

# Rostrum Western Australia INFORMER

JUNE/JULY 2009 ISSUE 03/09

Official Publication of Rostrum Western Australia

## Thank God for the Salvos!

The Rostrum Anzac Day Breakfast was once again a great success.

It is the 14<sup>th</sup> time that the Club has hosted this important event and 90 Rostrum members and guests participated in a morning of solemnity mixed with irreverence. The theme chosen for the occasion was the Salvation Army and its role in war. This choice proved to be a master stroke with the Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army in Western Australia, Major Iain Trainor, kindly giving his time as Guest Speaker.

Major Trainor's speech was the highlight of the morning with a delicate balance of information and entertainment that any Rostrum member would be proud of. Many were not aware of the important role that the Salvation Army has played in supporting our forces in the many major conflicts. He entertained everyone with many delightful anecdotes and we even learned that the donut was an

invention of the Salvos with the hole making it easier to handle in difficult war conditions.

The morning got off to a bright start with Readings from Mark Roberts, Ellita de Nardi and Petrina Morris (52) and Master of Ceremonies Brian Fay kept the meeting moving with his deft management skills.

The traditional Anzac Great Debate was this year contested by Club 42 and Club 19. Club 42 has held the title for two years and Club 19 proved to be worthy challengers. The Chairman of debate was Wayne Passmore who guided the two teams as they argued on the topic of "The Recession Is Good For The Defence Forces". Club 42 again won the debate with a narrow points decision.

In closing the Meeting Club 15, President Terry O'Meara thanked Freeman Alan Ham and Speaker Derek Wyers who had taken on the job of Coordinating the occasion.



Guest Speaker Major Iain Trainor, with his lovely assistant, Club 15 President Speaker Terry O'Meara, demonstrating the donut holder

Competitors in this years debate (left to right): From Club 19, Speakers David Colson, Amber Anderson and Colin Peacock, Rostrum WA President Speaker Chris Stone and from Club 42, Speakers Catherine Wallace, Phil Otley and Glenda Kirkby

Photos courtesy of Heart Photography—Thanks Vaughan!

## Diary of Events June/July/August '09

**SPEAKING UP AND SPEAKING OUT:  
A SHORT COURSE IN COMMUNICATION  
SKILLS  
2 JUNE/7 JULY/4 AUGUST 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 2 Jun/7 Jul/4 Aug 2009

WHERE: Rostrum Information Centre

36 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.

**Rostrum DAIS Representatives Meeting  
BUDGET MEETING**

WHEN: Friday August 28th, 2009

TIME: 6.30pm for 7pm start, finish at 9.00pm

WHERE: Wembley Community Centre

40 Alexander Street, Wembley

Refreshments provided.

**Tall Stories Competition**

WHEN: Saturday 20th June 2009

WHERE: Metro Hotel on Canning,

61 Canning Hwy, South Perth

TIME: 7pm (for a 7.30pm start)

COST: \$45 per person—includes a 2 course meal and tea,

coffee, chocolates with full bar service available

See over for full details

**Rostrum Voice of Youth 2009 WA Final**

WHEN: Sunday 28th June 2009

WHERE: Churchlands Senior High School

Lucca Street, Churchlands.

TIME: 12.45pm (for a 1pm start)

**Training Council Meeting and Workshop**

WHEN: Saturday 4th July 2009

*Training Council*

TIME: 8.30am

*Competition Speaking and Adjudication Workshop*

TIME: 9.15am

WHERE: Rostrum Information Centre

36 Brisbane Street, Perth WA 6000

Refreshments provided

Registration is essential

INFORMER EDITOR: Mat Lane

Articles and Queries to [informer@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:informer@rostrumwa.com.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)

*"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.*

*-George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)*

# More Meeting Ideas...

Stuck for ideas for your meetings?

Here's some to help spark your club along!

## Heckling

To heckle a public Speaker is to interrupt rudely with comments or questions. If heckling is allowed in an exercise, the audience is encouraged to try throwing the Speaker off his or her stride by the use of witty and well-timed interjections. When used carefully, heckling can be a very handy tool in the Program Director's bag of tricks. It is a great way to liven up a meeting and test the skills of both the Speaker and the Chairman.

Here are some notes on how to use "the heckle option".

1. Choose a suitable topic: a "Vote For Me" or "Give Me Your Money" speech, or a Situational such as "Calming A Disgruntled Crowd."
2. Don't assign an exercise "with heckling" to a Speaker who is new or nervous or uncertain that they are ready to accept the challenge.
3. Be sure to use an experienced Chairman. During an exercise "with heckling" it will be the Chairman's job to allow the audience some freedom of expression while still maintaining a necessary amount of order, decorum and good humour. The Chairman must be capable of ensuring that the meeting never degenerates into a free-for-all.
4. Make certain that the exercise is suitable for your venue. If you are meeting in a public place such as a hotel, you must be sure that a little more than the usual level of noise will not disturb the staff or other patrons.
5. Make sure that any visitors know what to expect - and that they don't get the impression that "heckling" is standard procedure for inexperienced Speakers in Rostrum clubs!

