody** is a lament for a person or thing - perhaps even a place - which has now gone. Don't forget the **pathos**.

A surprisingly large number of people have a party-piece **Recitation** they love to deliver. And it is an interesting exercise to compose an effective **Homily**, which is a moralising discourse designed for spiritual edification. Or else have fun with some **Pontification**: a pompous pretence at infallibility, or a **Harangue** which is, of course, a tirade or diatribe, with lots of bitter **invective**. And everyone likes to indulge in a **Jeremiad** now and then - it's a doleful complaint.

Let loose with some **Exhortation** - a rallying cry for action! Or try an **Accusation**, an **Entreaty**, a **Justification** or a **Condemnation**. (More generally, **Declamations** are any kind of impassioned speech).

An **Allegory** is a sustained metaphor, which makes an interesting challenge for an experienced speaker who must maintain it

through a whole speech while keeping clear the *real* subject of their presentation.

And after all that, how about a **Peroration**: a summing up and conclusion? (This is a marvellous short-notice exercise to assign an experienced Speaker just before any suite of presentations on a single theme: ask them to summarise the different points of view which were expressed).

## Awards Ceremony

Why not have a glittering night of glamour and stardom at your Club?

A week or two before your Awards Ceremony, select a number of Speakers to participate.

Put their names into a hat, and have each person draw the name of another Speaker (not themselves!) to whom they will be presenting an Award. Each Speaker will need to prepare a two minute presentation speech.

Each Award should be a physical object to be handed over. Speakers who are buying something to represent an Award should be given an expenditure limit of two dollars.

Awards need not be too narrowly concerned with those abilities and qualities of the recipient which are directly connected with Rostrum. Presenters should feel free to give an Award for anything they particularly like about the recipient.

Each Award should have a title ("And tonight, the award for Most Magnificent Necktie of 2009 goes to...").

Recipients are required to make a one minute speech of acceptance.

This is an exercise which provides practice in one of the more common forms of public speaking plus an opportunity for wit and creativity. It also helps build fellowship in the Club. Everyone likes receiving awards!

*If you have any innovative ideas for speaking exercises and would like to contribute to this column, please contact Mat Lane at [rostruminformer@iinet.net.au](mailto:rostruminformer@iinet.net.au).*