If you follow these guidelines, the occasional speech "with heckling" can be marvelous fun, and it will certainly add spice to your meetings. But bear in mind that, like all exercises we set in Rostrum, this one is not *merely* about having fun. Its serious training purpose is to encourage flexibility and build self-esteem. After all, in "real-life" speaking, the audience cannot always be relied upon to remain as quietly polite and attentive as the typical Club audience! And if you have learnt how to deal calmly and effectively

with irreverent interruptions, you are well on the way to becoming a truly polished and capable public speaker.

## Impertinent Questions

"The Pertinent Question" is a well-known exercise in Rostrum. Its function is, firstly, to give the presenter the opportunity to research and present a question of topical interest while providing relevant background information and suggesting particular facets of the matter which call for elaboration and discussion. Secondly, it provides respondents with practice in marshalling their facts and opinions - in speaking cogently and persuasively - at short notice.

Here is an interesting and enjoyable variation on that exercise.

The Program Director passes out blank slips of paper to the members at the meeting, and then proposes a broad topic: examples might be "Food", "Animals" or "Movies". The PD then asks each member to write on their piece of paper a question relating to the topic, explaining that in a moment it may be presented to another member for their response. Recently, when the topic was "Animals," some of the questions were: "If you were an elephant, would you enjoy performing in a circus?" and "What kind of strange pet have you always wanted to own?"

The papers are returned to the Chairman (or PD) who draws a question at random and asks a member of the Club to respond to it for one minute. This drawing and posing of a question is then repeated several times.

It is important to provide appropriate guidelines to the composers of the questions at the beginning of the exercise, explaining that in this case "Impertinent" means stimulating or absurd rather than insulting (so perhaps "Why do you look like a gorilla?" might be weeded out by the PD - not all questions have to be presented)!

Ask people to compose unusual but interesting questions which they would be happy to answer themselves, and a selection of these will lead to an enjoyable, surprising and sometimes hilarious learning session.

## Balloons, Jokes and Poetry

Here is another miscellany of ideas to help keep your programs fresh.

**Balloon Speeches** is an interesting exercise often used in Rostrum meetings. It is usually run as a role-playing exercise. Three or four Speakers are assigned to act out the personalities of well-known public figures (past favourites have included Pauline Hanson, Steve Irwin, Dame

Edna, Fergie and Steve Waugh) who have been set adrift in a malfunctioning balloon. As their damaged craft hurtles towards the ground, its occupants must each in turn plead with the audience for access to the single available parachute. As the Speakers are pleading for their lives, this is obviously a good exercise for Persuasive Speaking, and also presents the opportunity for appropriate dressing up and play-acting.

This exercise does not have to involve the impersonation of celebrities, however. One variant assigns the Speakers jobs instead of characters. (Is a game show host's life more valuable than that of a chicken sexer, a corrupt cop or a parking inspector?)

Another variant is the **Balloon Debate**. After each of the Speakers has presented a case, there is a round of voting and the least popular must sacrifice him/herself by jumping without the parachute. The successful Speakers must then present a second round of speeches, concentrating on rebutting the points made by their fellow survivors. The process continues until all but one of the Speakers has been voted off. Big Brother in a Balloon! If the exercise involves three Speakers, there will be two rounds of presentations and a total of five speeches. Four contestants mean three rounds of presentations and a total of nine speeches, so in this case the individual presentations will need to be kept short.

**Joke-telling** is an important social skill, but one which does not come naturally to everyone. As a Rostrum exercise, each joke should be a short story with a comic punchline. No one-liners are allowed. The Critic should assess each one with respect to pacing, vivid setting of the scene, plot development, economy of style - no rambling, please! - and effective use of gesture and voice to bring life to the characters. There is a lot of skill involved in telling a joke well.

And, finally...

Poetry Reading in Rostrum often brings out the Henry Lawson fans. But how about having a meeting dedicated to **Love Poetry**? It's a challenge in emotional communication which is guaranteed to bring a nice warm glow to proceedings!

If you have any innovative ideas for speaking exercises and would like to contribute to this column, please contact Mat Lane at [in-former@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:in-former@rostrumwa.com.au).

# Rostrum WA - Tall Stories Dinner 2009

## Hosted by Club 15

This is Tall Stories **Number 16**. Lucky for some, sweet for others! Yes, we will have door prizes, raffle prizes, guest prizes and even a prize for turning up. We won't have ghosts, witches, warlocks, Black Friday, or lucky charms... but we could have some amazing magic or psychic happenings. Beware of anything on the night!! Tempt fate and speak on the night, or join members of your club for a fun evening.

THE **WINNER OF THE TALL STORIES** RECEIVES A VERY **TALL TROPHY** AND A CHEQUE FOR **\$250.00**. ALL RUNNERS UP WILL STILL RECEIVE A TROPHY!

Date & Time: **20th June 2009 at 7:00pm** (for a 7:30pm start)  
Place: Metro Hotel on Canning  
61 Canning Highway  
South Perth WA

Cost: \$45.00 per person includes 2 course meal and tea, coffee, chocolates with full bar service available.

**Reservations and pre-payment for competitors, supporters, and guests are essential.**

For more information and reservations please contact:

Alan Ham: Phone: 08 9470 3399  
Email: [perth@cunninghamaust.com.au](mailto:perth@cunninghamaust.com.au)  
Derek Wyers Phone: 0418 926 102  
Email: [derekwyers@hotmail.com](mailto:derekwyers@hotmail.com)

Please make cheques payable to:  
**Rostrum Club 15**  
**PO Box 95**  
**Victoria Park, WA 6979**



2008 Champion Speaker Karen Reid with the trophy nearly as tall as her!

## Club News

### Club 39 (Midland)

On Saturday June 27th 2009 Swan Midland Rostrum Club No 39 is celebrating their 30th Anniversary. Members and partners from all clubs throughout WA are invited to join us in this celebration.

The event will be held as a Dinner/Club meeting. It will be a very relaxed event. Visitors will be invited to participate and all at Club 39 are looking forward to a very enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Details for the meeting are as follows:

WHEN: Saturday 27th June 2009  
TIME: 7pm for 7.30pm start  
WHERE: Pig & Whistle Bar & Bistro  
305 Morrison Road  
Swan View

DINNER: \$30 plus drinks  
(please advise of any special dietary requirements)

RSVP: By 12th June 2009 Roy Dowsett  
9294 2201

### Club 15 (Victoria Park) and Club 61 (Fremantle)

#### Job Seekers and Interviews

A recent innovation by Club 15 had a spinoff for Fremantle Club 61.

At a time when unemployment is on the rise and job security is very much in question the Club engaged Evelyn O'Meara to present a seminar on the topic 'Recruitment and Interviews; What Employers are looking for'.

Evelyn has a business degree as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Management and addressed the topic from the point of view of what the employer looks for when recruiting new staff. Evelyn gave attendees tips on improving their chances of securing an interview for a position. Thanks to some advertising through the RIC Newsletter 35 people attended and it was pleasing to see a good number of young adults present.

The power point presentation took almost 40 minutes and was well

received judging from the questions and interest generated.

Maureen and John Gardner were also in attendance at Club 15 and after the presentation asked Evelyn if she would deliver the same presentation at Fremantle Hospital for Club 61 and this was done on the 2nd April 2009.



Guest Speaker Evelyn O'Meara

**"Absolute brain size does not tell you everything — or possibly sometimes even much. Elephants and whales both have brains larger than ours, but you wouldn't have much trouble outwitting them in contract negotiations."**

-Bill Bryson

# Are you on a speaking plateau and need a challenge? Want to stretch yourself?

## Enter the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year 2009 Competition!

***The AGSOY is Rostrum WA's premier speaking competition and you can make an early start now!***

By popular demand, speeches are once again of 10 minutes duration in heats, semi finals **and** the grand final. Experienced, and newer, members are encouraged to apply. Entrants who progress to the final will need to create a new speech, as there will be new topics.

Entry fee is only \$10 per person (plus meeting and meal fees from host clubs, where applicable), and a bulk entry from each club is encouraged. Many clubs partly or fully subsidise their members who enter and it's great for building club spirit when a number, or even every member participates!

Entries for the competition will be open at the end of May. In the meantime, why not encourage potential entrants from your club by holding practice speeches over the next couple of months on the competition topics?

The dates of the competition are:

- Heats – late July (weeks 1 and 2 of school term 3)
- Semi-finals – early September (week 8 of school term 3)
- Final – Sat 14<sup>th</sup> November (evening; venue and format to be confirmed).

Topics for the heats and the semi-final are the same, and entrants who progress to the semi-finals are

encouraged to use the same speech for the semi-final although you may do a new speech if you wish. Entrants who progress to the final will need to create a new speech, as there will be new topics.

To give speakers plenty of time to prepare a good speech, the topics are:  
(Choose one topic from the following)

- An Extraordinary Talent
- On the Dark Side
- Stranger Than Fiction
- What a Waste
- Volunteers or Conscripts
- A Different Kind of Love

**Send the attached “Expression of Interest” form to:**

Peter Humphreys, Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year Co-ordinator  
Email (preferred) to [agsoy@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:agsoy@rostrumwa.com.au)  
Or to 10 Woodlea Place, Sawyers Valley 6074.

**For more information** call 0417 891 149 or email to [agsoy@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:agsoy@rostrumwa.com.au).

✂  
***Yes, I want to accept the challenge so count me in.***

As soon as the official entry form is required, please send it to me.

My name is: .....

I am a member of Club .....

I have been in Rostrum approximately this long: .....

My address is: .....

My best contact number is: .....

My email is: .....

I have / have not entered the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the year competition before.